

# Conferences' UMY presidents express hopes for 1975

Cindy Henry of North Little Rock is chairperson for the North Arkansas Conference Youth Council. A member of the Youth Councils of Lake-wood Church and the Conway District. Cindy is a senior at Northeast High School. She is active in Y-Teens, speech and drama clubs, and is a member of the drill team. She was awarded the Danforth Good Citizenship Award. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Carol Henry.

## TAKE TIME FOR REFLECTION, HELPING OTHERS

There are many things that I could hope for in the coming year, but I feel that the only thing that can (or will) happen are the things that we as individuals can accomplish.

People today are too caught up with "busy things" to have the time to stop and think about life or religion. The world is moving at such a fast pace that when one person stops for awhile they are thought to be "different," or they "get behind."

Another thing that I wish would happen is that people would become more aware of other people and their feelings. Too many times we think of starving people as far off Indians,



Cindy Henry

when maybe three blocks away a family is starving.

There are many small things that people can do to help others and show them that we care. I just wish people would take the time and maybe it would bring a little more love to all the world.

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William O. "Bud" Reeves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reeves of Sheridan, is president of the Pine Bluff District and Little Rock Conference United Methodist Youth Councils. He is a member of First United Methodist at Sheridan and is a senior at Sheridan High School. He plans to attend Hendrix College next fall.

## CHRIST AT CENTER

My goal for 1975 would be to give the people an enthusiasm and an awareness of what is going on in the United Methodist Youth Ministry. To show how much fun and satisfaction and accomplishment can be gained from it, and to see this feeling translated by the youth into positive action. By positive action, I mean more participation of the average Methodist youth on the local, district and conference level. There is a multitude of interesting things to be done by an energetic and involved youth group.

I think, though, that in all of our hustle and bustle, our organization and activity, that we should be very careful to keep our mission in focus. Our focal point, of course, is Jesus Christ, and without his central figure, all the retreats and seminars and camps you could schedule wouldn't change our youth (or our adults) into anything more than a bunch of well-



"Bud" Reeves

informed deadheads. In short, I think it is our mission to cultivate in ourselves and in others, by our example, a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Then we can tackle the challenge of forming our Christ-centered membership into a working body.

Words and phrases are all very good, but without action, they are just hot air. If I could make a suggestion as to how to get the Little Rock Conference Youth into action in 1975, I would like to say to all concerned people, youth and adults, to be at our mid-winter Conference Retreat, Jan. 24th and 25th at Camp Aldersgate in Little Rock. Then, with God's help, together, we can make 1975 a fantastic year in our youth ministry.

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# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, January 2, 1975

94th Year, No. 1

## Called session of North Arkansas Conference, district meetings, to promote hospital campaign

A called session of the North Arkansas Conference will be held Saturday, Jan. 11, at Conway's First United Methodist Church for promotion of the Golden Anniversary Drive of Methodist Hospital in Memphis.

The drive, authorized by the 1974 session of the North Arkansas Conference, has as its objective the raising of funds for the \$2.5 million emergency room to be located in the new Sherard Wing of the hospital, presently under construction. The new facility will be dedicated in the name of the North Arkansas Conference upon completion of the drive. No specific financial goal has been established for the campaign, which will continue through February.

The called session will begin at 12 noon in the church's Fellowship Hall with a box lunch furnished by the hospital. The business session will follow at 1 p.m. with Bishop Eugene M. Frank presiding. The Rev. George E. Stewart, chaplain of the hospital and member of the North Arkansas Conference, will give the devotional message.

Statements concerning the hospital drive will be made by Mr. Lon Mann of Marianna, a trustee of the hospital and co-chairperson of the campaign in the North Arkansas Conference, and by Bishop Frank. No other items of business are to be considered at the session, the sole purpose of which is "to put a proper emphasis on the program of

the voluntary campaign for the hospital."

Special music during the conference will be presented by the Glee Club of the hospital's School of Nursing.

### SIMULTANEOUS DISTRICT MEETINGS

Simultaneous meetings in each of the seven Districts of the Conference will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 7:30. The message by Bishop Frank, who will be speaking to the Conway District meeting at First Church in North Little Rock, will be carried live via special telephone hook-up to the other six

District meetings.

Places of the other six District meetings are: Batesville, First Church; Fayetteville, Central Church; Fort Smith, First Church; Forrest City, First Church; Jonesboro, Huntington Avenue Church and Paragould, First Church.

Methodist Hospital Sunday will be observed in all churches in the Conference on Feb. 23.

The North Arkansas Conference is one of three founding and owning conferences of the hospital. The others are the North Mississippi and Memphis Conferences.

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## Ecumenical Clergy and Laity Conference, January 14-15

Judeo-Christian Responsibility for an Ethical Society will be the theme for the sixth annual Ecumenical Clergy and Laity Conference Jan. 14-15.

Co-sponsored by the Arkansas Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Educational Committee of the Arkansas Council of Churches, the event is an annual effort "to bring together clergymen and concerned laity of various faiths for growth in understanding each other" and for opportunities to hear leaders in the field of Judeo-Christian thought. The ses-

sions will be held at St. John's Religious Center, 2500 North Tyler, Little Rock.

The conference will feature three lecturers representing the Jewish, Roman Catholic and Protestant communions, each of which will present two lectures. General discussion by the conferees will follow each lecture.

Mr. Al Arent of Washington, D.C., attorney and chairman of the Commission on Social Action, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will speak on "Social Action" and "Local and National Political Structures."

## Pastoral appointments announced

The following pastoral appointments are announced by Bishop Eugene M. Frank, effective Jan. 1, 1975:

Trinity, Little Rock: John B. Hays  
Lakewood, North Little Rock: Clint D. Burleson

Camden First Church: Howard L. Williams

Magnolia First Church: James Robert Scott

St. Paul, Little Rock: Palmer Garner  
McGehee First Church: Virgil Bell  
Hamburg Parish: William A. Stewart, Jr.

Carlisle-Hamilton: Alfred DeBlack  
St. Luke, Little Rock: Robert A. Regnier

Wesley, Pine Bluff: Allen B. Bonsall  
Effective Jan. 15, 1975:

Wesley Foundation, Magnolia-Village Circuit: Robert M. Van Hook II

Henderson, Little Rock: E. Eugene Eflord

Effective Dec. 1, 1974:

Grady-Trinity, Pine Bluff District: Charles T. Settle

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"Economic Opportunity" and "Educational and Cultural Growth" will be the subjects of lectures by Father Lawrence J. McNamara of New York, director of the Campaign for Human Development.

Dr. Bernhard Olson of New York, director of Inter-Religious Programming

(Continued on page four)





### Lakewood Church Dedicated

Participants in Service of Dedication held at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, during Dec. 8 morning worship. Left to right: The Rev. Gerald K. Rainwater, associate minister; Bishop Eugene M. Frank; Mr. P. E. "Rip" Munnerlyn, chairman of Board (who presented the building to Bishop Frank for dedication); Mr. W. E. Arnold, Jr., lay leader; the Rev. John B. Hays, senior minister, and Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Jr., superintendent of Conway District.

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### Completed in 1971, Dedicated In '74

The congregation of First Church, Mountain View, celebrated Thanksgiving Sunday with the dedication of their new house of worship, completed in 1971 at a cost of \$90,000. Mrs. Nettie Brewer, oldest living member - at 91 years of age, was accorded the honor of burning the note on the facility. Other participants included (front row, left to right): The Rev. Floyd Villines, Jr., Batesville District superintendent, who presided over the ceremonies; Mr. Guy H. Lackey, Jr.; Howard Whitfield; Clay Brewer; (second row): Raymond Hawkins, Charleston pastor, under whose ministry the church was built; Kebel Hinkle; Don Williams; (back row): Oris Massey, and the Rev. Jesse Bruner, present pastor.

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### Aldersgate Camp Incorporates

Aldersgate United Methodist Camp Board Chairperson Ed Wimberly (left) signs articles incorporating the camp in the State of Arkansas. Previously incorporated in the state of New York with other Methodist agencies related to the Board of Global Ministries, the local incorporation was in response to a request of the Women's Division, owner of the camp. The action was approved by the Aldersgate board at its November meeting. Other Board officers shown are (seated, from left) Mrs. Austine Williams, treasurer, Mrs. Jo Arnold, vice chairperson, and Mrs. Martha Faulkner, secretary.

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## Arkansas United Methodism's pension program

—Remember those who served—

*The following was written by request of the Little Rock Conference Board of Pensions and is authored by the Rev. Charles Walthall, pastor of The United Methodist Church in Prescott.*

Mrs. L. C. (Beulah) Gatlin, one of God's loveliest and most deeply consecrated daughters — and one of Arkansas Methodism's most loyal and dedicated members, and the widow of one of Little Rock Conference's faithful servants — now resides in the Hillcrest Manor Nursing Home in Prescott. Later, Mrs. Gatlin may move to Hermitage, Tenn. and become the resident of a United Methodist Nursing Home there in order to be near her son, Dr. G. Weldon Gatlin, a retired United Methodist minister, and his family.

Mrs. Gatlin, who was born July 23, 1884, was married to Rev. L. C. Gatlin Sept. 20, 1906. Rev. Gatlin, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South until the merger of 1939 served churches throughout the Little Rock Conference.

Being a Methodist Minister's wife is never an easy life and with the accommodations that some of the appointments were able to provide in the early 1900's Mrs. Gatlin's role was even more

difficult. But Rev. and Mrs. Gatlin rendered a gallant and worthwhile ministry wherever they were sent and Mrs. Gatlin was the gracious "first lady" of the charge's parsonage regardless of any limitations that some of the parsonage dwelling may have had.

Doubtless the warm, devoutly Christian atmosphere that Mrs. Gatlin engendered in the parsonage home helped enable their one son, Wendell, to hear and respond early in life to God's call to the Methodist ministry from which he was to go on to a commendable ministry as a Methodist navy chaplain as well as serving as pastor of several of Methodism's finest churches.

And Mrs. Gatlin served beyond the parsonage bounds as she worked with her husband in his work. Being a gifted singer and pianist, Mrs. Gatlin contributed much to the choir and music program of the churches where they served, often singing in the choir, singing solos (which her husband often requested, especially during revival services which he would be preaching), and in the smaller churches often playing the piano or organ for the services. Churches in which Rev. and Mrs. Gatlin served, before Rev. Gatlin's retirement



Mrs. Gatlin

in 1949 and death in 1952, include Chidister, Washington, Western Hills, Asbury-Magnolia, Carlisle and others.

And Mrs. L. C. (Beulah) Gatlin still serves. She is an active member of the Prescott Church (participating in over half of its morning services!), supporting its programs and serving as a tremendous inspiration to her minister and her fellow church members, as well as all who know her, and, she is a dedicated witness for her Lord to many of the residents in the Nursing Home where she lives.

Here is truly a lovely daughter of God — and a minister's wife who with her late husband, meant much to the work and ministry of the Little Rock Conference and its share of the Kingdom's work over many years.

How good it is that we have a pension program that at least helps provide a retirement for our dedicated servants in their later years — and how important it is that we try to insure that pension and raise it to a better level. The Prescott Church's share of the Special Gifts to the Pension Fund Program — \$6,000 — was fully subscribed by individual pledges averaging \$400 made at a single meeting called by the church's member of Annual Conference, Johnny Brannan.

### A WELCOME AND THREE REMINDERS

With this issue we welcome many new readers who will now receive the paper each week through the new plan of circulation. We are happy to number these among the fellowship of **Arkansas Methodist** readers.

We remind all readers that we are happy to hear from them and welcome their suggestions, comments or criticisms. Readers are invited to share their thoughts on issues of the day through contributions to our **From Our Readers** column.

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Many churches are observing the Sundays of January 12 and 19 as a time of promotion of the **Arkansas Methodist**, receiving special offerings to aid in paying their church's apportionment for the paper. If your church is receiving such an offering, your participation is important and will help.

With this issue we have added 2,800 new receivers to our circulation list, representing lists submitted by some 130 of the 426 charges in the state. Another 53 lists have been received and are now being processed. We urge pastors to remit their lists now so their members may receive the paper as early as possible. Because of the large number of new subscriptions that must be processed, three weeks or more are required from the date a list is received until regular delivery begins.

**ATTENTION PASTORS WHO HAVE NOT RETURNED LISTS:** It is important that you return the original copy of the current subscription list sent to you, rather than re-typing that list. Following the procedure as sent with your list will help us speed the papers to your people.

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# Pastoral appointment-making

Are we becoming more 'congregational'?

The making of pastoral appointments at mid-Conference-year is different from that same process at Annual Conference time. "Extenuating circumstances" seem to be the rule rather than the exception on such mid-year occasions, and this fact often means that the making of such appointments becomes a more complex, sensitive and difficult responsibility.

The frequent result in these instances is that the local churches concerned — through their Committees on Pastor-Parish Relations — become more involved. They are apt to be given more "say-so" in the process, such as being given more-than-ordinary freedom in suggesting preferences for their pastor — in one, two, three order of their choice.

Limited variations of this practice have for some time been a part of the appointment-making process and they need not necessarily violate one intended role of the Pastor-Parish committee. But what is submitted here is whether in recent years we have encouraged, in a few specific instances, local church committee involvement to the point where it strains our system and makes us more a "congregational" than an "episcopal" form of Church government.

If there are legitimate grounds for such a concern, the practice raises a host of questions which need our answers.

## A MATTER OF COMMON CONCERN

The questions are of concern to more than just the cabinet and local church which may be involved. If it were otherwise, the subject would not be a proper one for public comment. But the issues affect all local United Methodist churches and every pastor, as well as those who have the heavy responsibility of appointment-making.

The issues focus on the nature of our system of Church government. We have, by choice of our denomination's founding fathers, an "episcopal" as opposed to a "congregational" form of Church order. In our United Methodist case this means, simply stated, that authority is lodged in our bishops and in our attendant connectional system rather than in autonomous rule in independent congregations.

Insofar as pastoral appointments are concerned it could be said that ours is not a "democratic" system. John Wesley didn't intend for it to be, and with good reason. In our system a local church pastor is not understood to be a "representative of the people," chosen by their vote. He or she is appointed by the proper authority, the bishop, to be a "representative for God," the servant to all the people.

The pastor is to be totally impartial as to persons, totally independent but for Christ's claim and that of the ordination vows, totally answerable to God and responsible to the Church in obedience to his or her vows, and totally free to fulfill his or her duty to God without being subject to any majority vote of the congregation or of a committee of that congregation.

And as the episcopal system thus "frees" the pastor, it gives the same impartiality to the laity, relieving them from any "partisan" bias. A wise and good pastor and congregation will, of course, see their relationship as being of a privileged, joyful, "spiritual" nature rather than of a "legal" nature, harshly regulated by law.

Quite properly our episcopal system utilizes the advisory capacity of the Pastor-Parish committee, which is designed to help facilitate the work of the church's ministry. And its role and limits are wisely determined. In regard to pastoral changes, it plays a proper "advisory" role in counsel with the district superintendent and bishop. But it should never be expected to be held responsible for the "selection" of or appointment of its pastor.

## SOME BASIC ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Allowing a few local churches to have more-than-usual or privileged freedom in suggesting possible appointees is not in the Church's total best interest. Such instances, however infrequent, raise issues and questions which, if not adequately spoken to, hurt the Church's morale and handicap its effectiveness.

Among such questions are:

- Is the practice fair to the church involved? If an appointment made on the basis of more-than-usual suggestion by a local church committee does not "work out," then that committee is left holding a large part of a responsibility which should be totally that of the bishop and the cabinet. If it works out "just dandy," then the same reasoning holds: the bishop and the cabinet are due credit for a good appointment.

- Is the practice fair to all other United Methodist congregations who may not be given the same "benefit" (or liability, if we really believe in the episcopal system) of playing a fuller role in selecting their pastors? Shouldn't every other United Methodist church be given the same "consideration"?

- And if we are willing to extend the congregational form of Church order to every local church so they can "bid on an equal basis" for their pastors, are we also prepared to extend the congregational principle to other areas of Church life? Do we want individual congregations to vote on such things as doctrinal standards or the selective observance of the sacraments?

Such examples are over-blown for emphasis; but they do illustrate the extreme issues involved when we begin to relax our adherence to the episcopal and connectional form of Church order.

We are hearing these days from many quarters, and rightly so, much concern that our connectional system (and thereby our episcopal form of Church government) is being weakened. We should be alert lest our own procedures in making pastoral appointments do not contribute to that weakening.

If we are not prepared to accept "the whole congregational bag," then we should hold fast to the episcopal form, and especially so as it relates to pastoral appointment-making. Though not without its faults, that form has proven itself best fitted to our total United Methodist way of doing things.

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## 'Look what has come to the world'

### On moods and eternal truth

A particular, special mood attends the beginning of a new year. Though usually one of eager anticipation and hope, the nature of that mood may well depend upon a host of factors, ranging from the news of the day to what we had for dinner that may have disagreed with us.

So our moods, being temporary reflections of passing circumstances, should not be allowed to determine either our hope or despair as we enter a new year. Nor are our moods fit material for fashioning a philosophy of life.

The faith of Christians and their hopes for the future are not dependent upon outward circumstance or even inward condition. They are grounded, rather, upon the fact of an Event: that through Jesus Christ the eternal God has spoken and continues to speak his reclaiming and saving Word to all persons.

It is this Word which brings us hope, whether our lot may find us blest by joy or burdened with sorrow. It is by this Word that we live and because of this Word that we serve.

This Word is a lamp sufficient to lighten any darkness the future may hold and it is able to hallow the joy which always accompanies the reception of that Word.

This writer heard his pastor express this Christmas and Epiphany truth last Sunday in this fashion: "Christians are those who, rather than saying 'Look what the world has come to,' say 'Look what has come to the world!'"

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## Off the Top of the Head

### Random thoughts while working too late

If I rake those leaves in my back yard, just outside my study window, the rain won't fall on them making sounds like little drummers drumming on their tiny drums: rat-a-tat, rat-a-tat, rat-a-tat-tat, rat-a-tat-tat-tat-tat. Just like that.

And that's a nice sound late in the night when all is quiet and everyone who has any smart at all has long since gone to sleep to the accompaniment of such a sweet lullaby.

But if I do rake those leaves my yard will look much nicer, my wife will be happier and my dog will be proud of me.

On the other hand — if I rake them — then all my little drummer persons will go away and rat-a-tat no more for me their sweet late-night sonnets.

So — a dilemma! What is one to do?

I know! I'll rake all those leaves up in a big, big pile right under my window. That way the yard'll look clean, and then — when the rain comes down off the roof — hot dog! What a drummin' concert that will be!

†

*JSW*

## Arkansas Methodist

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## Arkansas Methodism noted in new encyclopedia

An excellent, brief account of Arkansas Methodism is found in the newly-issued *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*, according to Dr. Walter N. Vernon, chairman of the South Central Jurisdiction's Commission on Archives and History and one of the associate editors of the encyclopedia. The article was written by Mr. Tom J. Love of Little Rock.

In addition to this introductory article there are many others on prominent Arkansas Methodist personalities and institutions. Among personalities of the earlier years are William Stevenson, John Scripps, W. A. Goode, John Harrell, Andrew Hunter, Thomas H. Tennant, Augustus R. Winfield and Sidney Babcock.

In the period following early years there are sketches of Joseph Brooks, Dan B. Brummit, O. E. Goddard, A. C. Millar, John H. Reynolds, Gilbert P. Rowe, James Thomas, Henry Burton Trimble and Edward R. Steel.

For more recent times we find sketches of R. Bryan Brawner, Dana Dawson, Ernest T. Dixon, A. W. Wasson, M. Lafayette Harris, Sherman Greene, Ivan Lee Holt, John Q. Schisler, William R. Schisler, J. N. R. Score, Alexander P. Shaw, Marshall T. Steel, W. McFerrin Stowe, Aubrey G. Walton, H. Bascom Watts, Ewing T. Wayland, Paul E. Martin, W. Kenneth Pope, Paul V. Galloway, Eugene Frank, William C. Martin, Elmer T. Clark, Forney Hutchinson, Paul W. Quillian, Gaston Foote and William R. Schisler, Jr.

There are brief accounts of each of the conferences in the state (past and present), including those of the Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, and Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Hendrix College is described, as well as Shorter College and Philander Smith College.

Sketches of several of the larger churches are included, including Little Rock Methodism, Texarkana, Manchester, Malvern, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, El Dorado and Washington.

The *Encyclopedia* has 2,814 pages and is printed in two volumes. In addition to

articles about personalities, institutions, and local churches it also deals with doctrine and history. The work has been in preparation for some ten years, and is the first of its kind for almost a century. It embraces Methodism around the world.

Preparation was guided by a distinguished group of Methodists who served in such capacities as editorial board members, associate editors, consultants, area editors, and contributors of whom there are over 1150 who wrote the various articles. The monumental work is priced at \$79.50 through December, after which it increases by \$10.

## Son of retired minister dies in boating accident

Dr. William H. Goodloe, Jr., of Jackson, Miss., died Dec. 21 from injuries received in a boating accident. He was 38. Dr. Goodloe was the son of Dr. and Mrs. W. Henry Goodloe, Sr., of Jackson, retired long-time member of the North Arkansas Conference, and wife.

Dr. Goodloe was a native of Siloam Springs and was a 1954 graduate of Fort Smith High School. He attended Hendrix College and received the B.S. degree from Southwestern University of Georgetown, Tex. He received the M.D. degree in 1962 from Tulane University School of Medicine.

Dr. Goodloe interned at Confederate Memorial Hospital, Shreveport, La., and served from 1963 to 1966 as a captain in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Air Force. He served his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at John Gaston Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He had lived in Jackson, Miss., since 1969.

Dr. Goodloe was a member of Christ United Methodist Church and was president of the Gynecic Society of Jackson, was former chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Baptist Hospital and was vice-chairman of the Board of



## Board Of Ministry In Organizational Session

Convening a meeting of members of the Little Rock Conference Board of Ministry at Arkansas' United Methodist Headquarters Building in Little Rock, was Dr. George W. Martin, superintendent of Arkadelphia District, at left. The Rev. Robert O. Beck (at left of Dr. Martin) is chairperson. Other officers include the Rev. Bill Elliott, vice chairperson, the Rev. David Wilson, secretary, and the Rev. Gladwin Connell, registrar.

Directors of the future Woman's Hospital. He was a Diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a member of the Mississippi Medical Society, the Central Medical Society, Hinds County Medical Society, and the Mississippi Obstetrics and Gynecology Society.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jeanette Pullen; his parents; three sisters, Mrs. Robert W. (Elizabeth) Landers, Starkville, Miss., Mrs. W. J. (Chloe) Lawson, Tulsa, Okla., and Mrs. John M. (Mary Ruth) Stone, Vernon, Tex.

Funeral was Dec. 23 at Jackson. Burial was at Kosciusko City Cemetery.

Dr. and Mrs. W. Henry Goodloe, Sr., live at 4042 Old Canton Lane, Jackson, Miss. 39206.

## ECUMENICAL

(Continued from page one)

of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will speak on "Geo Politics — International Relations" and "Inter-Religious Understanding and Communication."

Mr. Philip Kaplan, Little Rock attorney and member of Temple B'Nai Israel, is general chairman of the planning committee.

Registration will be from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14. Adjournment will follow a 3 p.m. business session the next day. Full cost, with lodging and four meals, is \$16. Registration only is \$2. Registration should be sent by Jan. 10 to Arkansas Council of Churches, P. O. Box 6100, Little Rock, Ark. 72206. Scholarship information is available on request.

## Council Directors to Local Churches

## Thoughts at the coming of the New Year

The Christmas Season has come and gone! I am wondering today, "What did you get from Christmas?" There is a beautiful picture by a famous artist portraying the first Christmas. The shepherds are on the hillside — angels are singing, "Glory to God in the Highest" — but here is the artist's touch that gets me: There is a dog in the picture. He is alert, but he is looking in the wrong direction. He knows something is happening, but he doesn't know what.

The artist certainly painted true to life; for great differences did exist among the observers of the first Christmas. The wise men saw the star. The shepherds heard the song. The sleepers in the inn were deaf to the song and blind to the star. Simeon saw something special in Jesus. But the dog merely looked on!

As we return from Bethlehem, are we like the shepherds? Or like the dog? Are we glorifying God? Or do we fail in our knowledge of Christmas? As a result of our Christmas quest, we should have a consciousness of God's love; a consciousness of divine forgiveness; a consciousness of renewed dedication; a consciousness of the needs of those around us; and a willingness to meet those needs. There is so much work to be done in the name of Christ!

A new year is at hand! One cannot tell what it will bring; but we can trust in the loving care of our Heavenly Father! There are some lines from King George VI that have always been inspiring to me. Perhaps you know them, but let us share them together now:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown," and he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way." So I went forth and finding the hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

—1939 Christmas Broadcast

As you walk into the new year, think of it as a new page in your life's activity and in the program of your Church. Now it is blank, but soon it will begin to be filled. Let God help determine the material which shall be written in 1975!



## Wesley Foundation Board Meets

Dr. Mouzon Mann, Hope District superintendent, photographed members of the Arkadelphia Wesley Foundation Board as they met with Director Robert Trieschmann (left) at the Wesley Foundation building. The 1973 class of board members was reelected to serve as the class of 1976 with the addition of two members. Mr. Trieschmann was cited by Coaches Carpenter and Cerrata for his assistance as a trainer for the Henderson Reddies.





summary by Doris Woolard

United Methodist Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., speaking to Western North Carolina Conference leaders, said he is considering asking the 1,200 churches under his jurisdiction to establish "Employment Commissions" to help those in need. Bishop Hunt said a five-member commission could help men and women out of work find part-time and full-time employment, see that they have food for their families, and show them that the Church does care by surrounding them with Christian love and assistance.

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Father James F. Maguire, S.J., chancellor of Loyola University in Chicago, said "Today, with the challenges of legalized abortion, genetic research and behavior control through the use of drugs and surgery, . . . those responsible for the nation's health must carefully consider the ethical and moral implications of their decisions." Writing in the institution's Medical Center magazine, Profile, Father Maguire said all health professionals must achieve a perspective which "recognizes the dignity and worth of each human life."

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Dr. Stanley Nollen, economist at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., believes the country may have "cause for alarm" if the differences in income between college and high school graduates continues to narrow. A study conducted by Dr. Nollen reveals that this will be particularly true for religiously-affiliated institutions whose tuition is higher than that at state-operated colleges and universities. "When the income gap narrows between college and high school educated workers," Dr. Nollen said, "the economic advantage of going to college is lessened."

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A human rights agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) has issued a 175-page report detailing "extremely serious violations" of human rights — including torture — in Chile, since the September, 1973, overthrow of the government of the late Salvador Allende. The report, which cites alleged violations of 10 fundamental human rights established by hemispheric agreements to which Chile is a party, was compiled by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS following a 12-day visit to Chile by the commission.

†

A new pornography law approved by Oregon voters in the Nov. 5th election prohibits the display or sale of pornographic materials to adults in the state.

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## Solzhenitsyn Talks With Graham

STOCKHOLM — Exiled Soviet author Alexander Solzhenitsyn (left) and American evangelist Billy Graham discuss world religious trends during a meeting in Stockholm. Mr. Solzhenitsyn was in Stockholm to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature he was awarded four years ago. After the discussion, Mr. Graham said: "Solzhenitsyn has the kind of intellect and moral courage that the world so desperately needs today. His grasp of both history and theology is amazing." The evangelist was on the first stop of a trip to several European countries in which he planned to visit with religious leaders, including the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Donald Coggan.



Thursday, January 2, 1975



## World Food Crisis Reviving Fasting

A faster in the "Food Forfeit for Famine" program at St. John University, Collegeville, Minn., holds his Wednesday night fare, soup and bread. Once a week, students give up a full meal with all the trimmings and dessert, and dine, instead, on a simpler, cheaper meal . . .

The world food crisis is reviving one of the most ancient and universal religious practices: fasting. In congregations, conferences of bishops and on college campuses, strong, new appeals urge affluent Americans to skip meals and observe fast days. (RNS Photo)

"Check Your Local Stations," a new project of the United Church of Christ, is designed to arouse viewers to the need to take a greater interest in what is being televised and to make their opinions known to station managements. A series of workshops are planned to prepare community leaders in forming coalitions of organizations to carry on the continuous observation of broadcast station performance. The leaders will later be taught how to negotiate and dialogue with stations for improvements in programming and employment practices, according to Dr. Everett C. Parker, the director of the denomination's Office of Communication.

†

"The will of the Jewish people to survive has never been more determined," said Elmer L. Winter, President of the American Jewish Committee in a Hanukkah message. "Strengthened by the perspectives of history, we have become aware of the consequences of our actions and the disaster of inaction," he said.

†

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ International, hopes to initiate new programs in 50 countries in 1975. Speaking to a Pastor's Way of Life Conference in Dallas, Mr. Bright predicted that the next few years will be a period of paradox as the sweeping "tide of atheism meets the rise of spirituality."

†

As part of the American bicentennial celebration, a commemorative coin will be issued in Providence, R.I., honoring Roger Williams, founder of that city and its First Baptist Church. Minted by the Roger Williams Mint, the coin is expected to go on sale nationally early this year. One side of the coin will depict Williams and the other side the present Baptist Meeting House.

†

Fundamentalist ministers who have been active in the West Virginia textbook protests have announced their intention to establish a system of private schools. The Rev. Avis Hill, a spokesman, explained that the system would be "set up on a district basis, like the old school districts," and classes would be held in abandoned school buildings and churches. The private schools would have to be approved on an individual basis in order to meet state laws pertaining to curriculum, health, sanitation, fire safety standards and certified teachers, according to the deputy superintendent of Kanawha County Schools.

†

Dec. 25 is no longer a public holiday in Zaire due to a decree, by that country's President Mobutu Sese Seko, based on the fact that the Dec. 25 celebration of Christmas is not "authentically African." Christians were permitted to hold religious services on Christmas although schools and businesses operated normally on that day. Zairian churchmen are considering the possibility of choosing another day for the observance in keeping with Zairian and African realities. "Our faith is not at all and cannot be tied to Dec. 25," one church official said, "but to the person of our Lord."

†

On Dec. 12, just 200 years after her birth, Elizabeth Ann (Bayley) Seton — widow, mother of five, educator and benefactor of the poor and needy — became the first American-born saint of the Roman Catholic Church. Although known widely as a pioneer in establishing the Catholic "free" school system in the U.S., Mother Seton, even before she joined the Catholic Church and became a nun, had won fame for her "errands of mercy" to the poor and needy. Formal canonization ceremonies are to take place during 1975.

†

The Rev. Shoko Masunaga, a Buddhist clergyman, has been named chaplain for the California Senate. His selection represents an unprecedented departure for filling the post with persons from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Mr. Masunaga was nominated by Sen. Albert Rodda, a United Methodist.



## News from the churches

**ELEMENTARY CHILDREN** of Prescott United Methodist Church, under the direction of Mrs. Jim Pounds and Mrs. Glen Vasser presented a special Christmas program at morning worship on Sunday, Dec. 15. A cantata entitled, "A Christmas Festival," directed by Mrs. Jim McKenzie, was presented by young people of the church.

**THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CARAVAN** from Wiggins Memorial United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, traveled to the Stilwell Indian United Methodist Church on Sunday, Dec. 22. Participants were guests at a meal and shared in fellowship singing at the Oklahoma church.

**THE YOUTH CHOIR** of Massard United Methodist Church, Fort Smith District, presented the Christmas cantata, "The Birthday of the King" on Wednesday, Dec. 18. The Revs. Nick and Carol Lascaro are pastors.

**THE SHARE SINGERS** of First United Methodist Church, Camden, presented a Christmas program in the Bearden Baptist Church recently. The singers were honored by the Bearden Baptist and Methodist Churches at a reception following their performance.

**THE CELEBRATION** of the Christmas season at Ashdown included caroling by the United Methodist Youth for shut-ins, at the hospital and nursing homes. On Dec. 22 the Chancel Choir presented the cantata, A Christmas Festival, and a Come-and-Go Communion Service was held on Christmas Eve from 8:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. In addition, the Ashdown Church whose pastor is the Rev. William Cheyne, hosted the Hope District Christmas Party for parsonage families.

**THE REV. BEN JORDAN**, Paragould District superintendent, spoke at the evening service and conducted a Charge Conference on Sunday, Dec. 16, in the Swifton-Alicia Charge. He also officiated in the christening of Sheila Maples, daughter of the pastor, the Rev. Frank Maples and Mrs. Maples. A buffet supper preceded the event.

**THE YOUTH** of First United Methodist Church, Walnut Ridge, formed a band and played Christmas carols in the downtown area recently to help raise funds for the Methodist Children's Home.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Jan. 5—Sunday ..... Matt. 2:16-17  
Jan. 6 ..... II Thes. 2:13-17  
Jan. 7 ..... Isaiah 42:1-4  
Jan. 8 ..... Mark 9:2-8  
Jan. 9 ..... Psalm 65:4-8  
Jan. 10 ..... Zech. 8:1-5  
Jan. 11 ..... I Peter 1:1-5  
Jan. 12—Sunday ..... Matt. 3:13-17

**THE REV. HAROLD SPENCE**, Fayetteville District superintendent, preached at Prairie Grove on a recent Sunday evening and conducted a Charge Conference. The Rev. Ray Edwards is pastor.

**A WATCH NIGHT PROGRAM** was planned by the youth of First Church, Malvern, for New Year's Eve. The program began early in the evening and climaxed with a midnight communion service.

**DR. JAMES MAJOR**, vice president of Hendrix College, was a recent guest speaker in First United Methodist Church, Stamps. The Rev. J. Leon Wilson, pastor of First Church, Trumann, was the evangelist for the revival held in First Church, Stamps, Dec. 1-6. Both events were part of the church's six-month evangelistic emphasis according to the Rev. Bennie G. Ruth, pastor.

**ARKANSAS METHODIST Children's Home** was the recipient of an offering in the amount of \$93 from a Christ's Birthday Party celebration at Richmond United Methodist Church on Sunday evening, Dec. 15. As the months of the year were called off, one by one, persons with birthdays occurring during each month presented their offerings for the Children's Home. The traditional program was under the direction of Mrs. Jamie Stevens.

### PERSONALIA

**MR. AND MRS. I. NELS BARNETT**, long-time members of First Church, Batesville, will be honored on their 50th wedding anniversary, Jan. 5th, by a reception in their home. Their children, Jim and Lois, Nelson and Sandra, Charles and Betty, and Carol and Bill Robertson will host a reception between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., at the 1063 E. Main Street address in Batesville. They extend an invitation to friends to come by, and have requested "No gifts, please."

**THE REV. J. FRANK HAMM**, pastor of the Almyra-Deluce Charge, was married to Mrs. Jessie L. Rushton on Monday, Dec. 16 at Oak Forest Church in Little Rock.

**MARY ANITA STEPHENS**, daughter of Mrs. V. Bryan Stephens and the late Rev. Stephens, and Thomas Jefferson Hale, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hale of England, Ark., were married on Friday, Dec. 20 at First United Methodist Church, England.

**JOHN CLAY COOPER**, son of Dr. Joel Cooper, pastor of Central Church, Fayetteville, and Mrs. Cooper, and Cynthia Ann Binkley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dempsie G. Binkley of Walnut Ridge, were married on Friday, Dec. 27. The couple will live in Conway where Mr. Cooper is a senior at Hendrix College.

**RUTH ANN LANIER** and Donald Wyane Stone were married in Wiggins United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Dec. 27. Parents of the couple are the Rev. W. Maurice Lanier, Wiggins pastor, and Mrs. Lanier and Mr. and Mrs. James G. Stone.

### Glenwood Church exceeds 'Fair Share Goal'

Glenwood United Methodist Church, in Arkadelphia District, has joined the list of Little Rock Conference churches which have pledged their fair share to the Special Gifts phase of the Pension Fund Campaign.

In the Glenwood church, the Administrative Board has made a pledge, to be paid over a seven-year period, which will amount to over 106 per cent of the church's fair share of Special Gifts pledges.

The Rev. George G. Kerr is pastor of Glenwood United Methodist Church. Dr. George W. Martin is District Superintendent of Arkadelphia District, and Mr. Don Schnipper, of Hot Springs, is the layperson who is District Director of the Pension Fund Campaign.

†

### WOULD YOUR CHURCH LIKE TO SCHEDULE AN APPEARANCE BY GENESIS SOUND COMPANY?

The Genesis Sound Company — a group of musicians at Trinity United Methodist Church in Little Rock — has recently presented the musicals Light-shine and Sunshine and Snowflakes. Under the direction of Dr. and Mrs. Fallon Davis the group has grown from a membership of 17 last year to its present membership of 45 junior and senior high youths.

During the holiday season the musicians are presenting Sunshine and Snowflakes, a story based on traditional Christmas carols and set to contemporary rhythms. Recent presentations have been made at Arkansas Nursing Home, Presbyterian Village and Trinity Church.

If your church, civic club, social club, or other organizations are interested in having a program or entertainment by Genesis Sound Company, scheduling should be arranged by calling Mary Turrentine, director of Youth Ministry at Trinity Church (telephone number 666-2813).

†



### Ministerial Candidate

Richard Rex Hays, president of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship at Ashdown First Church, was recommended for a License to Preach at his church's recent Charge Conference. Hays, a high school senior, is vice-president of the Hope District Youth Council, and a representative of youth on the Little Rock Conference Commission on Worship. He plans to attend Hendrix College next year.

†

### PICTURE STORY OF NORTH ARKANSAS MINISTRIES AVAILABLE

A slide picture and cassette tape entitled "Here am I," showing ministries and program agencies of the North Arkansas Conference and Arkansas Area, is available through the North Arkansas Conference film library. The film and narration were given at the last session of the North Arkansas Conference. Showing time is 14 minutes. Equipment required for use: cassette player and projector capable of showing 35 mm carousal reel. Write to: Methodist Film Library, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

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### Appreciation Day For Mrs. Fidler

Prairie Grove United Methodist Church observed Sunday, Dec. 8 as Appreciation Day for Mrs. J. J. Fidler in recognition of her 32 years of service as a church school teacher and nursery supervisor. All of Mrs. Fidler's children and grandchildren were among the 280 persons present for the celebration which included a cooperative lunch provided by the UMW and a program entitled "I Remember," which highlighted memorable events from the honoree's years of dedicated service.







### At State Capitol Christmas Lighting Ceremony

Bishop Eugene M. Frank gave the Christmas message at the Dec. 18 ceremony marking the holiday lighting of the capitol building and Christmas tree in the rotunda. The Barksdale Field (La.) Air Force Band and the choir of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, provided seasonal music. Secretary of State Kelly Bryant was master of ceremonies for the hour-long program, carried on state-wide radio. Shown with Bishop and Mrs. Frank is the reigning Miss Arkansas, Miss Ronda Kay Pope of Hot Springs.

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### Grave markers for ministers placed

The First United Methodist Church of Augusta is placing four of the new bronze grave markers on the grave-stones of ministers buried at Augusta, to commemorate them and their service to the Church across the years.

The four men to be remembered are: Edman C. Castleberry, 1852-1896; Ed T. Jones, 1830-1888; Henry Haynesworth, 1858-1938; and Albert T. Galloway, 1857-1941.



This official marker for the graves of United Methodist ministers has been adopted by the General Commission on Archives and History, The United Methodist Church. It is made of bronze and designed so that bolts in the back of the marker can be embedded in the tombstone.

Many of the churches across the conference may want to follow the example of Augusta in placing these markers in cemeteries. They are priced at \$20 each, according to the chairman of the North Arkansas Conference's Archives and History Commission, the Rev. William M. Wilder, and may be obtained from him at Box 849, Wynne, Ark. 72396.

WESLEY FOUNDATION OFFICERS elected to serve at the Arkadelphia Foundation during 1974 are: President, Mike Harmon of Osceola (a pre-ministerial candidate); vice president, Betty Eldridge of Forrest City; secretary-treasurer, Sherri Henderson of Pine Bluff, and publicity chairperson, Maylon Rice of Warren. The Rev. Robert W. Trieschmann is Wesley Foundation director.

†

### Staff changes at Arkansas Guidance Foundation

The Rev. E. Eugene Efird, executive director of the Arkansas Guidance Foundation for the past seven years, will assume full-time duties Jan. 15 as pastor of Henderson United Methodist Church in Little Rock. Mrs. Ted Thomas, administrative assistant to Mr. Efird, will become administrator of the foundation.

In commenting on the change Mr. Efird said "Although my relationship with the Foundation will change, I will continue to feel called of God to see that the work of the Foundation not only continues but grows. I hope all who have supported its work will continue to feel this to be a part of the mission and ministry of Christ. You will soon be hearing more about the ministry of the Foundation."

Mr. Efird said that the Foundation is looking for a volunteer professional person who would serve as part-time supervisor in the agency's Partners Program, a friendship-counseling project with youth who have emotional and behavioral problems.



### Bishop Frank Preaches at Stamps

Present for the Dec. 15th Sunday evening service at First Church, Stamps, were (left to right) Dr. Charles Richards, Camden District superintendent, Mrs. Richards, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, who preached for the service (as part of a six-month evangelistic emphasis at the Stamps church) Mrs. Frank, Mrs. Bennie G. Ruth and the pastor, the Rev. Bennie G. Ruth. United Methodist Youth of the church sponsored a potluck supper preceding the service.



### Little Rock District Christmas Event

Dr. and Mrs. J. Edward Dunlap (right), superintendent and wife of the Little Rock District, were hosts at the annual Christmas party for the district's pastors and wives. The Parsonettes presented a program of games and group activities. Parsonette officers are (from left) Sandra Haustein, president, Sandra Prothro, secretary, Gladys Nation, treasurer and Carol Rogers, vice president.



### Christmas Luncheon in Fayetteville District

Clerical musicians performing for the Dec. 10 Christmas luncheon hosted by Central Church, Fayetteville, for District parsonage families included (left to right) the Revs. Harold H. Spence, Tom Barnett, Phil Hathcock, and John McCormack. Leading the songfest was the Rev. Sam Teague, Bentonville pastor. Among gifts presented District Superintendent and Mrs. Spence were two unbreakable thermos bottles for use in their airplane.



## The Sunday School Lesson

By William M. Wilder



### The Suffering Savior

#### Lesson for January 12

**BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE:** Mark 8:27-38; 10:32-34; 15:21-39.

**DEVOTIONAL READING:** Psalms 22:1-8.

**AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES:** "The Things That Count," 30 min. B & W — from Concordia Films, 3558 So. Jefferson, St. Louis, Mo. 63118; or "Here is my Servant," FS — from Family Films — 5283 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, Calif. 90038.

**PURPOSE:** To understand more fully what Mark's portrait, the Christ of the cross, has to say to us today.

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#### INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

You may have wondered why Mark begins his Gospel so abruptly, starting with the prophecy that Christ the Messiah has been foretold, and has arrived. Mark is concerned that men understand the significance of Jesus' coming, and he has been disturbed at current Jewish criticism which states that Jesus is not a true Messiah because of his shameful death on a cross.

He is interested in two basic themes: (1) that Jesus deliberately chose the Cross because he believed it was God's will for him as Savior of the world; (2) that discipleship may well mean that his followers must become martyrs, too.

Three questions seem to occupy Mark's concern: "Who was Jesus? Why did he die on a cross? And what does He expect of us?"

#### LOOKING AT THE SCRIPTURE

You may recall we closed last Sunday's session by referring to Matthew 16 where Jesus inquires, "Whom do men say that I am?" In Mark we have this same scene expressed in a different way. For one thing, Mark uses the story to tell of Jesus' desire that his Messiahship be kept secret.

Some interpreters have seen Mark 8:33 as evidence of Jesus' belief in another supernatural force, or god, such as Satan. Actually, the concept of two supernatural forces in the universe is foreign to Jewish thought, and got its impetus from the Babylonian and Persian exile, and thus affected the second story of creation in Genesis 2:4 ff, the book of Daniel, and other Apocalyptic portions such as small sections of the Gospels and the Book of Revelation.

Jesus here is saying in effect, "Put this temptation out of my sight, you evil one." And he adds very significant and much-ignored

words, "For you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Here he is stating the truth of the Adam and Eve story, and giving the basic cause of sin: not in some outward supernatural force, but the self-will of man. The primary cause of sin in Genesis, and now, is "wanting your own way."

Do you believe Flip Wilson when he cries, "The devil made me do it." Why not put the blame on self, yourself, if you have done wrong. When I make a mistake playing tennis, I may say, "It's my bifocals — or my lack of practice — but down deep I know I just made a bad shot. Isn't this also true in the realm of morals?"

In Mark's 8th chapter we find that Jesus tells us that the follower will have to surrender his self — lose himself — and take up the cross, and follow him. You could say that Jesus is implying that since self-will is the cause of sin, the answer for his followers is to surrender that will, and find life eternal, just as the exercise of self-will in the Genesis story brought death to Adam and Eve.

He adds at the close of the chapter that we must not be ashamed of him or his words. Recall that Mark was probably Peter's secretary, and that Peter never forgot the feeling he had when he denied his Lord.

Do we deny him today: by our language — our littleness — our unkindness — our indifference?

#### THE CHRIST OF THE CROSS

To the Jews, the crucifixion was a real stumbling block, and they must have asked, "Why did this Jesus die — especially since he was such a good man?" In the 10th chapter, Jesus predicts what will happen at Jerusalem, and one gets the feeling that Mark saw the Cross as inevitable, and that Jesus believed the Cross was God's will for him.

Mark enables us to infer from this chapter 10 that most rulers "lord" it over their subjects, but the one who is greatest must become the servant. He is saying that Jesus is not the kind of ruler God sent! The Cross, instead of degrading Christ, is a sign of sacrifice and service. Here is an offering poured out, not once a year but a human priest on the Day of Atonement, but an offering made once for all on the Cross.

The 15th chapter brings in the story of Simon the Cyrene, who is called upon by the Romans to carry the cross of Jesus. This is certainly an unexpected blow. Simon was probably on a holiday, and to carry the Cross was a dirty, back-breaking, thankless task. But Simon, in a dignified way, got the job done. He evidently

wasted no time in self-pity, or bitterness, or in trying to oppose the Romans, but took hold, and did what had to be done.

He received a blessing, too. Whether he exchanged any words with Jesus we do not know, but years later Mark refers to him as the father of Alexander and Rufus. Evidently those two sons were well-known to Mark's readers at Rome. Almost surely this is the same Rufus that Paul refers to in Romans 16:13, "Salute Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his Mother." So evidently Simon became a Christian, and led his family to Christianity, and the unexpected blow became a blessing.

Does this ever happen today? Can you think of any instances?

It is worth remembering that the words of Jesus from the Cross which Mark quotes, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," are from the 22nd Psalm. This is our devotional reading for this lesson. Most scholars feel that Jesus may have quoted the whole psalm, but Mark, for the sake of brevity, uses only the first line, knowing his readers would be familiar with the psalm in its entirety.

We can no longer assume that, though, and I was sorry that the devotional reading quit at verse 8. Other verses of this psalm jump out at you as you remember the crucifixion, such as verses 14 and 15: "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; thou dost lay me in the dust of death" (RSV). And perhaps the last three lines of the psalm, "... men shall tell of the Lord to the coming generation, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, that he has wrought it."

There is a temptation for us, of course, to merely worship the Cross, and forget that we are studying the Suffering Savior. It is Christ whom we love, not the cross, and it is he who must be first in life.

Lawrence Housman in his autobiography entitled, "The Unexpected Years," tells of people putting on a Christmas pageant. During rehearsal, as they are staging the nativity scene, all the actors leave the stage. There is a spotlight that is supposed to be on the baby Jesus in the manger. Someone accidentally trips all the switches, and the stage is thrown into total darkness. Someone shouts, "Here, blankety-blank, you've switched off Jesus!"

Is this not our condemnation, too, that we love darkness rather than light? We'd rather talk about devils than about Christ. We focus on evil, or self, or material things — and forget the Suffering Savior, the Light of the world!



# Financial hard times viewed by church historian as opportunity for stressing lasting values

MIAMI, Fla. (NCC) — Churches should not be as concerned about the nation's slide into financial hard times as much as the values they bring into this new era, historian Martin E. Marty cautioned here.

Dr. Marty, professor of Church History of the University of Chicago's Divinity School, led a wide-ranging discussion on the state of organized religion at the annual meeting of the National Council of Churches' Commission on Stewardship, held in Miami Beach. The inner-renewal of churches was the theme stressed at the meeting.

## What can the churches 'produce positively in negative times'?

Dr. Marty told some 80 denominational executives he thought the hard times of the latter 1970s was a time for churches to develop Christian realism — to ask themselves what they could "produce positively in negative times."

Christian leaders should not concentrate upon the fact that the "earthly props are being kicked away from

members and on faltering security for that becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy," he said. Instead they should concentrate on the "hunger of people for durable values."

Addressing himself to what makes a church "successful," Dr. Marty stated: "Those that are in tension between movement and order." Religious movements are "highly visible and extravagant but they cannot continue in that vein — they either become a cult, die out, or their members accommodate themselves to institutions in order to gain some relevance."

He predicted that the explosion of religious movements of the late 1960s had crested and that most of these groups were either dying out, forming organized churches or their adherents were joining established churches which profited from their experience.

"At first a bored press went after these movements but now it sees them as rip-offs," he stated.

Dr. Marty also criticized the "myth" that strict churches grow and prosper and that liberal churches do not. "Many strict churches do not grow and many others die out," he said, "while many 'mainliners' have gotten their churches' message: live in the world as Christians.

They do give, selectively to their churches, and in addition they give to

many charitable and non-church causes, a giving that doesn't show up officially on church books.

"One of the real difficulties of stewardship is understanding that people have heard our churches' message and the message isn't that bad.

"It's easy to be a cult, to protect and surround yourself with impenetrable walls, and it's also very profitable for the cult for there's nothing else for members to give to.

'Love the world,  
live in it,  
but don't be of it

"It's also easy to be merely worldly. But it's difficult to be indirectly worldly — to love the world, live in it, but yet not be of it.

"If there's a mandate for liberal churches in the latter 70s, I would hope this would be a part of it."

Reviewing stewardship during the

1960s, he declared it "wasn't all that bad. People were involved in and gave generously to many causes for awhile, and when they broke down, mainly because of the weight they had to bear, we got the impression that you can't ask people to give to causes any longer.

"But you can. It depends on how it's brought to them and how much inconvenience it will cause them. We did learn that you can't be too controversial, or people will vote with their pocket-books."

Much of the movement in liberal churches has to do with "pulling too far one way and then another," he said. "We're the churches that became so vulnerable we didn't know quite who we were any longer."

But he saw a swing now in another direction, toward what is called "traditioning." We both "are and should be seeking our core, for renewal is done out of the center of our tradition and our tradition is one of promise: what God has handed to us is not a finished product."

## Sizes of General Conference delegations announced

DALLAS, Texas (UMC) — The 1976 United Methodist General Conference in Portland, Ore., will be composed of 984 delegates, according to information released here by the Rev. J. B. Holt, secretary of the denomination's top law-making body.

The report indicates that delegations from the two Arkansas conferences total eight each. The largest delegation from the South Central Jurisdiction is from the Oklahoma Conference with 20 and the smallest is from the Rio Grande Conference with two.

Under the law of the church, half the total will be ministers and half will be lay persons. Of the total, 128 will come from members of the former Evangelical United Brethren Church which united in

1968 with the Methodist Church to form the present denomination.

Largest single delegation will be the 36 persons representing the West Ohio Annual Conference. A number of conferences in this country and overseas will send the minimum number of delegates, two.

Size of the individual delegations is computed on the number of lay members and the number of ministers as of Dec. 31, 1973. The total of 984 is ten fewer than in 1972.

Delegates will be elected at the 1975 sessions of the annual conferences. Seating location for the various delegations will be determined by lot in the autumn of 1975.

## Dead to America

A United Methodist family  
faces the amnesty issue

Featured in the January 1975 issue of UNITED METHODISTS TODAY is a personal story about a military deserter who now lives in Sweden and his parents, of Long Island, N.Y.

Written by J. Richard Peck, Associate Editor, *Today's Ministry*, the article is based on Peck's interview with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Minugh, and correspondence with their son Dave in Sweden.

Under the terms of President Ford's earned-reentry program, Vietnam war resisters must respond to the U.S. government before Jan. 31st to have their individual cases considered. Like thousands of other young resisters, Dave Minugh has decided not to return "under such a cloud." Inducted into the army in 1969, Dave's brilliant academic record and linguistic aptitude resulted in an assignment to a military school in El Paso, Texas to study Vietnamese language and culture.

On completion . . . he was sent to Fort Holabird, Md., where he was trained to become an interrogator of Vietnamese prisoners.

Subsequently, Dave told his folks about how this training included techniques for "permanently damaging the personalities of other human beings."

In his letter from exile, Dave told

TODAY: "This entailment runs counter to my ethical concepts which have been evolving since I was a young boy in the Westbury Methodist Church."

His mother told interviewer Peck that as parents they encouraged him toward devotion to church activities. "But they little realized the impact these activities were having on Dave," the interviewer reports.

And neither parent knew of Dave's plans to leave his homeland during a three-week leave before shipping out for "the Nam." Then the morning mail brought this letter from Sweden:

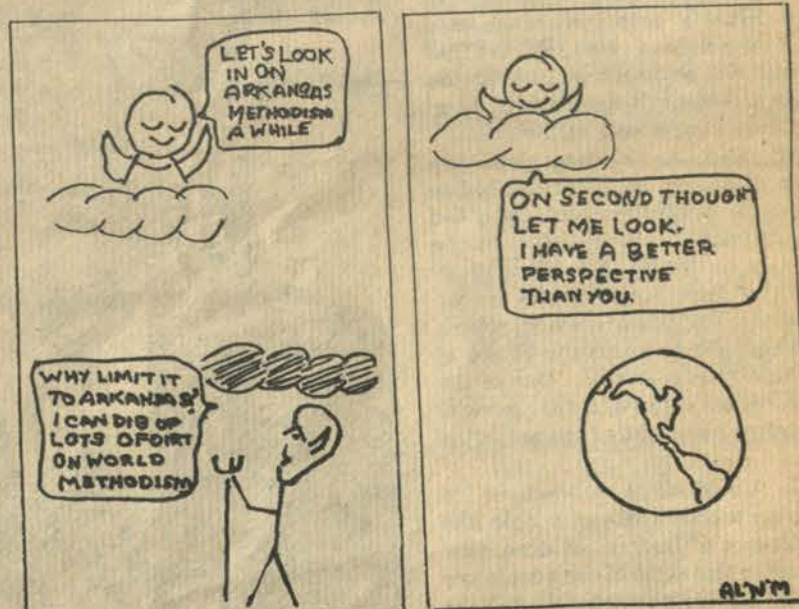
"I refuse to become a possible war criminal . . . I have opted instead to come here, where I hope to complete my education . . . I hope to begin a new life, one that will not force me to make such chilling choices of life and death.

"I am, in a real sense," Dave wrote, "a Vietnam casualty, dead to America."

Although first bewildered, the Minughs later publicly supported their son. But others began to make disturbing telephone calls to their home. An unposted letter in their mailbox said: "If your son does not come back and pay his debt to society, I personally will kill him."

## Introducing "Hi" and "Lo"

—protagonist and antagonist—





## Food for the hungry

### Missouri's United Methodists share with world's needy

COLUMBIA, Mo. (UMC) — United Methodists of Missouri answered the Bishops' Call for Peace and the Self-Development of Peoples through a massive out-pouring of cash, livestock and materials to be shared with the world's unfortunate.

United Methodist Bishop Robert E. Goodrich, Jr., of St. Louis had issued a call for the 1000 congregations within the state to share their blessings with victims of recession, famine and war. The occasion was also an answer to a denominational emphasis on peace and self-development adopted by the 1972 General Conference for the 1972-76 quadrennium.

Approximately 1,500 ministers and laypersons from throughout Missouri attended the December state-wide Convocation and brought with them their sharing gifts. At the report time during the Convocation, 127 beef heifers, 44 hogs, 26 dairy cattle, two sheep and one goat had been delivered at the Livestock Center on the University of Missouri campus. Some had been delayed because of the snow storm and additional funds were available to purchase livestock, so that authorities predicted that the number of animals to be delivered through Heifer Project International, would approximate 250. Heifer Project, headquartered at Little Rock, is a world-wide, self-help organization that provides livestock, poultry and related agricultural services to people in developing areas.

Heifer Project officials indicated that

the beef cattle would be shared by two Sioux Indian reservations in North and South Dakota, the dairy stock would be shipped to an agricultural school in Costa Rica, and the hogs went to a pig cooperative in Georgia.

"When all of the records are in, we fully expect that the United Methodist people of Missouri will have provided close to a quarter of a million dollars in cash and materials as an expression of our concern from this one effort. However, we know that the need is great and we shall continue to minister to others in behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ," said Bishop Goodrich.

An observer at the recent World Food Conference in Rome, Dr. C. Dean Freudenberger of the Claremont, California School of Theology, told the Missourians that varied responses were possible to the hunger problem of the world, but the "one response that over-arches both the immediate and long-range strategy suggestions is that until there emerges in the United States of America a deep moral expression of concern of overcoming hunger and famine, there will not be a political will or policy to act appropriately."

He rebuked the negative attitude of many reports from the Rome plenary and said, "The task for us now is to work to assure that our nation responds immediately, not with crumbs, but with very significant proportions of its energies to implement resolutions coming out of the Food Conference."

†

## Global Ministries join hunger prevention effort

NEW YORK, N.Y. (UMC) — While many Americans are concerned about the prospect of famine overseas, the National Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries is acting to help prevent hunger in the United States.

The Division has granted \$25,000 for 1975 operation of the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), a four-year-old non-profit law firm which is working to increase needy people's access to federal food programs.

The rapid escalation of food prices and the specter of world food shortages threaten to jeopardize those advances that poor people in the U.S. have made against hunger," said Stephen G. Brooks, FRAC's deputy director, in a report to the division. He predicted that next year will be "a crucial one for the struggle of America's poor to free themselves from hunger and malnutrition."

FRAC also is checking into the problem of hunger on American Indian reservations, a situation recently called to the attention of church leaders by the Task Force on Native American Ministries of the Joint Strategy and Action Committee, a coalition of national church mission agencies to which the Board of Global Ministries is related. One of the problems, Brooks stated, is that government surplus commodities are not being provided.

"While we don't have hunger in America on a mass basis or people like those pictures of Biafran children, this doesn't mean that some of our people are not suffering from malnutrition," he

said. "It's hidden. A majority of poor families are not eating properly."

The Rev. Randolph Nugent, chief executive of the National Division, said "The National Division's participation in FRAC is an initial stage in what we hope will be a larger involvement of local

## Conferences urged to plan now for 1976 Bicentennial

OKLAHOMA CITY (UMN) — "Annual Conferences in the South Central Jurisdiction should start at once to plan for appropriate observances of the 1976 Bicentennial of the nation," Dr. John H. Ness told members of a recent archives and history workshop held here.

Dr. Ness is executive secretary of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History, headquartered at Lake Junaluska, N.C.

"Many resources for church historians are to be found in some of the government archives, such as the one at Fort Worth," said Dr. George C. Younkin, chief archivist at the Texas Archives Center, and an active United Methodist layman.

Dr. Younkin urged local churches to preserve their records. He spoke at a dinner meeting of the jurisdictional event.

The Rev. William M. Wilder, Wynne, Ark., represented the North Arkansas Conference at the workshop.

Fourteen of the seventeen conferences were represented at the workshop, either by the chairman of the conference commission on archives and history or by others. Total attendance was about forty.

Following the workshop the Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History held a brief meeting. Chief business at this session was a report of progress in the preparation of a small volume presenting the history in the Jurisdiction of United Methodist work among Blacks, Indians, and Spanish speaking persons. Two of the three

manuscripts are now being circulated for review by readers, according to Dr. Vernon, one of the writers and also the editor of the volume.

†

## Top ten news stories of 1974 listed

NEW YORK (RNS) — The challenge to religion to offer moral leadership in solving the interrelated world problems of hunger, energy, population and inflation was the top religious news story of 1974.

Controversy over the irregular ordinations of 11 Episcopal women ranked second.

The ten top stories, chosen by the news and photo staffs of Religious News Service, were:

1. Moral challenge to religion to respond to the needs of humanity in a world of crisis brought on by food and energy shortages, population growth and inflation.
  2. Ordination of 11 Episcopal women deacons and the denominational and ecumenical implications.
  3. Evangelization — theme of the 1974 Synod of Roman Catholic Bishops, a massive evangelical congress in Lausanne, Switzerland, the World Methodist Council and numerous locally-based groups.
  4. Acceleration of Middle East tensions with Arab terrorist attacks and Israeli military reprisals; unsteady course of peace efforts; arrest of Melkite Catholic Archbishop Capucci of Jerusalem by Israel; Palestine Liberation Organization recognized at United Nations.
  5. (tie)
    - a) Religious protests to human rights violations in South Korea, the Philippines, Chile, Brazil and Soviet Union.
    - b) Coup in Portugal, leading to freeing of colonies in Africa and start of dramatic shifts in white-ruled southern Africa.
  6. Diverse religious concern over patriotic-spiritual tone of U.S.: national morality as related to Watergate and Nixon resignation; West Virginia textbook conflict; Wounded Knee trials; abortion; amnesty/clemency for draft resisters.
  7. Mother Elizabeth Seton designated first U.S. Catholic saint.
  8. Dissension intensified in Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
  9. Installation of Dr. Donald Coggan as Archbishop of Canterbury, head of world Anglican Communion.
  10. Lutheran-Catholic theologian agreement on papal primacy.
- Other developments and events placing high were:
- The Exorcist, the film and its repercussions.
  - Dr. Lawrence Bottoms first black Moderator of Presbyterian Church, U.S. (Southern).
  - Discussion of the future of U.S. foreign missions as a result of inflation and views of Third World Christians.

(Continued on page eleven)



### Named President Of Drew University

Dr. Paul Hardin, a lawyer and educator and former president of Southern Methodist University, has been named president of Drew University in Madison, N.J. He succeeds Dr. Robert Fisher Oxnem, who died last summer. Dr. Hardin, 43, will assume his post as the 9th president of the United Methodist institution on Feb. 1 . . . . Dr. Hardin was a visiting professor at the University of Virginia Law School this Fall, following his resignation from Southern Methodist University in June due to alleged policy differences. He is the son of a United Methodist bishop and has been a lay delegate to annual, jurisdictional, and general conferences of the Church. (RNS Photo)



## Arkansas Methodist Children's Home

—Memorial and honor gifts list continued—



**THE SEMINARY SINGERS** of Perkins School of Theology, are shown in informal rehearsal session with director, Dr. Carlton R. Young, in preparation for mid-South tour, Jan. 12-19. The group includes four young men from the Little Rock Conference. They are Robert Armstrong, David Barbaree, Henry Ratliff, and Bill Steele.

### Perkins Singers to perform in area

The 70-member Seminary Singers organization of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, under the direction of Dr. Carlton R. Young, will appear in concert at First Church, Ashdown, on Sunday evening, Jan. 12. The singers have accepted invitations to make concert appearances in seven of United Methodism's Annual Conferences on their 1975 annual tour, Jan. 12-19. They will present traditional, as well as contemporary musical styles, ranging from 16th century motets to folk, rock, and electronic expressions.

The organization was founded in 1935 at Perkins School of Theology in an effort to afford an expanded musical expression for students preparing for local church ministry. Since that time, well over one thousand graduates of Perkins have participated in the Singers. The annual tours have taken the choir into most of the Southern and Southwestern states, twice into Mexico, and as far west as California.

Dr. Carlton R. Young, director of the

Singers, is professor of Church Music and director of Graduate Studies in Church Music at Perkins. Dr. Young has been director of music for four General Conferences in The United Methodist Church and served as editor of the 1966 edition of the **Methodist Hymnal**.

The group will present a concert at St. John's United Methodist Church in Memphis on Monday evening, Jan. 13th.

†

### WORLD CRISIS

(Continued from page ten)

- Collapse of coalition government in Northern Ireland.
- Continuing growth of charismatic movement.
- Vatican detente policy with Communist countries; Cardinal Mindszenty out as primate of Hungary.
- Divorce and remarriage issue for Catholics.

†



**ON DISPLAY** at the annual bazaar sponsored by United Methodist Women of Griffin Memorial Church, Paragould, were handmade Christmas decorations on sale at the Holiday Corner. Other attractions were the Country Store and a Pantry offering a variety of toys, crafts, needlework and foods. Brunswick stew was served for lunch. Juanita Cupp is UMW president; Frances Garrison served as bazaar chairperson.

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#### Hendrix Cheerleaders for 1974-'75

Left to right, standing, Carol Frazier of Hope, Gail Wulfekuhler of Paragould and Martha Jane Murray of Wynne; Seated: Julie Chalfant of Booneville, Sandra Brown of Conway, Debi Cook of Brinkley, Debi Johnston of Russellville, and Rhonda Owens of Texarkana.

†



#### Eagle Scout Recipient

Howard Noble, a member of the United Methodist Youth Fellowship at Paris, receives Eagle Scout Award during a candlelighting service in the sanctuary. Making the presentation is F. D. Goza of Clarksville. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Noble, the awardee's parents, are shown at right. The Rev. Vernon Paysinger is Howard's pastor.

†



#### 'Old Fashioned Day' At Cavanaugh

Some of the "brethren" who participated in the recent observance wearing attire of yesteryear. The day's activities included the reading of a history of the church, a potluck luncheon, and the musical presentation of "Lightshine," by the Midland Heights Youth Choir.



#### Hazen Church Begins Tradition

For the first time the United Methodist Church began this year's Advent season with a Chrismon tree. The Rev. David Prothro, pastor, was narrator for ceremonies introducing the new feature. Mrs. Gerald Meiner, president of the Pearle McCain Circle, was general chairperson for the project, begun several weeks in advance of the season.

†



#### Paragould District Youth Elect New Council

The youth of Paragould District recently elected a new Council in a meeting chaired by outgoing President David Write (kneeling, center front). Elected to serve during 1975 were: President, Chris Jordan of First Church, Paragould; vice president, Beth Linam of Griffin Memorial, Paragould; secretary-treasurer, Linda Andrews of Pine Log. John Copher and Sandra Russell were elected to serve as adult members, along with the Rev. Ben Jordan, district superintendent, and the Rev. David Moose, coordinator. A program entitled, "A broad but brief focus on United Methodist Youth opportunities for fun and growth during the coming year," was shared by 85 persons. A closing worship service based on the Chrismon Tree was held in the sanctuary of Griffin Memorial, host church.