

'Grassroots' input helps plan ministries for 1976

in Little Rock Conference

Although barely into 1975, there are United Methodists in the Little Rock Conference who have begun the process of hammering out a potential plan for Christian ministries in 1976. And the emphasis has been on "listening to the grassroots" for ideas on what that emphasis should contain.

When that Conference's Council on Ministries met Jan. 31 it was the first meeting of the newly organized body since the institution of a new organizational structure. That structure, adopted at the 1974 regular session of the Annual Conference, was implemented at its Nov. 1 special session.

A major emphasis of the new structure is the placing of greater emphasis on the District Council on Ministries. The aim of such emphasis is greater involvement of the local church in originating and implementing the official program of the Annual Conference. The new concept got its first trial run at the Jan. 31 Conference Council meeting at Headquarters Building in Little Rock.

And what are the human needs which the "grassroots" are saying should be considered for the Conference's 1976

program emphases?

Several common themes were heard as representatives from the six District Councils reported. Among the 27 specific concerns submitted for consideration were the following: a "strong program of evangelism," world hunger, teacher training, emphasis on new curriculum material for children, ministry to the elderly, inter-generational studies, recruiting and training of black ministers, development of a strategy of ministries to black United Methodists, and human relations opportunity development.

The Rev. Alf A. Eason, director of the Conference Council, stated that to these proposed concerns would be added others from the Conference Council's boards and committees. Then all suggestions for program emphases for 1976 would be coordinated by the Conference Council into a proposed program and presented to the Annual Conference session May 27-30, 1975 for its consideration.

Asked how he evaluated the new structure, Mr. Eason said "It seems to me it is working exceedingly well. Each District Council is organized exactly



New Council Officers

Elected as new officers for the Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries at the Jan. 31 meeting were (from left): Chairperson, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District; vice chairperson, Dr. George W. Martin, superintendent of the Arkadelphia District; secretary, Mrs. Lucille Nix of Lonoke, president of the Conference United Methodist Women, and treasurer, Mr. Grafton Thomas of Little Rock, area treasurer. The meeting was held at Headquarters Building.

alike, and this is valuable." He noted that while past Annual Conference programs had also been based on input from local churches and Districts, the

new structure provided "a better and broader based" representation of local church thought and feeling.

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, February 13, 1975

94th Year, No. 7

New history of Arkansas Methodism on schedule

Preparation of the new history of Methodism in Arkansas, commissioned by a joint committee of the two Arkansas Annual Conferences, is on schedule and will be available by the previously announced publication date of May 15, 1976 — in time for the two Annual Conference sessions.

This announcement, made by the

committee at its Jan. 30 meeting in Little Rock, was accompanied by a detailed progress report given by the book's author, Dr. Walter N. Vernon of Nashville, Tenn. Presiding at the session was Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, pastor of Winfield Church, Little Rock, convener of the committee, which is chaired by Bishop Eugene M. Frank.

Dr. Vernon reported that research for the volume had been largely completed and that he had finished drafts of the prologue and the first four chapters. He has set Oct. 1 as the suggested date of completion for the manuscript.

Dr. Vernon reported that in addition to readings by a subcommittee of the Area Committee, pre-publication readers of the manuscript would include Dr. John Ferguson, director of the Arkansas History Commission, Dr. Frederick Norwood, prominent United Methodist educator, and Mr. Dodd Vernon, journalist-publisher brother of the author. A final reading by a copy editor will insure technical accuracy, Dr. Vernon reported.

The schedule calls for the finalized manuscript to be delivered to the printer by February or March, 1976, insuring its publication by the May 15 date.

The committee heard a report by Dr. Vernon on additional research done recently at the Library of Congress and Wesley Seminary in Washington, D.C., and at Drew University, Madison, N.J. Most of the Arkansas-based research for the volume was done during the winter and spring of 1974, utilizing the resources of Hendrix College, the Arkansas Methodist, the Arkansas History Commission, and files of various city, county and state libraries.

Dr. Vernon reported that numerous individuals and local churches had been helpful in providing historical information. The work of analyzing research data and writing is being done at the Vernon's home in Nashville.

(Continued on page two)

Membership in N.A. Conference again exceeds 100,000

After six-year lag

Again for the third straight year the North Arkansas Conference has shown an increase in members in the local churches. The increase for 1974 was 448 bringing the total membership of the churches in the North Arkansas Conference to 100,012. In 1972 the net gain in the Conference was 505; in 1973, 173 and in 1974, 448.

The last time the North Arkansas Conference was more than 100,000 was the report up to June, 1968. During this interval the Conference lost membership for three years down to 98,523 at the end of 1970. Compared to June 1968 and the report to Dec. 31, 1974 four districts have gained membership: Batesville, Conway, Fayetteville and Paragould. Also, the Forrest City District made a small gain of 118 members since the June 1968 count.

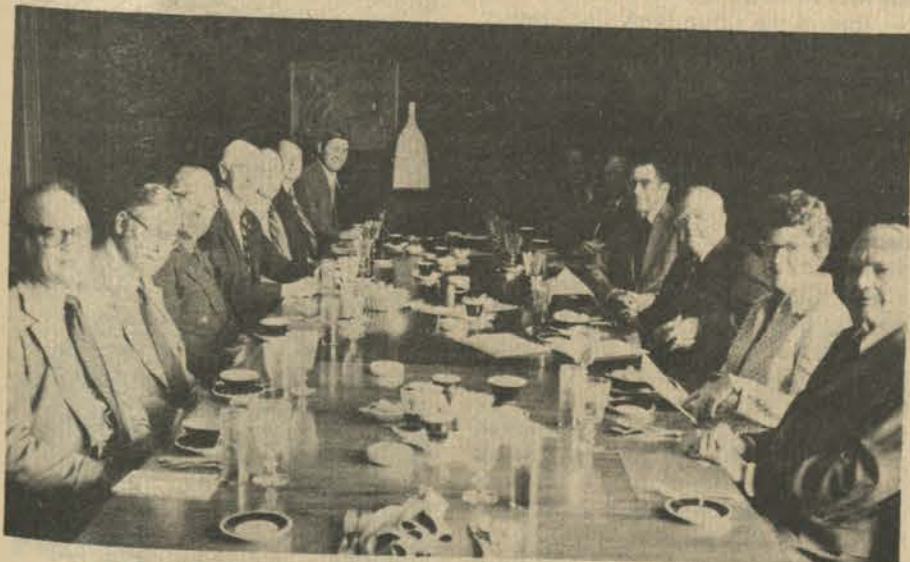
For the gain in 1974 membership to 100,012 the biggest difference was the less number "Removed by Charge Conference Action" 678 in 1974 compared to 1050 in 1973. The "Average Attendance at the Principle Weekly Worship Service(s)" was down a fraction from last year; however this average is a number (33,074) equal to 33 per cent of the membership in the churches of the Conference.

"Total Church School Membership" increased slightly in 1974 for the first

(Continued on page two)

Update On History of Arkansas Methodism Shared

The Committee on the History of Arkansas Methodism heard a progress report Jan. 30 from Dr. Walter N. Vernon (right side of table, third from right), on the new history of Methodism which he is authoring. Members of the committee shown (around table, from left) are: Dr. Myers B. Curtis, the Rev. William M. Wilder, Dr. Harold Eggersperger, Mr. Richard C. Butler, the Rev. James E. Major, the Rev. Fred R. Smith, the Rev. Ralph E. Hale, Judge Franklin Wilder, the Rev. Earl B. Carter, Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, convener, Dr. Vernon, Mrs. Vernon, and Bishop William C. Martin.





Meet On 'Religion And Race'

The Commission on Religion and Race of the North Arkansas Conference met Feb. 1 to review priorities of 1975 and do preliminary planning for 1976. Officers of the group are (seated, from left): Dr. Olin Cook, chairperson; the Rev. Joe Hughes, Jr., vice chairperson; and Susan Gladdin, secretary. Standing (from left) are commission members: Dr. Nolan Williams, Fayetteville; Dr. Myers B. Curtis, North Little Rock; Dr. Charles McDonald, Fort Smith; Mrs. Ben F. Jordan, Paragould, and Mrs. Iona Oates, Newport.

Arkansas history

(Continued from page one)

Arkansas' record; previous volumes published

Reflecting on one area of his research, Dr. Vernon told the committee "I don't know of another state that has done more in providing missionary leadership than has Arkansas. It is my opinion that this has never been recognized as much as it should."

The new history will cover the period from the beginning of Methodism in Arkansas (approximately 1816) through the year 1972. Its publication in 1976 will mark the 140th anniversary of the organization of the Arkansas Conference and the approximate 160th anniversary of Methodism in the state, plus coinciding with the nation's Bicentennial Celebration.

Two former volumes on Arkansas Methodist history have been commissioned by the church. The first,

published in 1892 and entitled History of Methodism in Arkansas, was authored by the Rev. Horace Jewell. The second, Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism, was written by Dr. James A. Anderson and was published in 1935.

The author of the new volume was associated with the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church for some 35 years. At the time of his retirement in 1972 he was executive editor of general publications and administrative associate in that Board's Division of Curriculum Resources. He is a ministerial member of the Texas Conference.

Dr. Vernon reports a need for photographs of specific personalities and events. A detailed notice of such needed items will be carried at a later date by the **Arkansas Methodist**.

North Arkansas gains

(Continued from page one)

time since June 1965. The increase came in the "Adults" enrolled whereas the number of leaders, children and youth had a decrease. The Church School Membership is now 46,855 an increase of 169 over 1973. The average attendance in the Sunday Church School took a good increase of 713 over 1973 with a total for the end of 1974 of 25,422. The average attendance in other on-going classes and groups for learning — those groups meeting weekly — other than on Sundays — had an increase of 14 per cent over 1973. This total is 25,422 which is over one-half the size of the Sunday Church School membership.

The membership of the United Methodist Women had a decrease in 1974 of 192 with a membership now of 11,382; however \$8,452 more was spent for local church and community work by the UMW and \$14,783 more was sent to District and Conference treasurers for their mission work.

The value of the properties of the churches in the North Arkansas Conference increased \$3,695,845 to a new total of \$53,634,706. The churches paid a

total of \$2,071,096 for debts, principal and interest, and buildings and improvements which means the value increases came from re-evaluating the property which trustees in many churches are doing because of the increased cost of replacement. The total debts on church properties took another drop by \$197,314 with the total indebtedness being \$3,450,078 or just under 6.5 per cent of the total value.

The total giving to World Service and all other benevolences increased by \$57,711 for a total giving by the churches of the Conference of \$1,013,869. All other monies spent for ministerial support and connectional administration funds were up with the exception of Equitable Salary, down \$2.00, and the Pension Endowment Campaign Fund off \$102,717 from 1973 as most churches have completed their campaigns two years ago. The total spent by the churches in the conference for all causes was \$771,684 more than in 1973 with a Grand Total of \$8,485,112 spent.

Allan E. Hilliard, Statistician
North Arkansas Conference

Choice of two Faith Forums offered jurisdiction's women

The Rev. Miss Sharon Howell, pastor of the United Methodist Church at Edwardsville, Kansas, will lead two separate Faith Forums for women of the South Central Jurisdiction of United Methodism, within the next several weeks. Miss Howell was cited for her "vibrant" leadership at the Faith Forum held at Mt. Sequoyah last Fall.

The first event is scheduled to be held at St. Paul School of Theology, Center for Renewal in Kansas City, Mo., March 15-16. (Miss Howell graduated with honors from that seminary.) The second event will be held at Sacramento Methodist Assembly, Sacramento, New

Mexico, April 12-13. The programs for both forums have been planned around the theme "Curious Christian," and will focus largely on Bible study aimed at helping participants to articulate their faith.

The women — local, district, or conference — whether officers or local members are urged to take advantage of one of these opportunities for personal enrichment. Both events will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and close with Sunday lunch. Persons wishing to attend should mail their advance \$3 registration fee to Mrs. Rubye Lee Jackson, 901 West 34th Avenue, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601.

The cost for lodging and meals is payable upon arrival at either event. The fee for one night, four meals and coffee breaks at St. Paul will be \$12.90; or for two nights, five meals and coffee breaks, \$19.30. Registration closes two weeks prior to this event — March 3rd.

At Sacramento \$9.60 will pay for one night's lodging, four meals, coffee breaks, insurance and grounds fee; or \$14.40 will provide two nights' lodging, six meals, coffee breaks, insurance and grounds fee, and registration will close on April 1.

Registrants are requested to include name, address, name of conference, local church, and to indicate which event they plan to attend.

Mrs. Robert May, of the Core Planning Group, is chairperson for the Task Group in charge of arrangements. Other members include Helen Deel of Central Texas Conference, Diane Holland of Missouri East Conference, Rubye Lee Jackson and Yvonne Ferris, Jurisdiction UMW president.

Updated Circulation Report and Note to Churches and Pastors

Since the initiation of the new plan of distribution of the **Arkansas Methodist**, circulation has increased from 17,448 (last issue of Dec., 1974) to 23,831 copies of our last week's issue — an increase of 6,383.

Our office is processing the updated lists in the order of their arrival, doing so as rapidly as possible. Each new address necessitates the manual cutting of a new mailing plate. With the backlog of lists, that process requires several weeks from the time the lists are received in our office. Each addressee will receive a full year's subscription to the paper beginning with the first issue they receive.

Your patience is appreciated during this transition time.

—the editor

Mrs. E. D. Galloway to author next lesson series

Mrs. E. D. Galloway, who for 52 years has served as the wife of a now retired member of the Little Rock Conference, has accepted the responsibility of writing the commentary for the next series of International Sunday School lessons for **Arkansas Methodist**. Her acceptance of the assignment represents a break in precedent by **Arkansas Methodist** from the long-standing practice of securing male authorship for the lesson commentaries.

Mrs. Galloway (known as "Sarah" to her many Arkansas friends) served for four years as president of the women's organization in Methodism's Little Rock Conference, has been a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and has served as secretary of the South Central Jurisdiction Council. She has served as state president of Church Women United, and as president of the Aldersgate Board during three separate terms. She is now a Life Member of the Board.

Educated in Arkansas schools and colleges, she attended what is now the University of Central Arkansas, at Conway, and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

Mrs. Galloway, who has been teaching church school and Bible classes throughout her role as the wife of a pastor and district superintendent, presently



Mrs. Galloway

teaches the Adult Class at Pride Valley United Methodist Church, near "Edswood," west of Little Rock, where she, with her husband Dr. Ed Galloway, resides.

The author of our next lesson series modestly states that she is at her best when "making a casserole for a family where there is sickness, or death."

Arkansas Methodist

From the Bottom of the Heart

The impertinence — and 'practicality' — of Lent

Forty-day prelude to tragedy and triumph

Not the least of the functions of our faith is that it serves as the community's "rememberer." More than any other source, our religious faith reminds us who we are and why we are — as well as signaling what we may yet become. And as such a rememberer, our faith is easily our single most significant and valuable possession.

The remembrances which our Christian religion call forth, rather than being mere passive recollections, are current and active partners with the Holy Spirit. They provide the historical framework for all present day saving grace, good works, and sustaining hope.

And Lent, as one of the great holy seasons of the Christian religion, is an example of how our faith fulfills its function of creative rememberer.

Inviting us to center upon the suffering and coming rejection and death of Jesus Christ, Lent confronts us with a theme we would otherwise prefer to ignore: the tragic element in the midst of, even, the divine plan. The season's theme troubles us with the mysteries of the mind of God and compels us to self-examination, self-searching and to the pursuit of a renewed quest for spiritual rebirth.

This Lenten quest has traditionally issued in self denial as the way to deepened spiritual renewal. But whether our remembrances of Christ's suffering lead us to self-denial or to self-emptying in more positive forms of others-centered service, Lent, like Advent, seems always to come just in time. It is a vital reminder that amidst all our earthly woes we lose our way if we seek direction only in the wisdom of men.

Off the Top of the Head

Apocalyptic writings

(Concerning Last Things)

THE LAST CANDY BAR

It's enough to strike terror in the heart of the most fearless, it is. It can make the most indomitable domitable, the most invincible vincible, the most unconquerable conquerable. It can, in fact, undo the most undoable.

"What on earth," I hear you interrupt, "are you talking about? What can do all those silly things?"

Why, what else than that dreaded, panic-inducing report from your youngest son: "Dad, I just got the last candy bar."

The last candy bar! And me with three hours work to do, already climbing the walls with a chocolate fit, and knowing that every store in town is closed tight with security alarms activated.

I suspect there are worse things that can happen to one, but right at the moment I can't think of what they might be.

†

'THE LAST BANANA?'

"There goes the banana for your breakfast cereal, Dad."

Just like that. No emotion. Just a calm, detached, inhumane statement of fact from Mother as young Charles takes two big bites out of The Last Banana In The House.

"THE LAST BANANA?!" (That's me yelling that.)

"Yes, Dear" (I know there's trouble). "You won't have any banana for your breakfast cereal if Charles eats all of that last banana (points to her son Charles beginning to eat second half of Last Banana).

"CHARLES MARK WORKMAN!"

"Yez, Dad (swallow), whad' do you (swallow) wand?"

"I 'WAND' FOR YOU TO SAVE ME PART OF THAT LAST BANANA, THAT'S 'WHAD' I 'WAND'!"

"Oh — certainly. Here you are, Fader" (hands one-third of abused and bruised L. B. to me).

I really hadn't expected it to be that easy. It must have been the panic on my face — that gets them every time.

"How do I get it to 'keep', Mom?"

"Just wrap it up in plastic or something."

Which I did, in an old bread wrapper, and it's waiting for me right there on the counter top for when I spring out of bed in the morning. No banana anywhere can taste as good on your raisin bran as does the last half of the last banana in the house!

Hot dog! I can hardly wait!

†

Lent calls us to consider a strange proposition, one foreign to our natural preferences: that suffering and sacrifice are positive, creative, redemptive forces in God's plan.

As a recollection of our Lord's imperiled prelude to suffering and death, Lent becomes for all Christians the most "practical" of "involvements." To the "social activist," it is a reminder that if the faith is to have fruits, it must nourish its roots. To the more "spiritually inclined," Lent is a reminder that the roots of faith are cultivated only in order that they may bear fruits.

Lent is for all Christians, even though we may not be ready for its demands. With impertinence it intrudes upon our busy lives, so consumed with this world's troubles, and greedily commands a selfish portion of our calendar.

In doing so Lent reminds us of something in this fast-moving world we too easily forget: that Christians have no higher or more practical priority than to "actively remember" the life, death and resurrection of their Lord. And Lent confronts us with one of the vital and key events of that life: the mystery of the suffering and sacrifice by which the Son of God wrought out his divine mission.

For in such remembering is our hope that we may be so inspired by such a mystery and empowered by such a love, that joining in the resurrection event for which Lent prepares us, we can be in the world as true recipients and proclaimers of a saving word.

†

A Lenten primer — with comment

Lent, beginning Wednesday of this week (Ash Wednesday), is a 40-day journey of the soul, a priority pilgrimage for all Christians.

The word itself — Lent — comes from an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "spring." It suggests reawakening, rebirth, new life; a coming to consciousness in the soul.

As spring is nature's season for mulching the earth in preparation for its promised fruitfulness, Lent is the soul's season for the flowering of the spirit. Though its mood is somber — remembering the suffering of Christ — its promise is joyous: we know how the story ends — Easter is ahead!

Originally only 40 hours long — commemorating the time between the crucifixion on Good Friday and the resurrection on Easter morning — Lent has been observed by the Church since early times as the 40 days, not counting Sundays, before Easter.

It has been variously associated with other high points in our faith-history: the 40 days spent by Moses on Mt. Sinai; the 40 days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, and the 40 days between the resurrection and the ascension.

But whatever its historical associations, Lent's primary significance lies in the opportunity it offers the Church to prepare for the Easter event.

While the world sets the Church's agenda, the life of its Lord enables his Church to make a redemptive response to that agenda. And Lent shows us a historic and current element in that divine life's experience: suffering.

Lent's Lord looks upon us daily through millions of eyes.

For us to forget that, or to ignore it, is to die.

†

JSW

Arkansas Methodist

Established 1882

Official newspaper of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

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

POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

EDITORIAL and business offices located in United Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark.

NEWS SERVICES: United Methodist Communications (UMC), United Methodist boards and agencies; Religious News Service (RNS), National Council of Churches, and others.

ADVERTISING RATES on request. Represented nationally by Jacob's List, Inc., Clinton, S.C. 29325. Products or services advertised are not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper or by The United Methodist Church.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$4.00 per year.

MEMBER:
Associated Church Press,
United Methodist Press Association

The new Senator from Arkansas visits Methodist Hospital

Senator Dale Bumpers endorses Drive

Senator Dale Bumpers flew into Memphis recently and took the opportunity to drop by and visit Methodist Hospital. He visited briefly with some fellow Arkansans, asked many searching questions and finished up by swapping some stories with Mann Shoffner, currently a patient in Methodist Hospital.

Senator Bumpers later issued this statement:

I want to personally urge all loyal United Methodists in the North Arkansas Conference to support the Methodist Hospital Golden Anniversary Drive through their generous gifts.

Funds collected will aid our hospital to carry on its impressive work of ministering to those who are sick of body and mind.

At the invitation of Campaign General Chairmen Lon Mann and J. C. Portis, I visited the Hospital in early December. I met with some of the men who are responsible for leading that great institution and was able to view the \$11,000,000 Sherard Wing, now under construction, which will house the \$2½ million Emergency Room to be dedicated in honor of the people of the North Arkansas Conference.

The most amazing fact I heard during my visit was that last year this United Methodist Center of Healing dispensed nearly \$7,000,000 worth of services for which it was not compensated. This kind of giving for the sake of people and their welfare is in the finest tradition of our United Methodist Church and I am proud to claim this hospital as ours.

We of the North Arkansas Conference are one-third owners of Methodist Hospital along with the folks of the Memphis Conference and the North Mississippi Conference. I think it is important that we here in North Arkansas Conference recognize our ownership by pledging and giving generously.

I commend the Golden Anniversary Drive to you and ask for your finest support.



Campaign Co-Chairman J. C. Portis chats with the new senator.



Hospital Executive Director C. Henry Hottum welcomes Mr. Bumpers to his office.



Mr. Mann Shoffner of Shoffner, Arkansas, a patient at the hospital at the time of Mr. Bumpers' visit, listens to some words of encouragement. (Right) Chaplain George Stewart of Paragould, Arkansas, waits to greet the much celebrated visitor.



Campaign Co-Chairman Lon Mann smiles approvingly as Mr. Bumpers expresses his personal interest in the success of the Methodist Hospital Golden Anniversary Drive. (Left) Mrs. Elaine Witt, Director of Student Welfare, Nursing Education, pauses with Senator Bumpers. Mrs. Witt is a native of Barton, Arkansas, and has been with Methodist Hospital since January, 1943.

Senator Dale M. Bumpers is a member of the United Methodist Church in Charleston, where he is a member of the Council on Ministries. He serves as a lay leader in the Fort Smith District.

Pictures and printed matter submitted by Methodist Hospital, Memphis



Arkansas History Commission offers microfilming service

The Arkansas History Commission and the Arkansas American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Committee take great pride in announcing a local records microfilming project as part of Arkansas' celebration of our nation's 200th birthday.

The purpose of this state-wide program is to locate and copy on microfilm as many of the early records in our state which contain vital statistic information as possible. County, city and state records are among those to be filmed.

However, one of the greatest sources of vital records information in Arkansas is to be found in the records of our churches and synagogues. Arkansas did not begin keeping records of births and deaths until 1914. In many cases the only place such a record can be found is in the local church or parish register.

Not only are such records sources for this type of information, but they are also invaluable sources for information concerning local, community and family history.

This program seeks to microfilm, at no charge to the holder of the records, all of the Arkansas church records which date from before 1900 and which contain information of a vital records nature. These records will be filmed at a central location in each county, eliminating the need of bringing them to Little Rock. The filming process takes only a few days and does no harm to the records themselves.

Those who wish to participate in this program should contact Mr. R. P. Baker, Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

Arkansas pastor writes on religious controversies

The Rev. Merle Allison Johnson, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Siloam Springs, is the author of a volume published Feb. 10 by Abingdon Press. Entitled **Religious Roulette and Other Dangerous Games Christians Play**, the book centers on such controversial religious issues as faith-healing, tongue-speaking movements and other associated phenomena.

The publisher calls the volume "an indispensable guide for those who are confused by the new movements currently flourishing in America."

According to a publisher's review, the author is "concerned about the ministers and lay persons confronted by various waves of religious faddism and fashion" and offers the volume to give guidance

"in the midst of so many claims and counterclaims."

The reviewer states the volume "targets in on the fast-growing charismatic movement" and calls the book "the other side of the miracle and faith healing syndrome," saying that it "appears to be the boldest argument to date." The review states "the present emphasis on demons, tongue-speaking and faith healing, Johnson maintains, will usher in a new Dark Ages in the life of the Christian Church."

Johnson, in his fourth year as pastor of the Siloam Springs church, is the author of several earlier volumes, including **How to Murder a Minister**, **The Kingdom Seekers**, and **Fires For Modern Man**.

Arkansas Methodist

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



A diverse group of 18 prominent Christians meeting at Hartford Seminary Foundation (Conn.) issued a 1,000 word document calling for an end to American theology's "captivity" to fads, cultural idols and the dictates of "modern thought." In what has been described as an unprecedented and ecumenical "Appeal for Theological Affirmation," the statement identifies and rejects 13 "pervasive" themes in modern Christianity. Attacking theological formulations that borrow heavily from the assumptions of the political right or left, the counter-culture, non-Christian humanism and general public preoccupations, the document affirms the resurrection of Jesus and denies that "all religions are equally valid."

Dr. George Sweeting, president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and keynote speaker at the recent National Religious Broadcasters convention, said: "Contrary to the opinion of many, greatness is not measured in muscles or missiles. It is not calculated in silver or gold... Courage and honesty are marks of true greatness... The question is, can we as communicators restigmatize dishonesty and magnify honesty?"

Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, addressing a religious convocation of Orthodox leaders, called on the Vatican to enter into diplomatic relations with Israel. He said the failure of the Roman Catholic Church to recognize that "the land of Israel is central in the theology of Judaism," cannot be viewed as an oversight. Rabbi Schonfeld said, "A real step forward would be the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel."

Officers of the World Council of Churches have issued a request to the Soviet government to permit a legal observer to attend the trial in Kiev of the Baptist minister Georgij Vins, who has been charged with the violation of Soviet law. The statement noted that "on the basis of information received" there was reason to believe "that the charges against Mr. Vins are made primarily because of his religious convictions and activities."

Thirty-five top-ranking officials of the National Council of Churches visited President Gerald R. Ford in response to an invitation from the White House. The delegation included NCC President W. Sterling Cary, General Secretary Claire Randall and United Methodist Bishop James K. Mathews. NCC officials said the major result of the meeting was to reopen channels of communication broken in 1965 during the administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson over the Vietnam War.

The board of directors of "Good News," evangelical group within The United Methodist Church, has announced plans to produce its own confirmation and membership training materials. The materials, expected to be available in about a year, will "center around the Wesleyan concept of Scriptural Christianity," according to the Rev. Charles W. Keysor, Wilmore, Ky., editor of "Good News" magazine.

"The Spirit of Christ in '76: Calling for Repentance, Resolution, Renewal," will be the theme of a United Methodist Congress on Evangelism planned for Jan. 4-8, 1976 in conjunction with the American Bicentennial Year. The event will be sponsored by the Council on Evangelism (an auxiliary to the General Board of Discipleship) working with a local planning group in the Philadelphia area.

Reversing the traditional style of sending evangelists overseas, 46 persons from 19 countries and Puerto Rico will be coming to the U.S. in March to motivate ministers and congregations to seek a deeper understanding of their mission in evangelism and to create a forum for the exchange of ideas in the United Methodist, African Methodist Episcopal and Christian Methodist Episcopal churches. Each visitor will participate in three, one-week missions, speaking at civic and community functions, addressing ecumenical rallies, and participating in a variety of events planned by local churches. The project is under sponsorship of United Methodism's Board of Discipleship and the Bishop's Committee for World Evangelism of the World Methodist Council.

The traditional bacon and eggs menu served legislators and leading state and city officials at the annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., in previous years, was this year changed to cooked oatmeal. The change was described as "a symbolic recognition of pressing human needs that exist in many parts of the world."



'Evangelist' Priest

HOUSTON — Father Blaise Czaja, a Roman Catholic Passionist priest from Louisville, Ky., during an "evangelistic preaching mission" at a Houston Catholic church. Father Czaja, who calls himself an evangelist and admires the preaching style of Billy Graham, took some evangelism courses at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He puts what he learned there to work in about 30 "missions" he conducts each year in Catholic churches... The five-day "evangelistic preaching missions" have numerous similarities to Baptist revivals. Instead of the celebration of Mass, the services include only hymn singing, prayers, a sermon and an "altar call..." In the future, Father Czaja envisions holding mass evangelism rallies in large auditoriums sponsored by 15 or 20 Catholic churches in a given area — something similar to what many Protestant evangelists do. (RNS Photo by The Houston Chronicle)

Rep. Albert H. Quie (Minn.) was the principal speaker at this year's annual National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C. (Mr. Quie is one of three persons who meet at the White House at noontime once a week with the President for prayer and devotions.) The program was broadcast live over the 1,100 stations of the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service throughout the world, and 900 similar prayer breakfasts occurred the same day at U.S. military installations and aboard ships, with more than 100,000 service personnel attending.

Three divisions of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries have joined an ecumenical call for 50 medical doctors to combat a deadly smallpox epidemic in Bangladesh. A medical spokesman said that in 1967 some 43 countries of Asia, Africa and South America were troubled by the disease, whereas by December, 1974, the transmission was probably limited to three countries: India, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia. The most effective combatant, he said, "is to find the actual smallpox victims and vaccinate the area or neighborhood around them."

Editorial representatives of the 40 language editions of The Upper Room, the world's largest daily devotional guide, have been invited to Nashville as part of the publication's 40th Anniversary celebration. Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, editor, said the purpose of the editors' Feb. 28-March 4 working conference will be "to enable these editors and their representatives to better serve their readers around the globe." Also attending the anniversary dinner will be the 100 elected members of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship.



Lausanne Continuation Committee Meets

MEXICO CITY — Members of the Lausanne Continuation Committee for World Evangelization meet in Mexico City in a follow-up to last year's International Congress on World Evangelization. The 48 evangelicals from around the world attending the meeting emphasized the continuation committee is not

planning an organization to compete with the World Council of Churches. It resolved "to develop a low profile for itself and to operate with a minimal budget and a small staff." It affirmed that it "does not wish to duplicate the work of other existing organizations or structures." (RNS Photo)

News from the churches

DR. ROY B. SHILLING, president of Hendrix College, spoke on Methodism's role in higher education at a recent churchwide fellowship supper in First Church, Prescott.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST Church, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Agnes Catholic Church all of Mena celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 19-26. The Rev. Shelton Kilgore, pastor of First United Methodist Church, spoke in First Presbyterian Church on the evening of Jan. 19. The Wednesday evening service was held in St. Agnes Catholic Church with the Rev. Jerry Hurst of First Presbyterian Church presenting the message, and Father Thomas Keller, pastor of St. Agnes Church, was the speaker for the final service at the Methodist church on Sunday evening, Jan. 26.

THE YOUTH CHOIR of Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, presented the musical, "It's Getting Late," for their church's Sunday evening worship service on Feb. 2.

MRS. R. K. BENT is in charge of a churchwide study entitled, "Education for Global Consciousness" being held in First Church, Clarksville, each Sunday evening in February. A film, "Small World," and slides of some of the major cities of the world provided the basis for discussion Feb. 9; "To catch a Thief," a play, will be presented on February 16, and Mrs. P. H. Hardin of Fort Smith, who is on the National Board of Global Ministries, will speak on Feb. 23.

UNITED METHODIST MEN of First Church, Newport, held a Ladies' Night Dinner on Wednesday evening, Feb. 12, featuring the Hendrix College Madrigal Singers, under the direction of Professor Robert McGill.

BILL LAIRD, coach at Eastside Junior High School in Benton, was guest speaker for the Sunday-At-Six service at First Church, Benton, Jan. 26.



New Year Enlistment Tea

Nearly 70 ladies of First Church, Jonesboro, braved sleet and snow to attend a recent Sunday afternoon New Year Enlistment Tea in the home of Col. and Mrs. Herbert Price. Left to right, Mrs. Worth Gibson, minister's wife, pours, Mrs. Grover Poole, chairperson for arrangements committee, and Mrs. Coy Matthews, being served.

DR. J. RALPH HILLIS, Jonesboro District superintendent, was the speaker for a chili supper attended by 31 members of the Beacon Sunday School Class at Trumann United Methodist Church on Saturday night, Feb. 1st. On the following day, Dr. Hillis delivered the message for morning worship. Mrs. Hillis was a special guest along with her husband.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD of Mabelvale, Little Rock Conference lay leader, was the guest speaker for the January meeting of United Methodist Men in First Church, Lonoke. The Feb. 25th meeting will feature William Bowen, president of Commercial National Bank in Little Rock and a member of First Church, Little Rock.

THE ELM SPRINGS UMYF has begun a comprehensive study entitled "Choosing Your Christian Mate." The study deals with such aspects as physical, sexual, mental and spiritual attractions. JoAnn Hulbert, UMYF leader, is conducting the study from the perspective of Biblical and personal points of view.

BISHOP FRANK AT EL DORADO FIRST CHURCH, CAMDEN LAY RALLY

Bishop Eugene M. Frank will be guest preacher for a Lenten revival at First United Methodist Church, El Dorado, Feb. 16-18. He will preach at Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. and at evening services each of the three days at 7 p.m. Informal discussion groups will follow each of the three evening services. Noon-time services will be held on Monday and Tuesday.

Bishop Frank will also be guest speaker at the Camden District Layman's Rally Feb. 19 at Magnolia's First Church. Wives of the lay men of the District have been invited to the 7 p.m. meeting. The Share Singers of the host church will provide special music for the event.

'MEAL A WEEK' SACRIFICE

Residents of Bentonville and Bella Vista have been asked by the Ministerial Alliance of Bentonville to sacrifice one meal a week during the month of February. The plan was announced following a Christian Unity Week breakfast sponsored by the alliance.

"Nothing that we could do in the spirit of Christian unity would be more meaningful than for each person, who is able, to sacrifice one meal a week, and then donate the cost of that meal to a fund for the less fortunate of our area," said the Rev. George Clay, chairman of the organization.

A spokesperson at the Bentonville Office of Human Concerns said food supplies at the center are in short supply, and as a result many families in the area "are in a critical situation."

Churches in the area are promoting the "Meal a Week" program.

DR. ROBERT E. L. BEARDEN, Conway District superintendent, was the pulpit guest in First Church, North Little Rock, on Sunday morning, Feb. 9.

THE YOUTH of Central Church, Fayetteville, are being offered a choice of three interest groups along with their regular Sunday evening fellowship meetings. The six-week mini-courses offered are Drama taught by Doug Treadway from the University of Arkansas, Arts and Crafts taught by Mrs. Wallace Cordes, and a study group on Worship led by Ron Clark.

THE UMY of St. Paul Church, Fort Smith, sponsored a square dance and games night on Saturday, Feb. 1.

MRS. BETTY FRENCH, coordinator of Central Services for the Elderly, was the guest speaker at the Tuesday, Jan. 28 meeting of the XYZers of Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock.

GUY BALTZ of the Elizabeth Mitchell Children's Center was the guest speaker at Winfield Church, Little Rock, on Sunday evening, Feb. 2 as part of their Family Life Adult Series.

NEW OFFICERS for United Methodist Women of Atkins Church were installed by the Rev. John W. Lee, pastor, at the January meeting. Officers are: Mrs. Dewey Martin, president; Mrs. Aurel Haney, vice president; Mrs. David Griffin, secretary, and Mrs. Reba Hooper, treasurer. Mission coordinators are: Mrs. Juanita Hegeman, Mrs. Nellie Boone, Mrs. Leonard Stanley, Mrs. James Teal, Mrs. Richard Ridling, Mrs. Elmo Bizzell and Mrs. Toney Feugler.

REVIVAL SERVICES were held at Almyra Church, Feb. 2-7, with the Rev. Gene Ratekin, pastor of Sherrill-Tomberlin Churches, as the guest speaker.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN HOSPITALIZED

The Arkansas Methodist has received word that Bishop Paul E. Martin is seriously ill and has entered Baylor Hospital, Dallas. The Martin's home address is Preston Tower, Apt. 407, 6211 W. Northwest Hwy., Dallas, Tex. 75225.

Bishop Frank visits Arkansas students at Candler

Bishop and Mrs. Eugene M. Frank were on the campus of Candler School of Theology, Emory University, the week of Jan. 19 to visit with ministerial students from Arkansas.

Bishop Frank said the visit provided an opportunity to "hear about their plans for the future and discover how we can be of help to them." The group met for a luncheon at the Cox Union building.

Students in the group from the Little Rock Conference were Charles Murry and Charles Jackson, Jr. North Arkansas Conference students were James Mark Lasater from Fayetteville District, Dennis W. Spence from Fayetteville District, the Rev. and Mrs. Bennie Ross Harmon from Wye, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Christopher from Conway District.

Mr. Harmon serves as pastor of The United Methodist Church at Bostwick, Ga. On Sunday, Jan. 19, Bishop Frank preached at First Church, Roswell, where Mr. Christopher serves as associate pastor. The Franks' son and daughter-in-law, the Thomas Franks, are members of that congregation.

BATESVILLE AREA United Methodist Men sponsored their annual Ladies' Night on Tuesday, Feb. 11 in First Church, Batesville, with Dr. John Miles, pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, as guest speaker.

THE REV. ROLAND DARROW, retired United Methodist minister, was the pulpit guest for a recent Sunday morning service in Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock.

Personalia

KIMBERLY ANN RIGGIN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale N. Riggins of Rialto, Calif., was recently baptized at Wilmot Church, Monticello District, by her grandfather, the Rev. Robert L. Riggins, pastor.



Honored For Service

Mrs. Ardella Goodlow was honored on a recent Sunday afternoon by the members of Emory Chapel United Methodist Church at Newport with a reception in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Borders. She was the recipient of a silver tray bearing the inscription: "A. T. Goodlow, pianist, 1932-75." In addition to her 43 years of service as pianist, Mrs. Goodlow was recognized for other areas of dedicated and self-giving service including church school superintendent, trustee, church school teacher, and secretary.

Arkansans at Perkins MINISTERS' WEEK

A Greeting From The Bishop

Bishop Frank addressed the more than 75 persons who attended the dinner meeting of Perkins School of Theology students from Arkansas and representatives of the two Conferences' Boards of Ministry. Buddy Ratliff, a second year student from Little Rock, served as master of ceremonies for the event. The dinner was prepared by wives of the students and served in Seelman Hall on the Perkins quadrangle.



Talking It Over

Visiting are (from left) Mackey Yokem and Robert Armstrong of Little Rock, Bishop Frank, Mike Campbell of Camden and John Grigsby of Pine Bluff.



After Dinner Chat

Eston Williams (left) and Mackey Yokem of Little Rock visit with Bishop Frank following Arkansas students' dinner at Perkins during Ministers' Week last week.



Table Talk

Enjoying a visit are (from left) John Grigsby of Pine Bluff, Marti Campbell of Camden, Virginia Richards and Dr. Charles Richards, superintendent of the Camden District, Mike Campbell, Robert and Carolyn Hasley of Magnolia, and Becky Grigsby.



'Never Leave Home Without One'

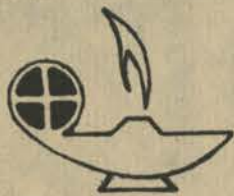
Surprising the photographer-editor by flashing copies of the latest issue of the **Arkansas Methodist**, these ministers and wives of ministers were among the some 40 Arkansans who attended the Feb. 3-6 annual SMU Ministers' Week in Dallas. From left are (standing): the Revs. Herschel

McClurkin, Jr., Joe Kennedy, Sam B. Teague, Dr. Clint Burleson, John B. Hays, Mackey Yokem, Pat and Ed Matthews, Gerald Rainwater, and Mauzel and Jim Beal. Kneeling: the Revs. N. Lee Cate, Dr. Joel A. Cooper, Harold H. Spence, Dr. George W. Martin, Verlin D. Mikesell, and Wayne C. Jarvis.



Visiting

Good food and good fellowship make a happy time for (from left) Fred Hunter of Humphrey, Brenda and Larry Jameson of the Little Rock Conference, Roger and Delores Hook of Paragould, Mauzel and Jim Beal of Newport, and David Deere of the Little Rock Conference.



The Sunday School Lesson

by William M. Wilder

Living In Hope

Lesson For February 23

ORIENTATION: This is the last session in our short New Testament Survey entitled, "The Living God Seeks Man." These last five sessions have been concerned with the people of the early Church, and how they faced their problems, with the hope that we today may receive something of their power and render a like service to our generation.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-5; 8:18-30; I Thessalonians 1:1-3; I John 3:1-3; Revelation 21:1-7.

DEVOTIONAL READING: Romans 8:31-39.

AUDIO-VISUAL RESOURCES: "Signposts Aloft," 28 min., a beautiful film with a faith for the space age, from Moody Institute of Science, 12000 Washington Blvd., Whittier, Calif. 90606; or "The Quality of Life," FS, from Cathedral Films, 2921 W. Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91505.

• • • • •

Background Material

Since the editors of the Oxford Annotated RSV consider Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians to be the earliest piece of his correspondence that we have, it seems fitting that we should begin our study here.

In the introduction to his *Letters to Young Churches*, J. B. Phillips tells us vividly of the environment of the early Church. There were no church buildings, no Sunday Schools, really no observance of Sunday. Slavery, immorality, cruelty, and human degradation were commonplace. Traveling and communications were at a minimum, the people illiterate, and one can scarcely see how the Christian religion began.

In the midst of this Paul writes, "To the Church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for you all, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before God and Father *your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*" (I Thess. 1:1-3). (Italics mine.)

(Does this give you hope for your Church? Can you think of anyone who is working and living in faith? Do you see any labor of love? Is there steadfast hope? If so, your church may be closer to the New Testament faith than you realize!)

Justification By Faith

Romans 5:1 introduces a phrase which changed the history of the Church, "justification by faith." It is well to remember that all of the giant reformers, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, were greatly influenced by Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Here Paul is saying that when we come to rely completely on God's grace and not at all upon ourselves, we have a strange and wonderful peace, a state of harmony, a feeling of good will.

He goes on to say that "suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope." And, of course, hope doesn't disappoint us because we have God's love poured through the Holy Spirit, the present tense of God.

(Had you ever thought of God causing suffering — not to produce pain, but to teach endurance, for from endurance comes character? Have you ever heard someone say, "God won't put more on me than I can stand."? What do you think about that?)

In Romans 8:18, Paul says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." The implication is that our suffering is puny and little compared to the glory that God will reveal to us, and we ought not let it bother us too much.

One of my friends stated that Romans 8:26 suggests what the modern speaker in tongues feels — that there are no known words to express the depths of faith so the Spirit intercedes and helps us to pray. May I also suggest that this verse may be just as true for the non-Pentecostal, who is at a loss for words in prayer, so he sighs deeply, or remains silent not knowing how to say what he feels.

The RSV makes a change in Romans 8:28 that means much to me. I have never believed what the King James Version has said — "that everything works for good . . ." for I can think of too many accidents, deaths, ills that brought no good at all, especially to the one most deeply involved. But the RSV translation, that I most firmly believe states, "That in everything God works for good with those who love Him . . ."

(Had you ever noticed the difference in these two translations of this verse? Had the KJV ever bothered you? Does it help to realize that the RSV is closer to the original Greek than the KJV?)

Centering On the Hereafter

In the midst of a troubled, disease-ridden, sick society, it is not surprising that the early Church centered its faith around eternal life. For many, this is all they had to look forward to. Thus John in his letter reveals how great God's love is that we are able to be called His children. He is not bold enough to suggest what the future has in store, or what our existence will be like in heaven, but we shall be like Him, and that ought to satisfy anyone.

I have always been grateful for John's definition of God as Love (I John 4:8). To me, the definition solves many perplexities, and helps make the doctrine of the Holy Spirit more understandable, since Love can only be truly known in the present tense. God is Love — and conversely, Love is God! When you love, you have God working in you whether you recognize Him or not.

(Have you ever taken Paul's 13th chapter of First Corinthians and substituted the word "God" for "Charity, or Love?" Why not try it?)

Since the early Church sought for a hope in the next world, Rev. 21:1-7, telling of the new Jerusalem gained a real response. This section is a reminder of the New Covenant of Jeremiah in his book, 31:33, and ties the Old Testament to the New. It promises a heavenly city of no tears and pain, and is still a passage frequently read in the Funeral Ritual.

One may speculate about the type of existence in heaven, but the words of Jesus, Paul, and John seem to indicate that the main promise concerns God's dwelling with man, and we with Him, and as for the rest, we must trust His love.

Let us close this quarter's lessons by a look at the Devotional Reading for this Sunday, Romans 8:31-39.

These verses may make you ask how Paul was persuaded to be a Christian. We know he was not persuaded by the Law, nor by a fear of God since he had grown up with a fear of the Lord. I believe he had an overwhelming realization of the love of God as seen in Jesus Christ.

Whatever happened on the old Damascus Road, Paul was to go away and meditate for many years. When he returned, he was the indomitable preacher who was afraid of nothing, and who was able to stand against the evil powers of his day. The secret of his strength is revealed in this devotional passage, Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Inherent in the persuasion of Paul is the understanding that the Christian must have a personal religious experience of God revealed in Jesus Christ. It is unlikely that we will see Him as vividly as Paul, but we must seek Him, pray to Him, for He is the most real of all persons. He is Savior, Redeemer, Lord.

There is a warning implicit in these verses — one we sometimes ignore. Some could say that the verse indicates nothing can separate us from God. But there is one thing that can do it — and that is **YOURSELF!**

We can allow sin to come in — to let the dark push out the light; we can turn away from God, or refuse to seek and search, to knock and open, for we are the only source of separation!

So — you have your warning — and the answer is to seek the Lord, and hold fast to Him, and He will not turn you away.

†

A PERSONAL WORD

I greatly appreciate being asked to write this Quarter's Lessons, and wish to thank the Staff of the Arkansas Methodist for the invitation, and their advice and help. Persons across the State have been kind in their comments, and one even used the magic word, "teachable!" I especially appreciated the warm support of friends in the Forrest City District.

Back to the drawing board, one more time . . .

Some lighthearted thoughts on restructure

by Valentine P. Warlock

Trustees of the St. Wesley of the Warm Heart Mercy Hospital elected to construct a major unit of total health care in the city of Despair.

In due time, construction was underway. The crippled and diseased citizens of Despair anxiously awaited the completion of this much needed facility. Every day the elderly stood by attentively observing skilled carpenters do their work. Mothers comforted their children and told them to be patient as they pointed to the construction site. Some peeked from behind pulled curtains, while others drove slowly past in their automobiles or walked out of their way just to stand and stare at the new structure.

Then one day it all stopped. There were no carpenters, no riveters, no big trucks turning, no loud noises — nothing. Cars stopped on the street, people came out of houses, and everywhere people stood in yards asking for an explanation. Finally, someone related that the new structure was insufficient for the amount of stress it would have to bear, so a different type structure, using a better grade of steel was needed.

In-Depth Study at Honolulu, Winnipeg and Aspen

Trustees of the St. Wesley of the Warm Heart Hospital appointed a new committee to secure the superior steel at the most equitable cost. Another committee was named to replace the original Building Committee which had pre-

sented an inferior structure. Both committees were sent to a Workshop on Steel and Structure which met in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Months passed and finally construction resumed on the new hospital. However, within a short time the construction site was quiet. It seemed someone had discovered that the structure of the labor force was unequal.

Both sexes were not equally represented and there were no representatives from the various races and foreign nations. Signs on washrooms had to be changed from Men and Women, to Person Room. Again, the Trustees met and appointed a new committee to study the proper structure of a working force. This committee attended a Transactional Analysis Seminar in Winnipeg, Canada.

Finally, a working force of equally represented persons were divided into task forces, each headed by a Chairperson who had been nominated by a nominating committee to serve for a four year term. Task groups were subdivided into interest groups which met each Friday to elect officers.

Restructure of the church has been a topic before United Methodism for two quadrenniums — almost eight years — if not longer. With "tongue in cheek," the author of the following "parable" pokes fun at our restructure activities. "Valentine P. Warlock" also answers to the name of the Rev. Larry D. Powell, pastor of Cavanaugh United Methodist Church, Fort Smith.

At last, one fine summer day two years following, the superstructure was completed. Its appearance gave every evidence of the many times it had been remodeled according to the latest structural patterns, streamlined, and made more functional.

Workmen now turned their attention to the inside. Persons in the community became more anxious for its completion, and drew nearer to feel its composition, peer into empty windows and envisioned the day when the sick and afflicted would receive treatment in such a fine institution.

Then, interior work ceased. The floorplan and arrangement of facilities were thought to be inadequate, so they were sent back to the drawing board. The interior structure was revised. Hospital trustees dispatched five new architects to the National Convention of Interior Decorators which met in Aspen, Colorado. The Chairperson of the Hospital trustees appointed a Feasibility Committee to see if it was feasible for him to write a letter to the citizens in Despair and request an offering.

Three Years Later

Three years later, and following countless revisions, renovations, and repeated installation of only the latest, most modern equipment, citizens of Despair stood on the Hospital property for the ribbon cutting. This was the long awaited day.

Everything was in order. The trustees had met for a retreat out-of-state and assisted the Chairperson with the keynote address; the Ribbon Cutting Committee had met on three different occasions and agreed upon the proper color and texture of ribbon; the Greens Committee had already roped off strategic areas; a long time person of expertise had been flown in to arrange the speakers on the stage; media persons, florists, caterers, and souvenir vendors had all been coordinated by one of the local citizens in Despair, in order that they should feel a part of the planning.

During the next few days, St. Wesley of the Warm Heart Mercy Hospital was filled to capacity. The sick and infirm streamed steadily into the new structure. And then, just as the new structure became functional, the order was given to remodel and update the facilities. Patients were moved into the waiting room, others discharged. Trustees appointed a new committee to raise funds for the additional remodeling.

Meanwhile, restructuring continues, and the waiting room is overflowing. People are still waiting in Despair.

From Our Readers . . .

TANAKO STAFFER APPRECIATIVE

To the Editor:

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have worked on the Camp Tanako staff the past three summers. In that time, I have become associated with more good friends than ever before in my life. It is without a doubt, the best summer job you could ever have.

It would be my wish that everyone would have the opportunity to work there sometime, if only for a week. The atmosphere of the camp just makes you never want to leave. That is what made my decision to take a higher position at another camp such a hard one.

I owe so much to so many people, that

it would be impossible to name them all. Instead of taking the chance of missing someone, I'd just like to say "thank you" to everyone in the Little Rock Conference that has helped the camp in any way. A special thanks has to go to those that have continued to support the college staff. I know that has to be the thing that keeps the camp as good as it is for everyone involved.

Sincerely,
Steve Williams
Little Rock, Ark.

†
'GREAT EVIL'

To the Editor:

I note your current support for ERA,

and know you mean well in this position.

However, if you could have a full frame of reference on the matter, aside from the smooth left-wing propaganda such as the anonymous pamphlet from 11 Ardmore Drive, I feel sure you would be as convinced as I am that ERA is a great evil.

ERA would promote runaway fathers, crime, rape, illegitimacy, homosexuality, unfeminine women, and unmasculine men, breakdown of the family, loss of much romance, sex and happiness, much legal confusion, loss of liberty to the federal government, promiscuity, irreparable damage to the main functions of both men and women, and other basic violations of God's laws and plan. God created men and women different, not a unisex society.

The law would take away more women's special (and appropriate) rights, such as alimony and child support, than any law ever written. Present laws protect women on the job and elsewhere as necessary. May our women remain lovely and loveable!

Also: your continued support will: 1. Hurt support, financially and otherwise, of your church; 2. Hurt Arkansas and the community; and 3. Support violation of the basic laws of God. E.G. Corinthians.

I am so convinced of this I am willing to make a sizeable contribution to your church if you can prove me wrong!

Please think about it — prayerfully.
R. D. Munger
1800 E. Roosevelt
Little Rock, Ark.

"Hi" and "Lo"

WHY ARE YOU REJOICING OVER THE SUCCESS OF "THE EXORCIST"? YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T "POSSESS" A PERSON



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Update on episcopacy and district superintendency study

'Oneness of ministry' shared by all ordained, commission says

LA GRANGE PARK, Ill. (UMC) — A commission conducting a four-year study of the United Methodist episcopacy and district superintendency has reached consensus on basic assumptions and is ready to move ahead with preparation of specific recommendations to the 1976 General Conference, the group's chairman reported.

In developing these proposals, the 30-member panel will be working out of their understanding of theological doctrine of the church rather than a 20th century management model, although the former will be informed by the latter, the Rev. Merlyn W. Northfelt, Evanston, Ill., said at the conclusion of the Jan. 23-25 session.

One of these assumptions, Dr. Northfelt said, is a "oneness of ministry" wherein bishops, district superintendents and pastors all share in a common ordination to word, order and sacrament. Under this concept, all clergy have the same roles, but their functions differ in relation to their specific appointment.

Another is that The United Methodist Church must be seen as a part of the "one church of Jesus Christ" and not as an isolated sect.

The commission also agreed that their work must take into account what they believe to be a crisis of leadership in the church and the world and a "continuing search for panaceas" in an "age of the instant everything."

Most of the session here was devoted to consideration of a preliminary task force paper on functions and roles of bishops and district superintendents. This document will be further refined before the next meeting and other units will begin work on such issues as

selection, training and tenure, authority and accountability, the appointive process for the denomination's clergy, and relationships involving the church's leaders.

In its report on roles and functions, the task force said there is a need for a "more horizontal, more visibly non-hierarchical" style of leadership with skills in negotiation, team building, consultation and collegiality, as well as recognition "that the spirit is given to the community, not to one person."

The commission, set up by the 1972 General Conference to "study the offices of Bishop and District Superintendent with particular reference to the method of their selection, tenure, assignment (and) function . . .," will hold its next meeting April 18-21.

Conferees to hear Bishop Hunt, Dr. Escamilla

ARDMORE, Okla. (UMC) — Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., resident bishop of the Charlotte Area, Dr. Melvin G. Talbert, general secretary of the Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, and Ms. Florence Lund, editor of The Christian Home will speak at the Mid-Winter Conference for Ministers and Wives, Feb. 18-21, and the Mid-Winter Conference for Lay Persons, Feb. 21-23 at Lake Murray State Park near here.

Dr. Roberto Escamilla, assistant

Dr. Carlton Young to join Scarritt staff

Dr. Carlton R. Young, nationally known as a leader and composer in the music ministry of The United Methodist Church, will leave his post at Perkins School of Theology and Southern Methodist University to join the staff of Scarritt College in Nashville, Tenn., as professor of Church Music. His appointment becomes effective on June 1, according to an announcement by Dr. J. Richard Palmer, Scarritt president.

Dr. Young edited the 1966 Methodist Hymnal and has written two books on singing, *Companion to the Hymnal*, and *Song Book for Saints and Sinners*. He was director of music at the 1966, 1968 and 1972 General Conferences of The United Methodist Church, and will again direct the music at the 1976 General Conference.

Dr. Young is leaving the music program at Perkins as a result of the shifting emphasis in the music ministry of the Church. His professional concern is in the area of church music education, according to a spokesman. Many churches are now employing lay workers with many competencies for ministry, and Christian education and church music education now appear to be a professional combination in great demand.

Scarritt College has experienced a greatly increased demand for graduates in Christian education in recent months, thus necessitating the addition of staff



Dr. Young

persons with outstanding experience and teaching skills in this area.

Dr. Young studied at the University of Cincinnati College of Music, Boston University School of Theology and Union Theological Seminary in New York.

general secretary in the Division of Evangelism, Worship, and Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship will plan worship experiences and train small group leaders. Dr. LeRoy Sewell, president of the South Central Jurisdiction Council on Evangelism will deliver the communion service messages; and Dr. and Mrs. J. William Hestwood, from the Oklahoma Conference will be in charge of the song services.

The theme for the conferences is

"Power for Discipleship." Sponsored by the Council on Evangelism of the South Central Jurisdiction in cooperation with the Division of Evangelism, Worship, and Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship, the purpose of the meetings is "to provide power for discipleship through renewal, rest, recovery, reflection, reassessment, revitalization through prayer and fellowship, and reenergizing the proclamation."

Attitude toward Church, its mission, credited for record '74 giving

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — Despite a troubled national economy, United Methodists gave at a record pace in 1974 to support 16 world-wide benevolent and administrative programs of their denomination and two special appeals, according to a report released here Jan. 27.

R. Bryan Brawner, treasurer of the church, said "The explanation for this fine record on the part of United Methodists is in their attitude toward the church and its mission, not in economics. I believe that in times of adversity people sort out their priorities more carefully and support those most meaningful to them," he continued. "I also believe that local churches are coming more and more to appreciate that the general funds are an integral part of the church's mission."

Brawner said that giving to general church causes totaled \$55,430,589 in 1974, an increase of 12.19 per cent above 1973. Not included in these totals is

more than \$900,000,000 given for church administration, salaries and benevolence projects on the local and regional level.

Largest single item in the report is \$21,685,453 for World Service, the denomination's basic program fund. This represents 92.28 per cent of the annual goal of \$23,500,000, the highest percentage since The United Methodist Church was formed in 1968, and is 2.62 per cent above a year ago.

In the report as a whole, 11 funds showed increases and five decreases. Largest single gain was 57.02 per cent in Advance Special support for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Greatest decrease was 11.8 per cent in the Human Relations Day offering.

Contributions to the Bishops' Appeal for Human Need reached \$1,715,165. Goal in the special offering for famine relief in West Africa and tornado assistance in the United States was \$2,500,000.

A total of \$160,810 was received in the

special offering to help in the restoration of the historic Wesley's Chapel in London which is threatened with collapse from age and deterioration. Goal in the U.S. is \$875,000.

'Year of testing' seen

Looking ahead, Dr. Brawner said that 1975 will be a "year of real testing in the church." "If my theory of people establishing and supporting meaningful priorities holds up, the 1975 results will not be disappointing despite the probability that at least three-quarters of the year will be characterized as a period of real recession," he concluded.

The complete record for benevolence funds in 1974, and comparison with a year ago, shows:

World Service — \$21,685,453, up 2.62 per cent; World Missions Advance Specials — \$7,361,446, up 20.82 per cent; National Missions Advance Specials —

\$1,820,753, up 9.53 per cent; UMCOR — \$2,738,228, up 57.02 per cent; One Great Hour of Sharing — \$1,346,502, up 29.25 per cent; World Communion — \$908,370, up 7.07 per cent; World Service Specials — \$66,689, up 2.51 per cent, and Temporary General Aid — \$1,033,860, down 3.86 per cent.

Black College Fund — \$4,518,440, up 12.61 per cent; Ministerial Education — \$5,793,545, up 6.01 per cent; Human Relations Day — \$473,836, down 11.8 per cent; Student Day — \$224,745, down 9.32 per cent; Youth Service Fund — \$305,948, down 11.37 per cent; Bishops' Appeal — \$1,715,165, new this year, and Wesley's Chapel — \$160,810, new this year.

The complete report for three administrative funds shows: Episcopal Fund — \$3,048,412, up 3.82 per cent; General Administration — \$1,426,336, down .43 per cent, and Interdenominational Cooperation — \$802,042, up 4.14 per cent.

Council Directors to Local Churches

This year's Jurisdictional Youth Caucus patterned after General Conference

The Jurisdictional Youth Caucus will be held at the Center for Christian Renewal, Oklahoma City, Feb. 28 to Mar. 2. Young people and adult workers with youth from across the South Central Jurisdiction will share in the event. A team of young people and adults known as The Jurisdictional Youth Team planned the program. The Rev. Norman Cobb of Sunray, Tex., acted as the Convener.

The format of this year's program is of special interest. It will be structured on the same plan as General Conference. Each young person attending will be assigned to a committee corresponding to the General Conference, and legislation proposed for General Conference will be studied in the sessions. Issues and proposed programs for 1976 will be live issues for the youth. It goes without

saying that adults who attend will be meaningfully involved also. The discussion promises to be lively.

Ice-breakers usable in youth groups back home are planned to get the participants involved quickly. New forms of worship are included as a part of the program, and this is sure to be innovative in nature. The basic purpose of all of it is to equip the young people and adults for youth ministry in their home church, district and Annual Conference, making possible a better program at home.

The Chairperson of each CCYM, Conference Council On Youth Ministry, will have an opportunity to share with the total group that which is happening in the Annual Conference back home. This period always gets the attention of participants.

A multi-media presentation will be included on this year's agenda, and again, we are assured of an innovative session. The latest materials for youth ministry will be available.

The third world people will be given an opportunity for discussion among themselves. They will be seeking ways by which they can minister to their people in a more effective way.

And, it is not all business. You can be sure that social time will be a part of the program.

Announcement has not been made as to the extent of time devoted to Youth Service Fund, but it will be included on the agenda. The projects supported by Youth Service Fund will be discussed.

Cost per person will be \$20 for registration, room, and meals. Transportation and expenditures for personal needs will be extra.

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.

Feb. 16—SundayMatt. 4:5-10
Feb. 17Gen. 3:1-5
Feb. 18Psalm 42:1-11
Feb. 19I Cor. 3:18-23
Feb. 20I Cor. 5:6-11
Feb. 21I Tim. 6:6-10
Feb. 22John 10:1-5
Feb. 23—SundayMark 8:31-35

MRS. ALPHA KEELEY

Mrs. Alpha Keeley, aged 89, of Prescott died Thursday, Jan. 30th. Mrs. Keeley, a United Methodist, was born at Lonoke. She was the mother of Dr. Virgil Keeley, superintendent of the Pine Bluff District.

Other survivors include two other sons, Harry Keeley of Prescott, and F. Wayne Keeley of Delaware; a daughter, Mrs. Conrad Stell of Texas; three brothers, Luther and Homer Fuller, both of Prescott, and Clifford Fuller of Pine Bluff; a sister, Mrs. Edith Seals of California, ten grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at First United Methodist Church in Prescott, with burial at DeAnn Cemetery.

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by Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Jones and Don
CHARLES TAYLOR III
by Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Jones and Don
ROBERT E. SHRIDER
by His family
by Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Adams
MRS. MOLLIE PHELPS
by Ray and Betty Tribble
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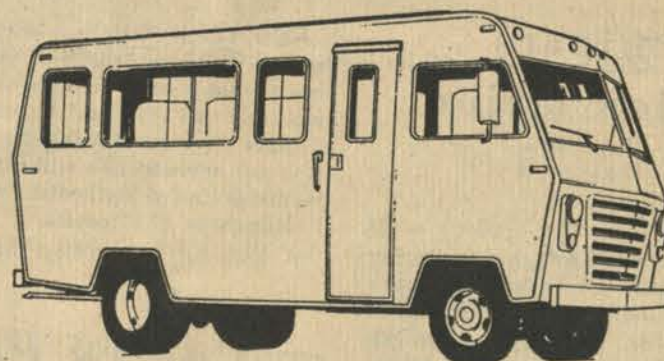
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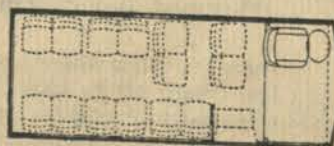
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UMY Sub-District, United Methodist Church, Lonoke
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Markham United Methodist Church
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Odds and Ends Class, Markham U.M.C., Little Rock
Mr. & Mrs. Joe H. Roussel
WAC-Vets, Chapter # 34
Dr. D. A. Poindexter
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International Students of College of the Ozarks

Some of the international students who participated in the opening night of the Churchwide School of Christian Mission at First Church. Left to right, Siri Widthisingchai, Thailand; Khalid Shaikh, Pakistan; Kourosh Bagheri, Iran; Jun Inoue, Japan; Assefa Egziabher, Ethiopia; Haidar Zareaie, Iran; Keniche Otsuji, Japan, and Keiko Seto, Japan.

International Night opens churchwide mission study

International students from the College of the Ozarks were entertained at a potluck supper on the opening night of a churchwide mission study at First Church, Clarksville. The students, of varying ethnical backgrounds were for the most part attired in their native dress, and presented a program of songs and dances representing their own cultures.

Solos were sung by Charles Battiest, an American Indian, Cordella Donaldson from Jamaica, Khalid Shaid from Pakistan, and Kay Bagsby (Miss College of the Ozarks), and Keiko Seto from Japan. Siri Widthisingchai from Thailand, with three young ladies from Clarksville, performed in a Japanese Parasol dance as Otsuji and Jun Inoue of Japan sang. Other entertainment included a Jamaican work song and dance led by Cordella Donaldson, who carried a typically heavy load on her head.

On display, encircling Fellowship Hall, were treasures from faraway places including Europe, the Southwest Pacific, Holland, Korea, Germany, Mexico, Africa, Spain, and India.

UM Seminars to review major issues of '75

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — If you're coming to Washington this spring to learn about government processes and issues, you'd better get your name in quickly. Even with new and larger facilities and staff here, the spring schedule is near capacity for the United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs.

Perhaps appropriately, it was a Native American youth/young adult group from Oklahoma that got to "break in" the new seminar room in the United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill. With a capacity of 90 persons, the first-floor room was completed in January, the climax of several months of office moving and remodeling in the building.

Already some 40 seminars from across the nation are under way or scheduled for the first half of 1975, sometimes at a capacity three per week. The schedule shows that most groups are repeaters and most go also to New York for the international portion of the seminars.

The emphasis for the groups is on learning, according to Don Hancock, seminar designer. Rather than scatter-shot the subject matter, each group selects one or two issues on which to focus, along with learning the processes involved. Religious, governmental and other organization leaders are brought in to share their experience.

What's in the news appears to be the best gauge of the subjects selected. Last year they were Watergate and the energy crisis. For 1975 the leaders are world food issues, energy, political reform, foreign policy and the Third World, Native American issues.

NEW YORK (UMC) — Most national leaders in Africa "south of the Sahara owe a great debt to the church for their education and training," but the effects of some "serious mistakes" made by early-day missionaries still exist, in the opinion of United Methodist Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa of Rhodesia.

Writing for Interpretive Services of

the Board of Global Ministries, the bishop, one of the best-known African church leaders, said that these errors included the missionaries' regarding as evil many African customs such as innocent tribal dances and the use of instruments such as drums; believing Africans did not know anything about God; tending to "make the newly-con-

verted into their own image" through the use of non-African names; and practicing paternalism. "Father knows best" was their problem," Bishop Muzorewa says, and "even to this day the most retarding factor against the growth of the church is this very attitude."

'Errors' made in Africa, bishop says

Poetry Panorama

by BARBARA MULKEY

The need for "introspection," by nation, church and individual, has been resounded lately as a call to arms by leadership at all levels. The poet, too, sounds the drum roll for a soul searching.

Winged Appointment

There is a place where I must go
And I dare not be late.
And I must fly to reach that spot
Where we all congregate.
We have a common interest here
And each participates,
And if we're far away or near,
We always keep our date.

If winter snow is on the ground
Or if the spring breeze blows
Our host and benefactor is
Reliable we know.
For as we take a bird's-eye view
To catalog our needs,
He comes to give to us our share
Of once-a-day bird seeds.

—by Mattie Lee Kelly
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Just Try

You say your heart is broken and the world just does not care.
That's true!

That life is passing by you and you can't get anywhere.
Few do!

Have you talked to God about it? Have you bent your knees in prayer?
Just try!

You will feel His arms around you; you will feel His tender care.
You'll cry!

Then go out and help another, everybody needs a smile.
They're sad!

Even you can share a cheery word. Joy is not out of style.
Be glad!

For God knows all about it; He understands your loss.
He cares!
He gave His Son to die for you out on a cruel cross.
'Mid stares!

So do not think about yourself, lift another's load.
Give love!
And some day God will take you to live in His abode.
Above!

—by Dona Carpenter
Texarkana, Tex.