

Ordained women meet in history-making event

They reflect, assess, strategize and dream



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — During the week when 18 women in the U. S. Congress were talking of forming their own caucus, when Ella T. Grasso became the first woman governor elected in her own right, and when President Ford signed an executive order marking the beginning of an International Women's Year, ordained United Methodist women were making their own history in Nashville.

Meeting together for the first time, 300 of the approximately 500 ordained women in the denomination gathered to reflect on their past struggles, to assess their present situation, and to strategize and dream about the future.

Even the National Broadcasting Company unconsciously did its part to form a backdrop for the meeting as the network devoted for the first time its entire three-hour, prime-time programming to a single show dealing with a new society's attitudes in the changing relationships between women and men.

The large attendance surprised both the planners and the participants. Women stared in disbelief at the crowd of "sister journeyers on a common pilgrimage." Most of the women were below the age of 40. An overwhelming

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Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, January 23, 1975

94th Year, No. 4

British scholars to lead summer study program in England

—Open to Arkansas United Methodists—

The following, by Bishop James W. Henley, retired, of Lakeland, Fla., gives details of a study program in London, England, Aug. 4-19 in which Arkansas ministers and laypersons are invited to participate. A detailed report on the program appeared in the *Arkansas Methodist* of Oct. 17, 1974. Persons wishing more complete information may contact the Arkansas coordinator of the project, the Rev. Jim Beal, Box 489, Newport, Ark. 72112 (Phone 523-6561).

home, I commented to Mrs. Henley, "I feel more like I have been in church than at any time during the past two years."

The lecturers on our roster are all well-known throughout England. They are all scholars. But more than that, they have a concern about the needs of our world and the adequacy of the Gospel to those needs.

There is Colin Morris. He is known to most everyone in England. He is on BBC religious television regularly. While we talked about our plans for next summer, he began to thumb through his calendar for 1975, asking "When do you want me?"

Dr. Malcom Muggeridge is not a Methodist. But when I called him by phone to ask for an interview, he said "You and Mrs. Henley must come out to our home for lunch with Mrs. Muggeridge and me." We spent four delightful hours with them. It was a fantastic experience for us.

Lord Soper speaks on Tower Hill in the open air at noon every Wednesday — a program he has carried on for twenty years. Sundays he speaks at Hyde Park Corner to congregations of people from all walks of life. This, besides preaching twice each Sunday in his own church, overseeing an extensive program of social ministry and being a member of the British House of Lords.

I was impressed by his words: "The

minister today must speak in terms of today's world and in today's language or he too often will find himself in the position of being irrelevant, because what he speaks of is a world which is nonexistent and we are irrelevant because we use a language which is unintelligible to our audience."

Dr. Kenneth Greet heads the staff of Methodist secretaries in England and is a member of the British Council of Churches. Here is a man who makes you feel he knows the time in which he lives and has a message that should be heard by everyone. Dr. Greet has spoken on American theological school campuses on numerous occasions.

I could go on. There is Kenneth Wilson, a young philosopher whose reputation for scholarship and for Christian concern is mentioned whenever you speak of "the generation of younger intellectuals." Dr. Wilson indicated his eagerness to know American Methodist ministers and laymen and plans to spend as much time as he can on the college campus with us.

Bryon Duckworth, who is engulfed in and enthusiastic about his campus ministry at the University of London, is well worth our attention.

There are others. They aren't of lesser stature. There simply isn't enough space here. Perhaps I sound thrilled with the anticipation of our school at Egham, England. That I am. And I hope you will plan to join us there.

North Arkansas camp dates announced

The Camp Committee of the North Arkansas Conference has been working to announce as soon as possible the camps to be offered this summer. We hope these early announcements will help those who have to plan their vacations early in the year.

Some of the innovative camps and the camps which are being offered for adults, too, are exciting for this summer. Family Camp will be offered at Nawake May 16-18 and Family Trailer Camp June 20-22.

Newcomers to our plans include Horseback Trail Ride Camp, where you provide your own horse, June 12-15 at Nawake; Conference Ozark Folk Camp, Ozark Folk Center, June 22-28; Wilderness Encounter Camp for 20 days for 16½-year-olds through young adults from July 26 to Aug. 15; Children's Choir Camp at Kamp Kaetzell July 28-31.

Camps which in years past were innovative but now are regularly scheduled events include two Canoe Trips for 9th graders through young adults on the Buffalo River June 16-20 or the Spring River July 7-11.

The sixth annual Frontier Camp at Nawake (formerly Myers Ranch) will be June 22-27 for 7th and 8th graders. The Backpacking from Hendrix College which was so popular this fall will be offered for those 16½ through young adults Oct. 23-26. The Weekend of Discovery at Kaetzell will be Aug. 8-11.

All the above camps are open to the entire conference. There are a few

(Continued on page seven)

During this past summer I spent two fascinating weeks in England interviewing prominent religious leaders. My commission was to represent the Advisory Committee for Educational Opportunities for Clergy and Laity. I was to see this selective group on the Committee's behalf to enlist lecturers of the schools in England in July and August of 1975.

When they learned of the nature of the program, they responded heartily. What impressed me most was their unmistakable dedication and their desire to be a part of such enterprises as may further the Kingdom in our distraught world.

No one asked "How much is the honorarium?", but each was eager to understand our purpose and to contribute what he could to the program. No one declined. Leaving one man's



Conway District Hospital Rally

Principals at the Conway District rally in support of the Methodist Hospital Golden Anniversary Drive Jan. 15 were (from left) District Lay Leader and drive Chairman Jim Lane, District Superintendent Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, hospital Executive Director C. Henry Hottum, hospital Foundation Director Fred Alexander, and host Pastor the Rev. Earl B. Carter. The event was held at First Church, North Little Rock, and was one of seven District rallies held simultaneously.

Seven district rallies highlight hospital drive

United Methodists in seven districts of the North Arkansas Conference gathered Wednesday evening, Jan. 15 in simultaneous rallies related to the Golden Anniversary Drive of Methodist Hospital, Memphis.

The rallies, a follow-up to the called session of the Conference held in Conway on the previous Saturday and attended by over 425, were designed to communicate further information on the drive for funds to aid in construction of a new emergency facility to be located in the hospital's Sherard Wing, presently under construction. The Conference is one-third owner, with the Memphis and North Mississippi Conferences, of the facility, the largest United Methodist hospital in the world.

District rallies were held in Batesville, Fayetteville, Forrest City, Fort Smith, Jonesboro, North Little Rock and Paragould.

Bishop Eugene M. Frank, speaking at the Conway District rally at First United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, was to have addressed all seven groups simultaneously through a telephone hook-up, but the arrangement failed to materialize. The six districts heard the bishop's message by tape recordings which had been prepared in advance and sent to each District meeting for use in event of difficulties with the planned telephone hook-up. Special telephone installations had been made in each of the seven District locations prior to the day of the rallies.

(Southwestern Bell Telephone News Service Manager Bob Sells explained to the **Arkansas Methodist** that the failure was due to a "breakdown in human communications" and expressed the "profound regrets of the company for the disappointment and inconvenience caused to all concerned.")

In addition to the message by Bishop Frank at each of the rallies, presentations on the hospital's healing mission were made by lay persons from the districts, representatives of the hospital's staff, and by the district superintendents.

Though essentially the same, the format of the district rallies varied, with one district (Batesville) having three youth choirs (Mountain Home, Beebe and Searcy First Churches) presenting special music and another (Paragould) having a panel to answer questions concerning the fund drive. Attendance

at the individual rallies varied from 55 to 175.

The drive will culminate on Feb. 23, designated Methodist Hospital Sunday, when churches will receive offerings and pledges for the project. No goals or quotas have been established. Interested persons are encouraged to make pledges over a three-year period.

The other of the hospital's owning conferences have had similar drives in the recent past. The North Mississippi Conference pledged over \$1.2 million to furnish the new satellite hospital, Methodist South/John R. Flippin Memorial Hospital; and the Memphis Conference raised over \$1 million for the hospital's School of Nursing.

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SOMEBODY MUST SAY IT: 'LET'S RAISE SOME MONEY!'

An open letter to North Arkansas Methodists:

After Annual Conference on Saturday, I had a sleepless night. Perhaps I am wrong, but I detected much negativism about the Methodist Hospital Foundation Drive.

This drive was approved by the Annual Conference in June. It is on a "no quota" basis, which seems to mean to some that there is no obligation to try.

On the contrary, it gives a Church a real chance to see what it can do. But some laymen, and certainly the pastor, are going to have to say, "Let's raise some money."

The Methodist Hospital is a healing mission. It did six million dollars in charity work during 1974 — that is eight times as much money as all the churches in our Conference raised for all purposes in 1973! The hospital has the best facilities to treat cancer, eye disease, and the brain in the mid-south, and the only 7-day rehabilitation unit in the whole area.

If every preacher, and every Drive Chairman, will make their pledge — and present the hospital program to some people who make large gifts — and on February 23 give every member a chance to make a pledge or a gift, we will all be amazed at the good which will result.

William M. Wilder
Wynne, Ark. 72396

A place to touch humanity

The Christian ministry of
Methodist Hospital, Memphis

* By James W. Lane

May I offer you a place to hold out your hand and touch humanity? I have no instant miracles, no instant cures, no quick passing missionary journeys. What I do offer you is a place in the sometimes painfully slow healing of human hurt, pain and suffering.

I have never become a part of anything that has captured my heart and mind and soul as much as becoming aware of the healing ministries, in the name of Christ, of Methodist Hospital in Memphis.

Oh, I have known that there was a Methodist Hospital in Memphis for many years, just as I know there are Baptist and Catholic Hospitals in Little Rock. An acknowledgment of a presence, yes, but certainly not an awareness of people involved in a mission of loving care.

Just as you cannot be a "windshield Methodist" (that is, drive by the Church on Sunday and look out through the windshield) and really be serious about your commitments of loyalty and upholding, you cannot really become involved in the healing ministries of Methodist Hospital by just acknowledging its presence.

A WALK THROUGH THE HOSPITAL

Lets take a walk through the front door of Methodist Hospital. As you begin to look around and notice members of the staff, ambulatory patients, visitors coming and going, food tray cabinets moving down the hallways, lab technicians going here and there — you see faces of concern, faces of hope, faces of assurance, — faces of people who really are happy about what they are doing.

It has been said that one of the really evident differences at Methodist Hospital is the very real concern of the staff and their self-giving dedication. They really like you and they really like each other. And most important, perhaps, they really care about how you are treated.

There are no individual heroes at Methodist Hospital. There are no grandstanding quarterbacks to grab the ball and run by themselves. The entire staff of Methodist Hospital — the nurse, the doctor, the therapist, the cook, the admissions clerk, the custodian, the young man who takes your blood sample, the chaplain — yes, all of these, and many more, make up the healing team. They work together. They care together.

NO 'SECOND CLASS PATIENTS'

The statistics of Methodist Hospital are almost staggering. What started as a small effort to fill a need in Memphis has grown into perhaps the best equipped, best staffed, and most mission-minded church-related regional hospital in the United States.

You have seen the figures on the number of patients treated each year at Methodist Hospital who have no means of paying for the very costly care they are given. Virtually 14 per cent of the hospital's total income is budgeted for

free patient care. This will exceed \$6.8 million this year. Whatever the need is, however expensive it may be, it is given. No consideration as to the type or level of care a patient will receive is ever made in the light of what that patient will be able to pay. There are no second class patients at Methodist Hospital.

Methodist Hospital is the medical mission of the North Arkansas Conference. Long before the founding and construction of the hospital in 1918, officials of the North Arkansas Conference had been involved in planning this new healing arm of the Church. Arkansas and White River were two of seven conferences invited to join the effort to build the new hospital. In 1914 these two joined to form the North Arkansas Conference which became one of the three founding conferences of Methodist Hospital.

We of the North Arkansas Conference and of the Conway District have a unique opportunity to let our hand be held out to touch, to love, to help, to heal in Christ's name.

'YOUR HAND CAN BE THERE'

Would you like for your hand to be there as the doctor removed the blinding cataracts from the eyes of a poor old woman whose only wish in life is to be able to leave her small three-room home and walk to a small Methodist church a few blocks away each Sunday?

Would you like for your hand to be there as a new life enters this world? Would you like to reassure the mother that we care for her and love her and her new baby?

Would you like to stand with the doctor and nurse as they tell an anxious family that the surgery went just fine with no complications?

Would you like to place your hand in the hand of the wife who is waiting in the intensive care waiting room while her husband lies at the point of death?

Would you like to kneel beside the one there in the chapel whose son has just died in the emergency room from an automobile accident? Oh, there are so many comforting things you want to say. What would Christ lead you to do in a moment like this?

Would you rejoice with the family who is taking their wife and mother home after successful surgery and treatment for cancer?

Yes — you can hold out your hand, your life, your love — and touch, and love.

You can be a participating member of the healing ministry team at Methodist Hospital.

†

*Mr. Lane is lay leader of the Conway District and is chairperson of that district's Golden Anniversary Hospital Drive. He is active in Annual Conference matters and in the life of his local church, Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock. The message above was given at the Conway District hospital rally Jan. 15.

From the Bottom of the Heart

A 'yes!' to the Equal Rights Amendment

The role of law — both civil and moral — has been fundamental in acknowledging and securing the most basic human rights. From the Ten Commandments to the most recent civil statute we have recognized that the human family, comprised of those who are subject to every weakness, must establish these rights, by law, for all its members.

And when such basic human rights have been repeatedly, systematically and continually only partially fulfilled, or circumvented, or denied, then it is both the right and the duty of the citizenry to seek redress — even to the most fundamental law of the land, the Constitution.

It is to issues of such magnitude that the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) speaks. That measure, having been ratified by 33 of the required 38 states, is currently pending before the Arkansas legislature. For the ERA to become the 27th Amendment to the Constitution, five more states must ratify it by March, 1979. There are 13 state legislatures meeting in 1975, of which Arkansas is one.

What is the Equal Rights Amendment? It is brief, the following being its complete text:

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This Amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

SOME BASIC ISSUES — and some comments

The debate surrounding the ERA has been voluminous but several issues emerge as most significant. Space allows only the briefest mention and editorial comment on these.

• **WHY A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WITH FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT?** Why not let statutory (rather than Constitutional) law speak to the issues? And why not let the individual states deal with the issues involved?

Matters of such basic importance as equality of rights without liability or preference because of sex can only be properly and adequately dealt with at the national level and in the most fundamental law of the land: equality of human rights is a matter of Constitutional stature.

United States citizens, who have the right to move anywhere within their nation, deserve the same interpretation and security of their basic rights regardless of which of the 50 states they may travel or live in.

Basic human rights — those rights due all persons simply by virtue of their humanity — are not privileges that are earned or favors that are granted. They are simply and profoundly just that: "rights" which are theirs because of their humanity. And those rights should not be subject to varied interpretations or selective amendment.

What is needed — and the ERA would provide it — is a uniform, national commitment to the principle that to deny rights or grant privileges solely on the basis of sex is contrary to the American concept of justice and inconsistent with a democracy — to say nothing of its being in conflict with the religious principles which played such a vital role in the founding of this nation and which continue to be among its most significant "guideposts."

When social practices have been contrary to the highest in moral law and in violation of the inherent rights of persons, those practices, in a democratic "nation

under God", should be changed by law. And inasmuch as they relate to fundamental human rights, the place for such basic principles to be established is in the highest expression of our civil law, the Constitution.

So long as such matters remain the concern of statutory law they are subject to interpretation and amendment. And inherent human rights should not be subjected to such review. They should be guaranteed.

• **WON'T THE ERA INFRINGE UPON OUR PRIVACY?** Some opponents of the ERA claim the Amendment would require that restrooms and sleeping quarters in public facilities and institutions be shared by both sexes. Such contentions seem to ignore the fact that the right to privacy has been established in the Bill of Rights itself and has been the subject of statutory provision (such as *Griswold vs. Conn.*, [381 vs. 479, 1975]).

The unfortunate effect of such arguments is that they detract attention from the basic intent of the Amendment: that it is concerned with correcting the injustice of a social system which legally confers or denies benefits solely on the basis of sex.

• **WHAT ABOUT WOMEN BEING DRAFTED?** Congress presently has the power to draft women. Should a draft law be reinstated, under the ERA women would be subject to it the same as men. But just possibly, a positive result that might come from such an undesirable eventuality, could be a national awakening to the fact that war is such an inhumane game that even men — "and certainly not ladies" — ought not to play in it!

• **DOESN'T THE ERA THREATEN FAMILY SECURITY?** Only to those to whom "family security" requires a privileged position, humanely and legally, for the male. A more "democratic" and humane — and we believe Christian — understanding of family security is that which is based on moral, humane and legal equality.

• **BUT DOESN'T THE ERA HAVE "DANGERS"?** Possibly. Most human rights do, when fully granted, for they bring greater responsibilities to everyone. But neither the opponents nor the proponents of the ERA can really say what those "dangers" are. **The greater and real danger would be to continue to give legal denial to those basic human rights which the Amendment would secure.**

A BICENTENNIAL GIFT TO OURSELVES

In addition to the primary fact that passage of the ERA would give a national commitment to a fundamental human right, its approval would do at least two other things of no little significance. It would give a much-needed vote of confidence and faith in the American ideal and system. And it would be a giant step toward fulfillment of a moral responsibility.

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment would be a significant move toward enabling us to restore our tarnished national image. It could awaken an exciting awareness that we can, once again, be pioneers in the securing of human rights.

Such a happening, even though it will have taken us a long time to come 'round to it, would be a moral victory which our tired nation deserves. And such victories are sorely needed, especially just now.

†

Off the Top of the Head

One (1) sparkling flavor

Way back in the clean air days, and in those old-fashioned wintertimes when we had the really big snowfalls, one of the grand treats of the season was making snow ice cream. It never entered our heads that God's good snow wasn't clean enough to eat.

We'd pack a mixing bowl full of the fluffy wonder and take it to the kitchen where with Mom's guidance we'd lace it with the proper mixture of vanilla flavoring and sugar — with as generous a portion of the latter as we could get away with.

I can almost taste it now as I close my eyes. And nothing that Farrell's or Baskin-Robbins with all their 31 flavors can boast has yet to match that special treat.

Perhaps you have to be six-years-old and excited about the snow to appreciate it. And if that's what it takes, I'll be first in line for the trip back.

†

REVISED REPORT

Some weeks back I predicted a hard winter. I've changed my mind. I predict a light winter.

Now maybe we'll get that deep snow I've been hoping for.

†

JSW

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Aldersgate's 'Senior Citizens Program'

—where hope and expectation are renewed

"It's so wonderful I can hardly express it! The love that has been shown us makes it just like one big family — the way God wants it!"

And that's not just one person's opinion that Mrs. Sam Ella Ward of Little Rock expresses. As one of the 350-plus persons enrolled in Aldersgate United Methodist Camp's Senior Citizens Program she echoes what must surely be the unanimous feeling of one of the most enthusiastic groups of mature citizens to be found.

Begun in September, 1973, Aldersgate's Senior Citizens Program is a tremendous success by any measure. According to Director Kitty Dozhier, the program's purpose is "to provide one day a week where the senior citizen has fellowship and activity and something to look forward to."

Held at the United Methodist institution's facility in western Little Rock each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the program averages a daily attendance of 85. The program includes productive activities such as crafts and sewing — "making something to take home," says Ms. Dozhier. The making of new friendships is one of the major benefits of the program, she reports, and notes that a number of the participants get together on their own during days other than the one-day "Aldersgate Day."

With different groups coming on each of the three days, the program serves most areas of Pulaski County, with participants coming from private residences, public housing projects and nursing homes.

THE FRIENDSHIP MEANS THE MOST

At the program's recent Christmas party, two other regular participants shared their feelings about the project. Said Mildred Davis: "The friendship has been the most meaningful thing to me.



MABEL HARRIS (standing), a staff worker in the Aldersgate Senior Citizens Program, helps Mrs. J. N. Martin (to her left) with Santa Claus gift project as Mrs. Rosie Martin (to her right) looks on.

And I like to make things, too," she adds.

Phoebe D. James, a former Home Demonstration agent and social worker who has been in the program about one year, said the program means "a day of complete relaxation in a wholesome atmosphere, where I behold the Christ in others and feel my unity with them in love and understanding."

Aldersgate's Executive Director C. Ray Tribble says of the program "The thing that impresses me is that it serves

an inclusive society, crossing racial and social lines — and the fact that we have one of the finest groups of workers, paid and volunteer."

Ed Wimberly, Little Rock architect and immediate past-president of Aldersgate's Board of Directors, says the program "fills a need which is enormous," and calls it "a tremendous success."

Ms. Dozhier says she believes the program to be "the best in the state by

far. Our senior citizens do what they want to do rather than what others think they should." Commenting on its impact, she said there have been "considerable attitude changes we never thought possible."

MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM

With nine paid employees and eight volunteers directly involved, the program receives 75 per cent of its support from the Title VI provision of the Social Security Act and 25 per cent from contributions from churches, individuals and interested groups. Ms. Dozhier reports that radio station KAAZ and the Junior Chamber of Commerce had been of particular help to the program. She reports that some \$35,000 will be needed in 1975 to match the federal funds, and adds "We need volunteers, we need 'goodies' and just lots of things" that individuals and groups could furnish.

We asked Mrs. Phoebe D. James, quoted earlier, to pen a brief thought on "What Aldersgate means to me." Her response indicates that the camp's Senior Citizens Program is fulfilling its mission of Christian ministry:

"To see toil-worn faces light up with radiant smiles as they sing favorite songs and read poems so meaningful to each of us — I know that God is blessing me right now.

"Aldersgate, hidden from view in a wooded area, with rustic cabins scattered about, is not the attraction. It is the people who operate the program. The patient, courteous bus drivers get us safely there. On arrival the happy, cheerful staff greets each of us with a warm 'How are you? We are glad you came!' As we leave, the goodbyes are 'See you next week.'

"This fills our hearts with hope and expectation! This is what Aldersgate means to me."



(Left) MARY HOWARD is greeted by then Senator-elect Bumpers, who visited informally with program participants. Looking on are Queen Etta Lamb (left) and Ioma Wright.

(Right) ELIZABETH BALLMANN (left) was "surprise honoree" at the Christmas dinner. Having at one time presented to Aldersgate a picture of Governor Bumpers, which she valued as "one of her most prized possessions," the Governor was invited in her honor. Also shown with Mrs. Ballman and Mr. Bumpers are Program Field Worker Barbara Richards and Aldersgate Executive Director C. Ray Tribble.



(Left) QUEEN E. LAMB (center) contemplates next move in creating "Santa Claus," as does Dora Pickens (right).



(Right) THE MADRIGAL SINGERS of Parkview High School presented seasonal music at the Christmas dinner.



NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Religious news sources in Africa report that the future of the Christian minority in the African Republic of Chad grows more uncertain as President Ngarta Tombalbaye pursues a "cultural revolution" that includes revival of pagan initiation rites. The releases state that President Tombalbaye has declared that Christians "must deny that there is a God or be killed."

A Mennonite team which visited Venezuela recently reports that almost unique among South American nations, Venezuela has a democratically-elected government. Labor unrest has been kept down by fixing the rate of inflation. The country is not experiencing the social unrest common in Brazil, Chile and some of its neighboring Central American states. A spokesman warned U.S. evangelicals not to think of Venezuela as a "deprived nation needing our material aid. The evangelical witness will primarily need to be a spiritual witness," he said.

"Any efforts directed toward undermining the U.N. would be irresponsible and would have catastrophic results," warned 14 representatives of religious groups in an evaluation of the recent 29th session of the U.N. General Assembly. Commenting on controversial actions taken by the U.N. and UNESCO during the past session, the report urges that the world body "be supported, but not uncritically, and strengthened as a means of realizing the aspirations of the people of the world for justice and peace."

"The moral imperative in the Gospel is not concerned primarily with statistics on, and diatribes against, beer and cigarettes, divorce and delinquency, crime and gambling, pride and prejudice, bunny clubs and bingo," said Dr. Foy Valentine, an executive of the Southern Baptist Convention. "It is concerned rather first and positively with the reality of sin, the meaning of salvation, and the nature of the church," said Dr. Valentine.

An emergency grant of \$5,000 to treat victims of a cholera epidemic in Angola, and to prevent a further spread of the outbreak, have been sent to the area by the Office of World Service of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern). A missions executive of the denomination said the epidemic was "raging with 50 deaths a day in northern Angola."

Kenneth H. Wood, editor of a Seventh-day Adventist general church publication, wrote that "While we believe that women should be accorded equal dignity with men (since all human beings are equal under God), and we favor equality for women in job opportunities and pay, we do not favor the suggestion in the Journal of Ecumenical Studies that we cease using masculine pronouns to refer to God, and feminine pronouns to refer to the church." Editor Wood continued, "... Let us not become so relevant that we become irrelevant. In our efforts to do justice to the feminist movement or any other contemporary movement, let us not do injustice to the Word of God."

The United Methodist Council on Youth Ministry has, due to financial pressures, cut its six-member staff in half. In closed sessions in Nashville, the 30-member Council studied the effects of a projected 1975 budget of \$83,000 — a cutback from \$114,000 in 1974.

Eight prominent U.S. churchmen have endorsed an appeal to Leonid I. Brezhnev, calling for the release of Baptist leader Georgi Vins, imprisoned in the USSR. The plea issued from New York by the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies, Ltd., also called for "full freedom of religious belief and freedom to leave the Soviet Union which are guaranteed by Soviet law and which have been abrogated by local Soviet authorities, especially in the Ukraine and in the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic . . ."

Anglican Bishop Denis J. Wakeling of Southwell, England, in his January diocesan newsletter, listed challenges for his people in making 1975 a year of "aggressive Christianity." First, wrote Bishop Wakeling, "Let us challenge the false assumptions being made today. Here is one I believe to be false — that all religious faiths are as good as each other. This is manifest nonsense, implying that the duty to assess the worth of ideas does not exist."

A major Vatican document released early this month aims at the "practical" implementation of Vatican II directives on Catholic-Jewish relations. It calls for the establishment of "real dialogue," theological encounters, common prayer "in connection with great causes," scholarly research and study, and joint efforts toward justice and peace among Catholics and Jews. "Research into problems bearing on Judaism and Jewish-Christian relations will be encouraged among specialists, particularly in the fields of exegesis, theology, history, and sociology," the document states.

"Maude" and "All in the Family" led the list of "permissive" programs noted by 7,000 persons in response to a National Association of Evangelicals' questionnaire on the moral tone of television. "The Waltons" and "Apple's Way" were cited as the most "commendable," with "The Lawrence Welk Show," a close runner-up.

One Church Publication's Response To Inflation

MILWAUKEE (RNS) — The Living Church, an independent Episcopal weekly published here, has explained to its readers why its subscription price is going up.

In an editorial in the Jan. 12 issue, the periodical says:

"We must all bite the inflation bullet together, and the time has come when this magazine must do the inevitable. As of Feb. 15, 1975, the price of a one-year subscription will go up three dollars, to \$15.95. Proportional increases in bundle-plan subscriptions, multiple orders, and two and three year subscriptions will go into effect at the same time."

The Living Church, which has a circulation of 10,922, reports that "for the past several months it has cost us more than \$18 to produce a one-year subscription for which we charge \$12.95. The difference between cost to the subscriber and cost to us has had to be made up by contributions from friends and supporters who recognize that The Living Church exists not to make a profit but to serve the need for a free, objective, weekly newsmagazine serving the Episcopal Church. We shall continue to ask for such help and know we shall get it."

The City Council of Washington, D.C., compromising between those who wanted prayer and those who wanted nothing reverential at the beginning of business meetings, settled for a moment of silence — instead of prayer.

Dr. Claire Randall, general secretary of the National Council of Churches, said in an interview that one of the goals of that organization is to develop "planned responses" to problems, rather than "crisis reactions."



Church Hospitals Offer Telephone Service

MINNEAPOLIS — Medical staffs of three church-sponsored hospitals in Minneapolis are providing a free telephone health information service called Tel-Med. By dialing 721-7575, residents of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area are able to hear any of more than 190 tape-recorded health messages. A brochure providing an index of Tel-Med messages has been published in local newspapers and is available on request. A caller scans the index, which is categorized under various subheadings such as cancer, chemical dependency, child care, etc., dials the Tel-Med

number and asks the librarian to let him hear a certain tape. . . . Here, a volunteer serving at Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, location of the tape library, handles a message request at her special tape console. Storage racks flanking the console hold more than 190 tape cartridges, each one representing a three-to-five minute health-related message. The volunteer selects a tape from a storage rack, inserts it in a special communications console, and the message automatically begins. Up to 10 messages can be handled simultaneously. (RNS Photo)

News from the churches

ALLEN REED, president of the student body at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a member of Washington Avenue Church in North Little Rock, received a special invitation to attend the 23rd Annual Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 30 as a special guest of President and Mrs. Ford.

EDWIN BROWN, a former member of the Arkansas Crime Commission and a retired FBI agent, was guest speaker for the United Methodist Men's chili supper at Highland United Methodist Church, Little Rock, Jan. 20.

ANNE CHEAIRS, a Young Life staff member and former teacher in a mission school in Kenya, was a recent Sunday evening speaker at Asbury United Methodist Church, Little Rock.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS from the University of Arkansas will present the program for the Student Recognition Day observance at Wiggins United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, on Sunday, Jan. 26.

NOTICE TO PASTORS OF UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS STUDENTS

Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, will employ two students (part time) from the University of Arkansas to work on campus with students on behalf of Christ and Central. Before we begin the interviews, we would like to have nominations from the pastors across the state.

Please send us quickly the names of those students from your church whom you would recommend, without reservation, for the jobs. We would prefer upper classmen. Your cooperation in this will help us serve your students a little better.

Joel Cooper, Pastor
Central United Methodist Church
Box 1106
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701



Parsonage Dedication

A recent open house and dedication ceremonies at the parsonage of Marvell United Methodist Church marked the completion of indebtedness payments in five years' time. Officiating at the dedication was Forrest City District Superintendent, the Rev. Elmo Thomason (right), assisted by the Rev. Murphy Spurlock (left), pastor. United Methodist Women underwrote the indebtedness on the residence, and were present to assist with the celebration.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Cabot Church cleared over \$600 on a recent turkey dinner. They plan to use the money for 1975 projects.

THE RACKENSACK Folk Lore Society from the Ozark Folk Center presented a program at the family night supper in First United Methodist Church, Newport on Sunday, Jan. 19.

MRS. DORIS FISH and Mrs. Stan Buergey led the second session of the church-wide mission study being held at Mabelvale United Methodist Church. The topics of the Jan. 12 session were "Mission To A World In Present/Future Shock" and "Other Faiths."

THE REV. LOUIS L. AVERITT, associate pastor of First Church, Little Rock, will be the guest speaker for the monthly meeting of that church's United Methodist Men on Friday, Jan. 24 at 12 noon.

THE REV. AND MRS. JIM BEAL, parsonage family at First Church, Newport, along with Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Victory and Mr. and Mrs. David Johnston, gave heifers to Heifer Project International in honor of the church families as a Christmas gift. Dr. C. M. Mannasmith, manager of the HPI Ranch reported that the heifers would go to Honduras to replace stock destroyed during the hurricane.

TIMOTHY UNITED Methodist Church, Camden, was the scene for the sub-district UMY meeting held Sunday, Jan. 19. The youth viewed a film entitled "The Poker Game," and held a business meeting.

THE REV. JOE HUGHES, pastor of the Marianna Enlarged Charge, and the Rev. David Moose, pastor of Paragould-Shiloh, led a study entitled "The Role of Sex in Christian Living" for junior high youth at First Church, Paragould, the weekend of Jan. 17-19.

LE JUBILE DOUX, singing group in First Church, Mountain Home, will present a musical program for the congregation of Horseshoe Bend United Methodist Church on Sunday, Feb. 9.



Making Music

The youth band from First United Methodist Church, Walnut Ridge plays on the streets of downtown to raise funds for Arkansas Methodist Children's Home.

THE YOUTH of First Church, Jonesboro, were hosts to the youth of University United Methodist Church, St. Louis, Mo., the weekend of Jan. 10-12. Weekend activities included a potluck supper, share groups, and an experimental worship service.

ROY WELD of Fisher, North Arkansas Conference director of lay speaking, conducted a district lay speaking school for interested persons in the Jonesboro District at Harrisburg United Methodist Church, Jan. 19-21.

ORVILLE COPELAND of the Gideon Society was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of United Methodist Men at Winfield United Methodist Church, Little Rock. He presented movies of his trip to the Holy Land with the Florida Boys quartet.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD NAMED TO SPECIAL COMMITTEES

William M. Shepherd, lay leader of the Little Rock Conference and member of the General Council on Finance and Administration of United Methodism, has been named by that body as a member of the Search Committee to find a successor to the Council's General Secretary, R. Bryan Brawner, when he retires at the end of 1976.

Shepherd was also recently named to a Task Study Committee of representatives from the GCFA and the Division of Higher Education to consider the possibility of establishing a computerized "talent bank" for use by the Church.

AEB STAFF MEMBER TO SPEAK AT ASHDOWN

The Rev. Richard T. Ludden, chaplain and field representative of the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind in Little Rock, will be guest speaker at First Church, Ashdown, and at Richmond United Methodist Church on Sunday, Jan. 26. Mr. Ludden was an active United Methodist pastor in the midwest for 29 years, when loss of sight forced him to give up his last pastorate in Indianapolis, Ind., in 1965.

Since joining the Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind in 1965, he has received a master's degree in rehabilitation teaching of the blind. He also holds a master of divinity degree from Asbury Seminary.

He will meet with the Ashdown UMYF on Sunday evening, and will speak to the Ashdown Lions Club on Monday, Jan. 27.

DR. MYERS CURTIS, director of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries, was guest speaker at recent ceremonies held at McCabe United Methodist Church, North Little Rock. Other members of the Council staff were present also for the dedication of new carpeting and for special recognition of the Rev. Herbert M. Scott, pastor, and W. H. Williams, Administrative Board chairperson and lay leader. The pastor was the recipient of a white robe, presented by Mrs. Nell Balkman, and John Blue presented Mr. Williams a blazer in appreciation of his leadership and labor in the church's recent interior redecorating project.

HOPE DISTRICT YOUTH HOLD WINTER RALLY

Nearly 70 youth from Prescott, Hope, Mineral Springs, Texarkana, DeQueen and Ashdown attended the Hope District Winter Youth Rally at Mineral Springs, Dec. 20-21. They were housed overnight in the homes of the Mineral Springs congregation, following an evening featuring a snack supper, singing, a talent show, skits, and a movie.

On Saturday district officers were elected to serve during 1975 and '76. They included: President — Jana Bell, Mineral Springs; Vice President — Scott Dillard, Texarkana; Secretary — Terri Broom, Texarkana; Reporter — Jo Ann Biggs, Ashdown; Project Review Committee Representatives — Brenda Calhoun, Prescott and Donna Ruggles, Texarkana; Representatives to Annual Conference — Dick Dodson and Debbie Freeze, both of Texarkana.

The rally closed with a popcorn and coke communion service.

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. 26—Sunday	Mark 1:14-20
Jan. 27	Phil. 1:27-30
Jan. 28	John 4:35-42
Jan. 29	Ezek. 33:10-13
Jan. 30	John 4:13-15
Jan. 31	Phil. 3:10-14
Feb. 1	John 6:36-40
Feb. 2—Sunday	I Cor. 1:26-31

Council Directors to Local Churches

Organizing for ministry

During the past few years most of our United Methodist congregations have organized for their mission in a new way. They have set up a Council on Ministries as the congregation's basic group for planning and coordinating varied ministries in response to many needs.

This Council concept for ministry is workable in every church, small or large. The concept is flexible and every local church should adapt it to the needs of that church.

The basic tool for the Council on Ministries is: "Council on Ministries — Resource System for the Local Church Council on Ministries." This important tool can be ordered from Cokesbury.

The concept of the Council on Ministries may be working well in your church, or it may be a "paper" organization and not really functioning. In either case, take a moment to think through the major functions of this group. What is it for, anyway?

1. Investigating: The Council on Ministries is a group that is sensitive to human need. Its members keep their eyes and ears open. They sniff out opportunities for their congregation to serve its own people, its community, and the world at large. They gather resource materials of many kinds. They probe and study. The Council as a whole coordinates this investigation by its various members and related groups.

2. Planning: Based on their understanding of the church's mission and the particular needs at hand, the Council

members work out possible goals for the congregation's many ministries. They then make specific plans for achieving these goals: programs, projects, and all sorts of other actions.

3. Coordinating: The Council on Ministries develops these many ideas for action into a united program for the congregation's witness and service. It coordinates many possibilities into one whole mission.

4. Recommending: The Council does not have the last word on these proposals. It recommends coordinated goals and plans to the Administrative Board for approval. And it requests the needed funds of the Committee on Finance. However, when possible, policies and budgets will be set so as to allow the Council to move ahead without checking every item.

5. Delegating: Once plans are approved and funded, the Council delegates its various members and related groups to implement the plans.

6. Evaluating: The Council also weighs the results of these ministries in light of the original goals and reports these evaluations to the Administrative Board for further action.

Thus the Council on Ministries is responsible for the congregation's entire mission. It is the group where the basic outlines of the congregation's ministries are hammered out in an integrated way. Its members, therefore, have a most significant responsibility.

†

SUMMER CAMPS

events being planned by district camp committees which are not the usual camps at their campsites.

The Forrest City District plans include Senior High Canoe Camp June 9-13 and Trail Hike July 7-11. Family Camp will be at Bear Creek July 18-20. The Batesville District ministers and their families will be at Kamp Kaetzell June 30-July 2.

Many other camps for children and youth will be shown in the new 1975 Camp Directory which is being mailed to pastors this week. It is hoped the above dates will help the United Methodists of

(Continued from page one)

the North Arkansas Conference plan their summer camping through their church.

Each of the campsites also have time and space available for local church groups to have retreats, camps, choir camps, assemblies, etc., at the site. Check with the managers listed in the directory for dates and scheduling procedures.

North Arkansas Camp Committee,
Allan E. Hilliard, Chairperson

†

Annual meeting of CWU at Winfield, Jan. 27

Church Women United (CWU) in Central Arkansas, South, are scheduled to meet at Winfield United Methodist Church, 16th and Louisiana, Little Rock on Monday, Jan. 27th.

Highlighting the event, according to Mrs. Eugene Wolfe, president, will be a report on the national assembly of Church Women United held in Memphis last October. Sister Florence Yuttermann, State CWU president, will serve as moderator for the panel which will present an informal discussion of this major event.

The business session will include the election of officers for the Central Arkansas unit of CWU, and the presentation of projects for 1975. Priority projects will include Ministry to Senior Citizens, the Heifer project, and the Adult Literacy program, according to Mrs. Wolfe. Resource persons from each of these areas will make presentations and respond to questions.

Other projects which will continue to receive attention include the stocking of pantry shelves for Salvation Army and the Youth Home and providing toys for the Medical Center nursery.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. with registration and a fellowship period, with adjournment at 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Grafton Thomas is president of United Methodist Women at Winfield, the host church, and a long-time worker in CWU.

†

THE REV. CHARLES E. MESSER, SR.

The Rev. Charles E. Messer, Sr. of Horatio, a retired Lay Minister of the Little Rock Conference, died Jan. 14. He was born in Clark County. At the time of his retirement in 1968 he was serving as pastor of the Winthrop Circuit. Among other pastoral appointments were Dierks-Green's Chapel, Bradley and Village. He was a Mason.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ruby Higginson Messer; a son, Charles E. Messer, Jr., of Louisiana; a daughter, Mrs. David Casteel of Horatio; four brothers, Clifford, Cleve and Clyde Messer, all of Hope and Vernon Messer of Arizona; three sisters, Mrs. Mamie Smith, Mrs. Bernard Pearcey and Mrs. Charles Stevens, all of Emmett; 13 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral was Jan. 16 at Horatio United Methodist Church. Burial was at Horatio Cemetery.

†

Veteran Scout Worker Honored

W. S. (Buck) Watson of Trinity Church, Fayetteville — shown with Mrs. Watson — was the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award in Scouting at the recent annual recognition banquet in Fort Smith. Mr. Watson has been involved in Scouting since 1959 — in Cub packs, Scout Troops and Explorer Posts. He organized the first coed Explorer post in the West-ark Area Council and is now Advisor of Coed Explorer Post 105 at Trinity. The Silver Beaver award is the highest given adults.



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ALVIN C. MURRAY, SR.

Alvin Curtis Murray, Sr. of North Little Rock, a retired conductor for the Missouri Pacific Lines, died Jan. 15 at his home. He was 81. A native of Hot Springs, he had retired 12 years ago. Mr. Murray was a member of Gardner Memorial United Methodist Church, Big Rock Masonic Lodge, the Arkansas Consistory of Scottish Rite Bodies and the Scimitar Shrine Temple. He had served on the North Little Rock Water Commission and was a former local chairman of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

Survivors are his wife, Mrs. Grayce Evelyn Murray; a son, Dr. Alvin C. Murray, Jr., pastor of First United Methodist Church, Little Rock; a brother, Jack Murray of North Little Rock; a sister, Mrs. Emery Keith of La Habra, Cal.; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Funeral was held Jan. 17 at Gardner Memorial United Methodist Church with the Rev. Byron McSpadden, pastor, and Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District, officiating. Burial was at Edgewood Cemetery.

†



THE REV. AND MRS. CLINT BURLESON (front row, third and fourth from right) were honorees at a recent "well-wishing party" as they prepared to leave the pastorate of First United Methodist Church, Camden to accept the pastorate of Lakewood United Methodist Church in North Little Rock. Preacher families in the Camden area were present for the event.

The Sunday School Lesson

by William M. Wilder



A Worshiping People

Lesson for February 2

ORIENTATION: This is the second lesson in a series of five on the People of the Church, and it utilizes several short sections of Scripture from various New Testament writers to give us insight into the kind of encouragement these writers tried to give them, the people of the early Church.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Acts 2:42-47; I Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Colossians 3:12-17; James 2:1-4; I Peter 4:7-11.

DEVOTIONAL READING: Colossians 3:12-17.

AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES: "Stephen, the First Christian Martyr," 30 min., B & W, or "The Church is Born," FS — both can be obtained from Cathedral Films, 2921 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, California 91505.

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INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL

The second chapter of Acts tells the story of Pentecost and the activation of the Apostles and early Christians by the Holy Spirit. Some Christians, and Churches, date Christianity from this time, but this is not really true.

If you do that, you ignore God's work with His chosen people in Old Testament times; you ignore the ministry of Jesus, the Twelve, the Seventy, and his wonderful work with the women of his day. To try and date the Christian movement from Pentecost is to disregard the entire concept of Jesus that He came to fulfill the Covenant relationship announced by Jeremiah, which was to usher in the new age of the Kingdom of God.

At Pentecost, the people received the Holy Spirit, and those in the Upper Room gained new enthusiasm and zeal. Over a period of three hundred years many churches were begun, and finally united into a large connectional Church dominated by Rome. The emphasis on the Holy Spirit died.

The next real emphasis on the Holy Spirit occurs almost exactly 1700 years after Pentecost at a little chapel on Aldersgate Street in London where John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed, and the Spirit of God moving in this man, George Whitefield, Francis Asbury, and others was to kindle a new group of Christians who got nicknamed the derisive term "Methodists." Perhaps it is only coincidental that the Apostles were first nicknamed "Christians" in derision at Antioch.

LOOKING AT THE SCRIPTURE

In Luke 2:42, he describes the standards whereby we might determine an apostolic Church. United Methodism seems to meet those standards rather well.

We continue in the Apostles' doctrine — that is, our teaching is based on the Bible. Of course the only Bible the early Christians had was the Old Testament, since the New was in the

process of formulation for the first 150 years. The Apostles taught others what they knew, and shared their experience of Jesus Christ, and today we do the same.

The Apostles developed small groups that met in homes. They had Bible study and shared problems and concerns. John Wesley adopted what was to be the Class System, usually not more than twelve members, and it was nothing more than repeating what the early Church had done.

The Apostles broke bread together — and Holy Communion seemed to originate as a common meal. In correcting abuses that arose, some people supposed that Paul forbade eating in the house of God. If this is true, why did Paul break bread with them on the Sabbath, and continue preaching to them until midnight in the upper room where they assembled (Acts 20:7). When Methodists eat together, they merely carry on a common tradition of the New Testament Church.

Finally, the Apostolic Church was a praying Church, and many of our churches, and individuals, spend much time in prayer. So you might say that we too are an Apostolic Church.

AN EARLY CONTROVERSY

Some of the early Christians were disturbed that members of the Way would eat meat which had been sacrificed to idols. Paul deals clearly with our Christian responsibility to help rather than hinder others (I Cor. 10), and closes with an important statement and challenge, "For my part I always try to meet everyone half-way, regarding not my own good, but the good of many. So that they may be saved. Follow my example, as I follow Christ's (I Cor. 10:33-11:1, NEB).

Should we not live this way, trying to meet persons half-way, and doing what we trust is for their good rather than our own? And what a challenge Paul makes. No matter how Christian we claim to be, we would hesitate to state it that boldly — to have others follow our example as imitators of Christ.

THE GARMENTS OF THE CHRISTIAN

Paul's admonition to the Church at Colossae (3:12-17, NEB) is one that we might use for expository preaching. It might be well to recall that Paul was a Pharisee, and would know that the Jews distinguished themselves as the people of God by wearing a ribbon of blue on their robes.

Paul is merely saying that one can tell a Christian by the qualities with which he has enclosed himself. He needs no blue ribbon, no clergy shirt, no robe of special distinction — but his faith is revealed by his life, a kind of invisible blue ribbon.

The garments listed are compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. But he also lists the virtue of forgiveness, love, peace, and gratitude. "Whatever you are doing . . ." Paul adds, "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus . . ." (Col. 3:17, NEB).

Paul's letters were of a practical nature and dealt with the problems and concerns of his day.

It might be well to remember that these letters of Paul were the first written books of the New Testament. Just who collected them we do not know, though Onesimus of the Letter to Philemon is my choice. This would help explain how Philemon, a most personal letter got into the collection — as who else would preserve it better than the slave it probably freed. Furthermore, there was a Bishop Onesimus, who might have been the same man, who was in the Church around the turn of the century.

One of the first collections was that of Marcion, a ship-owner of Pontus, and this included ten letters of Paul. Marcion rejected the Old Testament books, and was later declared to be a heretic, but we are indebted to him for inspiring others to collect materials that would ultimately become the New Testament.

Do you suppose that James is right when he suggests that Christians pay much more attention to the rich or famous than they do to the poor and needy (James 2:1-4, NEB)? Each church should be aware that we sometimes judge by false standards, and ought not do so. One of my most memorable members was a clerk in a hardware store who walked a mile and a half to church, and sometimes wore cardboard-packed shoes, and tithed his income religiously, and gave extra offerings when needed.

In our every member financial campaign we have sought to stress that every member has an opportunity to participate, not as a chore but as a joy. All pledges of whatever size are important.

The admonition we have from First Peter was probably only attributed to the great Apostle, and not by his authorship. There were no copyright rules in those days, and the important thing was to get your book or letter read. How much more easily this would be done if it seems to come from a famous man.

Let me lift up one phrase from this section in I Peter, "The end of all things is upon us." It was fashionable in those days, as always in an era of crisis, to write of the "end of all things." We have a whole body of such literature in the Bible, such as Daniel and Revelation, and small sections of other books, that seek to deal with the "last days." This literature is known as Apocalyptic, and it has characteristics that distinguish it from all other literature, and without studying and knowing these characteristics it is well nigh impossible to understand it.

But the one thing here that Peter makes you think about is the supposition that your time is short. Suppose you had not long to live — how would you act?

I would hope you'd carry on with what you are doing — and do it well. You'd be earnest in prayer, but joyfully aware that we believe in the life everlasting, and you'd not worry about the future, for it is in God's hands. Mr. Wesley was asked if he worried about the world after his death, and he replied, "He who took care of the world before I was born will manage to care for it after I am gone. It is my part to improve the present moment."

Next week: A Serving People

Any middle ground?

Uncommon answers for common questions

A commentary and book review by the Rev. Wayne C. Jarvis, pastor, First United Methodist Church, Rector, Ark.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Evangelism of the North Arkansas Conference Mr. Jarvis gave high praise to a book entitled *The Community Called Church*, which he reviews at our invitation.
—the editor

It takes no great detective to notice within the contemporary Church the tension between two theological stances. On the one hand are the evangelicals, who emphasize individual conversion, the chosen-ness of God's people, and experiential religion. On the other hand are the liberals who, to a varying degree, stress the universal salvation of God, social salvation, and the importance of moral influence.

Recently we have witnessed a polarization of the two camps. Their vocabularies, sets of assumptions, and definitions of the Church's task have come into conflict in spelling out the specific tasks of mission, evangelism,

social concern, and education in the church. Indeed, as both have become more articulate, the possibility and likelihood of a person's standing between them has diminished. Little if any middle ground remains.

Yet recently we have seen refreshing signs of the emergence of such a middle ground. One comes out of the evangelism conference in Jerusalem. George Morris has provided an initial theological statement of our task that takes seriously both the evangelical and universal character of the Church. While this statement is unapologetically drawn from the evangelical viewpoint, it can become the basis for further discussion and dialogue.

A recently published work by a South American Roman Catholic priest also attempts to deal with this tension, but from what I judge to be a liberal standpoint. Juan Luis Segundo in *The Community Called Church* (Orbis Books) provides a definition of the Church which likewise takes seriously both the evangelical and universal emphases of the Church.

The Church, as Segundo describes it,

has two apparently contradictory characteristics. One, the Church is and always has been a *particular* (unique, chosen, separate, individual, set-apart) community. Two, the Church is and always has been a universal community which proclaims the unconditional love of God for all people.

His thesis is that if the Church is to be true to its biblical nature it must take seriously both its particular and universal character. He defines the Church, its nature, essence, function, necessity, obligation, and relation to the world in terms that recognize both this particularity and universality.

At the risk of omitting something crucial, I offer this summary of his thesis: The starting point is the affirmation that God has redeemed all men in Christ. The world now lives in grace. The Church is that portion of humanity that is aware of and knows

this. From their knowledge the people of the Church receive not a privilege (I'm saved, you're not) but responsibility (we have all been saved, let us see what this means for the world).

This responsibility is to be the sign-bearing community ("The Ones Who Know"); to prepare the way for faith; to work for the rightful betterment of the world; to be in dialogue with the world in order to provide answers to our human questions; and to bring about the rule of love.

This is that kind of rare book that I urge upon my friends without reservation. While profound in its grasp of biblical revelation, it is at the same time relevantly practical in not only spelling out our common questions but also in enunciating an uncommon answer.

Finally, it may not be as ironic as it would seem that a Third World Roman Catholic writer, drawing upon extensive study with Catholic laity, would provide United Methodists with some food for thought that is both palatable and digestible.

John Wesley bequeathed to us a theology that possessed an historical catholic awareness and demonstrated a contemporary catholic spirit. It is possible that Segundo can assist us in recovering a theology that is both evangelical and universal in scope.

†

Membership loss not due to 'mass exodus,' editor says

DALLAS — Much concern has been expressed about the United Methodist Church's loss of members during recent years.

The popular image is that the decline is the result of the UMC becoming "too liberal," with many of its members leaving to join other denominations.

This image is challenged in an interpretive analysis by Editor Spurgeon M. Dunnam III in *The Texas Methodist/United Methodist Reporter's* Jan. 10 editions.

Basing his conclusions on an examination of the denomination's national membership statistics over the past 15 years, Mr. Dunnam said: "Comparisons between the 'growing years' and the 'declining years' reveal that the primary difference does not lie in the number of persons leaving the church, but in a much smaller number joining it."

Other major conclusions in the TM/UMR interpretive analysis include:

- The biggest single decline factor has been in the number of persons received into the church on "confession of faith;"
- The removal of more "lost" members by charge conference action is the second largest factor in the decline;
- The transfer of members to other denominations is a relatively insignifi-

cant factor in the decline;

- More United Methodists are dying today than a decade ago — an indication that the UMC's membership is getting older.

An accompanying editorial in the same issue, "Facts and myths regarding United Methodism's membership decline," said: "It appears that our membership is not declining so much because of what we are doing as because of what we are not doing today."

Reflecting on what would have to happen in order to reverse the trend, Mr. Dunnam stated: "The only way that the number of new United Methodist members might be expected to surpass the number of members removed by death and charge conference action in the future would be by a dramatic annual increase in the number of persons received on confession of faith."

The TM/UMR editorial challenged the UMC to "reescalate our efforts to lay the claims and promises of the Christian gospel before both those who have and those who have not made commitments previously" — while at the same time refusing to retrench from its involvement with so-called "worldly" issues.

†

"Hi" and "Lo"

AREN'T YOU
FLOATING HIGH
TODAY, HI?



YES, I AM, LO. I'M SO PROUD OF THE N.ARK. CONFERENCE U METHODISTS FOR TAKING THE CHALLENGE OF THE METHODIST HOSPITAL IN MEMPHIS — AND HAPPY THAT THE LITTLE ROCK CONF. LAY PERSONS ARE CONTRIBUTING GENEROUSLY TO MINISTERS' PENSIONS.

From Our Readers

ANOTHER VIEW ON THE ERA AND UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

To the Editor:

I feel compelled to say something regarding your recent article on UMW of Arkansas and the ERA Coalition.

I do not agree that this article represents the viewpoint of one individual UMW member, for a coalition has been formed. Our Women's Division has spoken out clearly on the issue, favoring equal rights for women and men. Of course, when the Women's Division speaks, they have voted individual opinions and are not attempting to speak for all United Methodist Women. Our General Conference has also spoken on this issue, but not all United Methodists agree with them.

The main reason that we, in the North Arkansas Conference, have not taken action on the matter is that we are having a one-day Annual meeting now, and we felt this issue might consume the better part of a day. We have passed out literature on the subject, have urged our women to be informed on the matter and to make their wishes known to the legislators.

Many of our women have gone further than this and are working with the Coalition, doing everything they can to bring about its passage. Methodist women have long fought for the rights of women and children around the world and many of us believe this is one way of doing this here at home.

Our Conference Contact Person is Mrs. Earl Hughes, 620 E. Broadway, Forrest City, Ark. 72335, and working closely with her is Mrs. Albert Rurmer, 502 Mills, North Little Rock, Ark. 72118.

Mrs. Harold D. Womack
2301 Osage Drive
• N. Little Rock, Ark. 72116

'WHO CAN BLAME THEM?'

To the Editor:

"From The Bottom Of The Heart" (Jan. 2) was an excellent editorial. But in a structure that prompts one N. Ark. minister to publicly remark, "It's a nice stopping off place" (name withheld to protect the guilty), is it any wonder that Pastor-Parish Relations Committees get involved at every opportunity? Who can really blame them?

Jay Holsted
Deerfield, Ill.

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SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED FOR LONDON STUDY

To the Editor:

The Committee on Continuing Education of the Board of Ministry of the Little Rock Annual Conference is pleased to recommend the study on "The Ancient Gospel in a World of Revolution" to be held in London on August 4-19, 1975, as an excellent educational opportunity for our ministers.

Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that ten scholarships in the amount of \$100 each will be available on a first-come-first-served basis to ministers making application for such.

Please send application requests to:
Rev. John Dill, Rt. 2, Box 180-A,
John T. Dill, Chairman
Committee on
Continuing Education
Board of Ministry
Little Rock Conference

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United Methodist Bishop Paul A. Washburn of Chicago, Ill., will appear on the ABC-TV program "Directions" at 1 p.m. (EST) Jan. 26 along with two other members of the interreligious team which recently visited North Vietnam.

Consultation of Ordained women

(Continued from page one)

majority had been under appointment for five years or less.

An unprecedented number of nearly 700 women are now studying at the 13 United Methodist seminaries and many of them were present for the consultation which was sponsored by the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Board of Higher Education and Ministry's Division of Ordained Ministry, and the Centers for Continuing Education and Women's Studies at Scarritt College.

'MIGHT PREACH BETTER THAN THE BISHOP'

The Rev. Myrtle Saylor-Speer, an 83-year-old minister who preached her first sermon in 1917, was one of four women who opened the conference with a "rehearsal" of history. Ms. Speer did not become a full member of her annual conference until May of 1974 although full clergy rights in the denomination were granted to women in 1956. Most of the blame for women not being ordained she placed on bishops, particularly bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and clergymen, "who were afraid that a woman just might preach better than they."

Being a woman minister has always attracted the curious, she said. "But I never let that bother me. After all, Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he was curious but he came down a Christian!"

Other speakers on the panel included Nelle Morton, associate professor emerita of the Theological School at Drew University; Ms. Theresa Hoover, associate general secretary of the Women's Division of the Board of Global

Ministries; and Ms. Thelma Stevens, retired executive of the former Methodist Board of Missions.

Stressing the historical significance of the Consultation, Ms. Stevens declared, "Change can take place because I've seen it happen."

Ms. Morton stressed the need for women to create their own models and styles of ministry, a recurring theme throughout the five-day meeting. Ms. Morton, who celebrated her 70th birthday during the consultation, said she could not possibly have envisioned that in her lifetime such a large group of ordained women would be meeting together.

Giving three lectures during the consultation was Letty M. Russell, assistant professor of theology and women's studies at Yale University Divinity School.

Female theology, she said, can be done by both males and females and can emphasize a variety of feminine and masculine traits. "Its distinctive message concerns not the 'female' or the 'feminine' but the 'feminist' advocacy of full personhood for women as well as men."

THE MINISTRY BECOMING A FEMININE PROFESSION?

The roles of ministry will be changing as the understanding of ministry changes, she said. One illustration she gave of such changes is the possibility of ministry becoming a feminine profession. This is a real possibility, she said, as the number of female seminarians increases and male enrollment drops.

"In the long run, if things do not change radically, professional ministry which is already highly feminized because of its

feminine culture traits may become a feminine profession like nursing, teaching, and social work," she said.

Drawing enthusiastic response was an address on "Women and Counseling" given by Peggy Way, a United Church of Christ minister who is coordinator of the ministerial program at Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago. Ms. Way said now is the time for women based in theology to "claim and demonstrate our commitment and competence" in pastoral counseling.

Again, Ms. Way reflected the tone of the meeting by saying women have unique contributions to make with a "feminine pastoral presence" which must not be defined by men.

The consultation featured nearly 30 workshops, the most popular being: Single Women as Clergy; Models for Clergy Couples; Building Support Systems; Biblical Images of Women; Feminist Theology; the Importance of Re-

lationships Between Lay and Clergy Women; Dealing With Conflict; Assertiveness Training; and Looking Toward General Conference.

Presented twice during the meeting was a two-act drama entitled "The American Dame" which traced the social, political, legal, and religious condition of women throughout history. Written by Phillip C. Lewis, the play was directed by Connie Butcher of San Benito, Tex.

Presented at the beginning and end of the consultation was a multi-image show entitled "About that Apple" which depicted women, especially Christian women, both as they have been imagined and as they have really been through their own special history in the Christian West. A song in the presentation which drew both laughter and applause was "It was good enough for Grandma but it ain't good enough for us."

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What they did . . .

Ordained women show strength, determination

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — A long series of resolutions ranging from the election of women bishops to maternity-paternity leaves for the clergy were approved by the participants at a National Consultation of Ordained United Methodist Women here Jan. 6-10.

Some of the resolutions were approved by voice and hand vote while others were passed by consensus.

Various workgroups which had been meeting during the week brought the recommendations, resolutions and information to the final night session of the consultation.

Approved were resolutions:

- asking the Commission on the Status and Role of Women to develop strategies for electing one bishop in each of the three jurisdictions of the church which will have vacancies in 1976.
- recommending that 10 women be appointed district superintendents in each of the five jurisdictions by 1976.
- urging passage of the Equal Rights Amendment by state legislatures which have not already acted.
- asking that "upon leaving or upon retirement, all seminary presidents and deans be replaced by women until half the seminary presidents are women and half the women are Third World."
- expressing "anguish" over the failure of The Episcopal Church to recognize the ordination of 11 women priests.
- asking for changes in the United Methodist Book of Discipline which would allow for maternity and paternity leaves up to one year with continuation of annual conference status, insurance, pension and with salary guaranteed up to six weeks.
- recommending that another consultation for ordained women be held during the next quadrennium.
- recommending that the Board of Church and Society make an "exploration of the gay (homosexual) life

style and its implications for ministry a priority; further, in order for this exploration to have integrity and legitimacy that a gay woman be appointed to serve on a task force considering this issue."

- recommending that each annual conference Board of Ministry, Commission on the Status and Role of Women, and United Methodist Women's organizations, bishops and United Methodist seminaries establish task forces to: "study the issue of homosexuality in the context of human sexuality and look at the questions of origin and psychodynamics from a variety of perspectives and to discuss how the Church and gay people can mutually minister to each other and to explore situations in which this ministry is working."

- recommending that the Board of Higher Education and Ministry in consultation with the Commission on the Status and Role of Women sponsor a church-wide consultation or series of consultations with district superintendents and bishops on the appointment of minority and women clergy and clergy couples recognizing and affirming their unique gifts and abilities.

- challenging clergy to encourage persons in all the churches to protest the portrayal of violence and inhuman treatment of persons in television programming and advertisement, and challenging parents to "examine critically the kinds of influence TV programs are having on their families' play habits, use of language, use of leisure time, use of one another and indeed their use of time and talent."

More than 300 ordained women attended the consultation which was sponsored by the Commission on the Status and Role of Women, the Division of the Ordained Ministry of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Centers for Continuing Education and Women's Studies at Scarritt College.

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Greetings From 'Philadelphia 11'

NASHVILLE — Suzanne Hiatt, one of the 11 Episcopal women whose ordinations to the priesthood in Philadelphia last July were ruled invalid by the Episcopal hierarchy, brings greetings from the 11 women to the National Consultation of Ordained Women in the United Methodist Church, held at Scarritt College in Nashville. Ms. Hiatt asked for financial support to help meet expenses incurred in attempts to win recognition of the Philadelphia orders. She also urged the women to "work to get district superintendents and bishops elected in the United Methodist Church from among your own number" Between 150 and 200 of the United Methodist women ministers attending the meeting called on their denomination, and especially the bishops, to recognize and support the Episcopal women. In a petition circulated at the consultation, bishops were urged to invite the 11 women to become full ministers in the United Methodist Church. (RNS Photo)



ARMED WITH BIBLE and sermon notes, and wearing knee breeches, the Rev. Charles Nance arrived on horseback for Old Fashioned Day at Wheatley United Methodist Church. The worship service included old-fashioned gospel singing, a volunteer choir, and special music with guitar accompaniment.



BONNETED LADIES Bible Class engages in study. Following worship the congregation gathered for an old-fashioned potluck in the fellowship hall of Wheatley Church.

Berryville junior highs complete in-depth study of Genesis

A six-month's study of the book of Genesis, employing numerous methods and media, has recently been completed by the Junior High Sunday School Class at Berryville United Methodist Church. The study was an attempt to get at the biblical meaning of the text and provide opportunities for the youth to apply the Genesis events to their own lives and situations.

Under the leadership of Freddie (Mrs. Victor) Nixon, pastor's wife, and co-worker Martha Roth, the class created a visual interpretation of the book of Genesis in the form of a "room-sized" mural, as the study progressed.

In other activities related to the study the class devised and played a Genesis game, made a terrarium and presented it to a shut-in to illustrate the care of the earth and responsibility for one's neighbor, listened to the recording, "Joseph and his technicolor dreamcoat," and ate a

typical desert breakfast.

Developing their own curriculum the group used as resource materials lectures by W. J. A. Power, the adult and youth Living Bible series, and the Interpreter's Dictionary.

RUSSELL DAVIS, nationally known gospel singer, presented a musical concert in West Helena United Methodist Church, Sunday evening, Jan. 19. Mr. Davis has sung with the Apollo Chorus and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.



SIX RETIRED MISSIONARIES of the North Arkansas Conference were honored by recent birthday celebration at First Church, Jonesboro. A love offering in the amount of \$100 was received in decorated boxes. UMW President for 1975, Mrs. A. D. Rezny, past President, Mrs. David Vosberg, and Coordinator of Christian Personhood, Mrs. Ray Spence are shown beside tea table. Honorees were Missionaries Pearl McCain, Edith Martin, Nellie Dyer, Kathryn Mitchem, Ruby H. Oliver and Mona McNutt.



MRS. NED DARTER, president of United Methodist Women at the Fisher Church and Mrs. Ralph Trobaugh, treasurer, display one of several posters used at recent Birthday Celebration for Missionaries.

Arkansas Methodist Children's Home

The following people gave memorial gifts to the Methodist Children's Home in December as tribute of their love, sympathy, and respect of a loved one or friend. A memorial card has been sent to the family in notifying them of this remembrance.

MRS. EILA CALLAWAY ATKINSON
by Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Wilson
by Mr. & Mrs. Porter Chadich
ROBERT M. BAUICK
by Rachael & Stewart Allen
MRS. SHERRY D. BRATTON
by Sen. & Mrs. John L. McClellan
by Dr. Dale D. Briggs
by Mr. and Mrs. Adell McPherson
by Mr. & Mrs. Randy McPherson
by W. W. Mitchell
by Mr. & Mrs. Will Thompson
by Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Cogbill
by Mr. George M. Barnwell
by Mrs. Carl A. Keys, Sr.
by Mr. & Mrs. Wm. E. Isaacs
by Mr. & Mrs. F. W. Graenewold
by Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Brashear, Sr.
by Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Price
by Mr. & Mrs. George S. Barker
by Mr. & Mrs. John Gateley
MRS. DONALD BRATTON
by The C. Springers
by The Wards
by The Moares
MR. C. K. BYRD
by Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Vandiver
REV. JAMES F. BATES
by Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Finney
MAURICE E. BAKER
by Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd C. Wiggs
M. E. BAKER
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Frank
MR. B. C. BOARMAN
by Mrs. Rosa Lee Wilson
BARNEY BROWN
by Mr. & Mrs. W. P. Spatts
JAMES O. BLACKSHEARS
by Mrs. Mabel Scurlock Pope
MR. & MRS. C. A. BASSETT
by Mrs. Marion B. Boarman
MRS. MARY A. BELK
by Mrs. Marion B. Boarman
M. L. BLACK
by Mrs. Pauline Thompson
by The Mize Family
by The Cash Family
MRS. THELMA LINDSEY BYRD
by Mr. & Mrs. Robert McKinney
by Mr. & Mrs. L. H. Shull
MR. & MRS. JOE D. BELK, SR.
by Hoxie U.M.C.
C. B. BOARMAN
by Hoxie U.M.C.
DR. CLEM BAKER
by Mrs. Norma Prothro
MRS. THELMA BYRD
by Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Norwood
MR. & MRS. J. R. BLACKARD
by Miss Blanche J. Blackard
MR. & MRS. A. G. BRATTON
by Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bratton
MARTHA H. BOYNTON

by Mrs. R. H. Holderby
MRS. EDNA M. L. BUSHY
by Jewel & Steven Burke
H. F. BUHLER
by Mrs. Carl N. Mulkey
MRS. THELMA BYRD
by Mrs. Mable Mabry
by Mr. & Mrs. David McAnally
MAURICE E. BAKER
by Spacemaker Bowling League
JOE & LINDA BAILEY
by Mr. & Mrs. Joe A. Bailey
MRS. RENA BROWN
by Mr. & Mrs. S. M. Capps
JOHN E. BAUGH
by Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Bickham
MRS. VIRGINIA BURKS
by Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Goins
CHAUNCEY B. BOARMAN
by CDR Charles G. Bassett
by Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hodge
by Mrs. Marion B. Boarman
MRS. LIZZIE BALL
by Helen & Amelia Ball
R. L. (Dutch) BACK
by Mr. T. A. Prewitt
L. Z. BROOK
by The Donald McKnight Family
BARNEY B. BROWN
by Mr. & Mrs. A. F. Montrotus
MISS MILDRED CONE
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L. L. HOLSTED
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by Mrs. O. B. Scott
MILDRED CONE
by Jayne Rogers
by Mr. & Mrs. John H. Ralph
MRS. BERTHA CARTER
by Mrs. Evelyn Banks Daniel
W. H. COOK
by Mrs. Gabe Meyer
MR. AND MRS. JASON CLOUD, SR.
by Mrs. U. V. White
WALTER CLAIBORNE
by Guy Nolley Ins. Agency
MRS. HELEN CHAMBERS
by the Rollins Family
FRANK M. COLLINS
by Mr. & Mrs. John W. Collins
PRESTON CHERRY
by Mrs. Edna Prater
MRS. W. H. COOK
by Dr. & Mrs. George Talbat
MRS. MARIE B. CHILDS
by Eva Cummings and Grace Knight
SAMMY RALPH and EARL DAVID COLLIER
by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duke
JESSIE CRUMP
by Mrs. Harry Duke
PATRICK CLIFFORD
by Mrs. Frank Scott
by Margaret Scott

To be continued



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Poetry Panorama

By Barbara Mulkey

In "Thoughts Afield" Harold Kohn comments on the necessity of all seasons, even winter, to the sustenance of life. He writes . . . "While we pray for lives full of sunshine and pleasantness, God could do us no greater harm than to answer these prayers, for it takes all kinds of weather to grow a soul."

Winter Beauty

The whirling dance of dry brown leaves
Is tempoed by the wind . . .
Against grey skies a lone bird grieves,
Bare branches sway and bend . . .

Yet wonderful in line and hue,
Cold winter has its beauty, too.

—by Etta Caldwell Harris
Hamburg, Ark.

Winter

Let me walk in the cold, crisp air
Of a winter wonder land,
To drink the wine of beauty
By the Master Painter's hand.

The earth in splendor dressed
In a sparkling, sequined gown,
By the kiss of soft, white snow
Upon the frozen ground.

Oh, the winter world of wonder
Untouched by human hand.
Beauty with a purpose . . .
A part of nature's plan.

A warm and cozy blanket
To subdue the cold wind's sting,
And protect the sleeping plant life
Until the birth of spring.

Let me walk in a winter storm
'Mid the tiny bits of lace,
And feel the kiss of each soft flake
Upon my upturned face.

—by Imogene Lewis Harding
Harrison, Ark.



Members of the Praise The Lord (PTL) musical group in action during concert presented before rally audience.

The Rev. J. Anthony Holifield looks on as PTLs concertize.

Jonesboro District Youth Rally

A concert presented by the Praise The Lord musical group of Jonesboro and attendance at a football game at Indian Stadium were the double billings which highlighted the recent Jonesboro District Youth Rally. Around 175 youth and their counselors from across the district gathered for the event which began at First United Methodist Church, Jonesboro, with a Get-Acquainted-Time led by Bobby Box, chairman of the District Youth Council.

Other features of the rally included an "Orange Communion Service" led by Rhonda Taylor, youth council secretary, the election of new district officers, and a brief worship service led by the Rev. David Bently of Lake City and the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, district youth coordinator.

Following a sack lunch in the church's fellowship hall, the group departed for Indian Stadium where they joined the crowd of spectators to watch Arkansas State University defeat McNeese State University with a score of 22 to 20.

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HIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, singing group of First Church, Beebe, ready to board bus for Minden, La. to present the musical, "I'm Here, God's Here, Now We Can Start," at First Church, Minden. Accompanying the group were the Rev. and

Mrs. Eddy Liddle, students at Centenary College and youth directors at the Minden Church; Mr. and Mrs. Arvin Skidmore, and Bonnie Dark, director of the singing group.