

North Arkansas COM offers priorities for '76, asks 'reconsideration' of Pastoral Care office

In a session designed primarily to suggest program priorities for 1976, the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries (COM) found itself concerned almost as much with matters of "unfinished business."

Meeting in an all-day session March 13 at Headquarters Building, Little Rock, the more than 40 members of the Council:

- Set 13 proposed program priorities for 1976;
- Approved a formula to add additional lay members of the Annual Conference;
- Voted a plan to provide "résumés" of lay persons seeking election to General and Jurisdictional Conferences;
- Voted to ask the 1975 session of the Annual Conference to "reconsider its action" which had approved, at the 1974 session, the establishment of an Office of Pastoral Care and Counseling; and
- Heard a lengthy debate on the nature of reports contained in the Conference Journal.

Program Priorities Proposed For 1976

The Council approved 13 program priorities for submission to the June 2-5, 1975 session of the Annual Conference. These would become the basis for program building for 1976.

The first five were designated as "top priorities": world hunger; the New Life Mission program; innovative ministries; support and encouragement of women clergy and interpretation of their role; and the implementation of the proposed new Conference structure and education concerning it.

The remaining eight priorities were recruiting of black clergy and laity; development of small churches and awareness of need for new churches; coaching conferences on "the teachings of the church;" leadership development; development of Camp Nawake; continuing education for pastors and laity; "Persons in Mission" international teams; and education and enlistment for missions.

The Council named an Editorial Committee of five persons to perfect the wording of the priorities.

In another action the Council fulfilled a directive of the 1974 Annual Conference session that "the COM determine the number of additional lay persons to be named to the Annual Conference."

The Council adopted a formula that would divide the number (59 — based on Conference membership) equally among the seven districts and grant one additional delegate to each of the three largest districts. The plan will give eight new members to each district with the Conway, Fort Smith and Fayetteville Districts each entitled to one additional delegate.

On Election Of Lay Delegates To General, Jurisdictional Conferences

In a matter bringing extended debate, the newly-formed Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women proposed that "the COM prepare a list of names of possible candidates for lay

delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conferences and print résumés for the same."

It was pointed out that the Board of Laity had discussed the plan with the intention that the names would come to the Council from the districts, in order that "lay people might get to know lay people."

In response to the statement that "if one résumé were printed for one lay person, one should be printed for every lay person of the Conference," the Rev. Waymon Hollis, a member of the Commission, said the intent of the plan was that "every person who wanted to submit a name would have that chance."

Mrs. Mary E. Jesson, chairperson of the Commission, said the group's main concern was "a way to have a more educated electorate."

Conference Lay Leader Henry Rainwater said "I see a danger in this, though I am in sympathy with the resolution.

(Continued on page ten)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, March 27, 1975

94th Year, No. 13



The Cross — Central In Our Christian Faith

The Chrismon Cross in the sanctuary of First Church, Stuttgart, fashioned from rough-hewn wood, receives final touches as Chrismon monograms representing symbols used by early Christians as identification are placed. Shown (standing): the Rev. Jack A. Wilson, pastor, Mrs. Henry Dudrick, Mrs. Robert Knoll, and Mrs. Paul Jones, and Mrs. Fred Bueker (seated at foot of cross). The cross was crafted by Don McPherson and Harry Ives of First Church.

'Arkansas Methodist' circulation up 72 per cent, budget 7 per cent

Since implementation last January of the new plan of distribution of the **Arkansas Methodist**, circulation of the paper has increased from 17,448 to 29,200 with the current issue — an increase of 11,752.

It is expected that when all lists have been received and processed, circulation will exceed 30,000. At that figure the gain would represent a 72 per cent increase over the figure for the last issue of December, 1974.

The increase has been accomplished with an accompanying budget increase of seven per cent over the expenditures of 1974. The paper's budget for 1975 is \$101,851.

The new plan, adopted at the 1974 regular session of the North Arkansas Conference and at the Nov. 1, 1974 special session of the Little Rock Conference, provides for support of the paper to be apportioned to the local churches. The amount of \$45,000 each was accepted for this purpose by both conferences.

The plan provides for the paper to be sent to all church officials, shut-in members, and all other local church members "who request it." Individual subscriptions, unrelated to a local church on the plan, are \$4 per year.

Of a total of 423 pastoral charges in the state, circulation lists have been received from 384, leaving 39 charges from which lists have yet to be received — 28 in the Little Rock Conference and 11 in the North Arkansas Conference.

Because of the large number of new subscriptions and the late arrival of lists, the adding of new receiver lists is running about six weeks behind. New addresses are added by the manual cutting of address labels on the one machine available for this purpose. The

paper expresses regrets for the delay encountered and asks the patience of those who have not as yet received their paper.

The paper is currently spending approximately \$30 per month in added postal charges for address corrections due to inaccurate addresses being sent with the new lists. All pastors yet to submit lists are urged to be accurate and complete with address information.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The paper is currently spending approximately \$30 per month in added postal fees for address corrections. Much of this is due to incomplete or inaccurate information sent with the new lists. We urge pastors as they send addresses to make certain that address information is complete and correct, giving street number, or box number, or apartment number, or rural route number, or Post Office Box number and zip code — whatever is necessary for an accurate address.

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please advise us two weeks before you move. Attach the address label from your paper to a postcard, or enclose in an envelope, add your new address, including zip code, and mail card to us at:

Arkansas Methodist
P. O. Drawer 3547
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Your help in these matters will greatly assist our staff and will save the church's money.

Thank you,
—the editor

Government agencies 'aim at teaching youngsters to drink,'

TANE leader charges

Arkansas lowest in alcoholic beverage consumption, CCFA director reports

"The Christian principle (of abstinence from alcoholic beverages) is a must! That is where I would start. But there are a lot of people who are not paying any attention to the preachers and the churches of our nation. And there are even denominations who are weakening their stand. And so something must be done . . . This is why we must offer the general public solid and valid reasons for abstinence other than those based just on Christian principles."

The speaker is Dr. R. R. Holton of Dallas, executive director of Texas Alcohol Narcotics Education, Inc. (TANE), keynote speaker at the 16th Annual Board Meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. (CCFA). The March 17 meeting, held at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock, was attended by more than 70 persons.

Noting that his statement "could easily be misunderstood," the Texas leader, a Southern Baptist minister, emphasized "I am not saying at all that we ought to be ashamed of the Christian principles. I think we ought to shout them from every housetop." But, he said, several factors indicated that society needed "solid and valid reasons" for abstinence other than those offered by the church.

He referred to a report of four years ago indicating that 73 per cent of students in U.S. high schools "were drinking in some form or fashion," and that another study of last year revealed this percentage had increased to 91. He said the percentage was greater than consumption by the adult population, which he reported presently at "about 70 per cent."

Referring to what he called "something so frightening I can hardly talk about it without getting emotional," Holton pointed to what he called government efforts designed "to promote moderate, responsible drinking" as opposed to the abstinence efforts of many church groups.

He quoted a statement by the governor of North Carolina that "there are two difficult decisions to be made in our country. One, that we can enjoy responsible drinking — that we can learn how to drink; or two, that we can abstain from alcoholic beverages."

Holton reported a further statement by a Mrs. Sanchez, a special assistant to the director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, as saying "We consider this teenage drinking pattern a national problem. We are going to clear out some gross misconceptions. We are definitely not advocating abstinence. We are not a temperance group. We are trying to promote moderate, responsible drinking."

To this Holton said "Now I'm going to say to you that from the very highest sources in our country — the federal government through all of our state governments and our county governments and our city governments — all the resources that can be mustered, all of the tax monies that we get in our country, will be aimed at teaching youngsters how to drink!" He said

"unless those of us who believe that this is unacceptable . . . are willing to stand up and be counted, we are going to see an even worse condition than we have today."

CCFA Executive Director Reports

The Rev. Edward W. Harris, CCFA executive director, said in his annual report to the Board that "Arkansas is 50th among the states of the U.S. in alcoholic consumption per capita per drinking age person." He said the state's average "is 1.52 gallons per year" while "the national average is 2.63."

Mr. Harris said the statistics "pointed to the importance of local option elections" and reported that four such elections had been held during the November, 1974 general elections. Each was initiated by the wets and all four attempts to vote dry areas wet failed.

He reported the results of the four elections as follows: Columbia County, "more than two to one to remain dry"; Stone County, "three times the margin (in favor of dry forces) of the 1972 election"; Hempstead County, "remained dry by a majority of 790"; and Tyronza Township in Crittenden County "voted to remain dry by a majority of 67."

Mr. Harris pointed out that the Foundation, with a staff of three persons, sought to relate to the more than 1600 churches and one-half million members of the participating denominations, and to 100 public school districts, with its program relating to alcohol, narcotics, gambling and obscene literature. The two Annual Conferences of Arkansas United Methodism participate in and support the Foundation's program, as do the United Methodist Women of the Area.

Mr. Harris reported on his activities as full-time legislative consultant during the special session of the 69th General Assembly in the summer of 1974 and in the current 70th session of that body. He reported he was present "every day of that session (which began Jan. 13) except today (the day of the meeting)."

Speaking of the variety of Christian ministries needed today, Mr. Harris said "none is more difficult than this area of civic righteousness. The test that comes to one's faith is indescribable. The demands upon one's prayer life are unlimited. The abuse one receives is often unexpected. The opportunity for insight into the woes of humanity is staggering. The vision of the need for Christian redemptive fellowship is compelling. The dependence day by day upon the power of the Holy Spirit is complete. The hunger for the coming of the Christ and his kingdom is constant."

A member of the Little Rock Conference, Mr. Harris is completing his third year as executive director of the Foundation. He went to that assignment following his pastorate at Asbury United Methodist Church in Little Rock. At one time a member of the Louisiana Conference, he served six years as superintendent of the Baton Rouge District.

A Tribute And Election Of Officers

During the luncheon meeting the Board paid tribute to Mrs. Beverly B. Williams, office secretary for the



Christian Civic Foundation Board Meeting

Among those giving leadership at the Sixteenth Annual Board Meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation of Ark., Inc., were (from left) the Rev. W. A. Blount, pastor of Sylvan Hills Community Church, vocal soloist; Dr. Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, presented the new officers; Mr. Dale Ward of Little Rock, Board president; Dr. R. R. Holton of Dallas, executive director of Texas Alcohol Narcotics Education, Inc. (TANE), keynote speaker; Bishop Eugene M. Frank, reported for the Personnel Committee; and the Rev. Edward W. Harris, executive director of CCFA. More than 70 persons attended the meet, held March 17 at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock.

Foundation, who in December, 1974 completed her tenth year in that capacity.

Presiding at the session was Board President Mr. Dale Ward of Little Rock. All members of the Executive Committee, each completing one year of service, were reelected to a second year (the maximum term). Among these were United Methodists Mr. Raymond Hillis of Malvern, first vice president, and the Rev. David P. Conyers of Jacksonville, third vice president. Bishop Eugene M. Frank is among United Methodists serving as Executive Committee members-at-large.

Recognized at the meeting as among new members of the Board of Directors were United Methodists the Rev. Don Nolley of Sheridan, the Rev. William A. Cheyne of Ashdown, Mrs. Lucille Nix of Lonoke, the Rev. John Alston of DeQueen, and Dr. Charles Richards of Camden.

Among special guests recognized were Dr. Clyde Coulter, a director of the former Temperance League of Arkansas, Dr. William E. Brown, first executive director of the CCFA, Mrs. Gladys Nelsen, president of the Arkansas chapter of the WCTU, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop and Mrs. Aubrey G. Walton, and Mr. Brooks Griffith, of the staff of Governor David Pryor.

Arthur West retires; Bishop Frank pays tribute

Bishop Eugene M. Frank was the speaker at a recent dinner honoring Dr. Arthur West of Dayton, Ohio, upon his retirement as associate executive secretary of the Division of Public Media of the Joint Committee on Communications (JCC).

The dinner event, a "Celebration of the Ministry of Arthur and Vera West," was held during the March 11-12 semi-annual meeting of the Commission at Atlanta, Ga. The tribute was in honor of

DR. KEN McINTOSH, Field Representative in the Education and Cultivation Division of the Board of Global Ministries, Dallas, Tex., spoke to members of Central Avenue and First Churches of Batesville for a joint mission study on Wednesday evening, March 12 in First Church.

Dr. West's 30 years of service in church-related communications work.

Recalling the history of the former Commission on Public Relations and Methodist Information, of which Dr. West was the top staff executive and of which Bishop Frank was for 12 years president, the bishop recalled that "a great denomination needed a news agency that would be trusted and honored by the secular press and not be seen as a self-serving public relations tool."

Bishop Frank said "the integrity of good journalism and honest reporting will, in the end, be the best public relations" for the church.

It was announced at the dinner that the JCC had established annual "Arthur West Awards" for excellence in writing news about religion.

Jurisdictional emphasis on evangelism launched

The College of Bishops and the Council on Ministries of the South Central Jurisdiction has announced details of a two-year emphasis on evangelism within the eight-state Jurisdiction.

The call, perfected by the Jurisdiction's Task Force on Membership Recruitment and Training, notes that the invitation is "to every annual conference and every local church of the Jurisdiction to become sensitized to the needs of persons and to the challenge of our Lord." It states that the program is "an emphasis on membership recruitment and training, but more than that (is) a 'caring' for God's Children."

"The concern is that we shall not seek people out in general and artificial ways but in responding to Jesus' charge (to) 'take care of my sheep,' persons will come to know the real meaning of God's

love and all of us will come to a new experience of Christian discipleship. For our task is not to make decisions, but disciples."

The emphasis calls for an exchange of evangelism program formats used by local churches, districts and annual conferences, an emphasis on evangelism at the Jurisdictional Conference of 1976, and "that 1976 will be a year when every local church will be involved in new and special ways of seeking people . . . and enlisting them in the fellowship of Christian believers and 'taking care of the sheep.'"

As a part of the emphasis the task force, chaired by Bishop Finis A. Crutchfield of the Louisiana Area, is preparing a series of seven articles on evangelism.

From the Bottom of the Heart

Awaiting the dawn of the third day

Easter: God's 'Yes!' to his creation

As does no other single event, Easter demonstrates the significance of the mystical element in life.

It isn't so much that the resurrection is an event which defies scientific documentation — that we can't "prove it." Easter's "mystical significance" is, rather, seen in the fact that it gathers humanities' deepest yearnings — its most profound longings, its ultimate stirrings of soul — and speaks to them with a triumphant proclamation of victory.

Easter is God's "Yes!" to his own venture. It is his "yes" to humanities' most "human," most exciting, most adventuresome quests.

Easter is the ultimate sign and symbol of victory. It is the victory of victories. By taking humanities' last enemy — death — and dramatically demonstrating that even its apparent victory, its seeming final sting is "swallowed up," it proclaims that all things are finally under the dominion of God.

To say that something is mystical, as we have said about Easter, suggests to some that it has no practical significance or "use." But on the contrary, Easter's message is the most practical, most "useable," as well as the most vital of all messages.

Its gift of faith sustained, of promises fulfilled, of hope renewed is an experience verified by life. And no reality is more vital, more timely, or more relevant to the whole human scene than is Easter's.

Easter reminds us that though we have been given the freedom to will our own death (by our sin, selfishness, shortsightedness, foolishness, etc., etc.), God's purposes have not been defeated. And it shows us that God indeed holds the power to give life, and then give new life, and then to give it again and again — even when death has apparently won its victories.

Easter tells us that when life's Good Fridays seem to have won the day, the full story has yet to be told. We have only to await the dawn of the third day.

†

Better informed electors of lay delegates — a good idea

If whatever else they've got up their sleeve is as significant as their first offering, the recently organized (Feb. 22) North Arkansas Conference Commission on the Role and Status of Women promises to attract attention whenever it speaks.

It was that Commission which presented to the recent meeting of their Conference's Council on Ministries (COM) the proposal concerning a method for better informed elections of lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference (see story on page one).

The proposal, which had also been discussed by the Conference's Board of Laity, received a lengthy and sometimes warm debate before it was adopted. That fact is good, pointing as it does to both the uncertainties as well as the advantages of the plan.

The procedure calls for the COM to "prepare a list of names of possible candidates for Lay Delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conference and print résumés for same." Any and every lay person who meets the qualifications is eligible to submit résumés. The COM will detail those qualifications and the plan in an article soon to be printed in the *Arkansas Methodist*.

As was acknowledged in the debate, the plan was not proposed because past elections have not produced good and qualified delegates, for they have. Its motivation and intent is to give a broader, better informed choice to the lay electorate.

When all that is now understood about the plan is considered, it seems to us that it is a good one. While there may be some dangers in any such procedure, they seem not as great as the absence of any specific way at all of informing voters on the qualifications of potential delegates to these important 1976 conferences.

†

Off the Top of the Head

House Mouse

Snowball came to our house last week and according to our fifth grader we were supposed to feel honored by the visit. There's got to be a word for what we felt, but somehow "honored" just doesn't seem to be that word. For, you see, Snowball is a mouse. Yep — m-o-u-s-e.

It seems the favor is part of the elementary school's program to let representatives of their Science Department spend weekends with their student's

families — sort of a Rent-a-Rodent plan, you might say. We get the rodent by paying the rent of feeding it 'til school begins the next Monday — which at the time seemed about two weeks away. Hot dog.

Our Chuck assured us that the mouse had passed the physical from the Dairy Department (what the Dairy Dept. has to with mice I didn't understand), that he — or she — "had all of his (her) shots," etc., etc., and that "the school was really lucky to get the best mice around."

All of that, naturally, made us feel a lot better. After all, if you've got to have a mouse around it's nice to have the best.

(There's enough material in this experience for two installments, but if it's just the same with you I'd like to get it over with in one week. So bear with me a bit longer.)

Our son's good friend, Greg, got the bring another mouse (Fluffy) to his house for the same weekend-guest arrangement. And either the two boys or the two mice (mouses?) got together on plans for the two (or four) to sleep over at Greg's house on Friday night. If they had to get together, my wife and I weren't too broken up over it that it got to be at Greg's house.

We heard a full report on the good time had by all, but what I remember most was that part when the mice spent much of the night down at the foot of the boys' sleeping bags. I've been trying to forget that, but I can't.

I guess I ought to think of some way to thank the school administrators or whomever for this special favor. About the only thing that comes to mind is to let Chuck and Greg spend the weekend at their house sometime. No problems involved, for both boys have had all their shots, etc., etc.

But — come to think of it — that probably wouldn't work. Neither of the boys, as far as I know, has been inspected by the Dairy Dept.

†

Pilots, man your planes or Dobbies on my turn!

Speaking of airplanes — as we were last week — I finally earned my wings. Got checked out just last week in single-engine, gas powered, private aircraft. Quite an experience!

Before getting airborne we had a bit of a problem starting the engine. We tried it first over on the school ground where we had a smooth takeoff strip. But when our fingers got cold twisting the prop, we came back home and took the craft into my study and went to work on it on my desk.

We dismantled the powerful one-cylinder engine (with piston about as big as a pencil eraser), cleaned 'er up and let 'er rip. And did it ever rip that time! Blew papers all over the place and made more noise than has come out of my study since my wife cleaned it up one day and threw away some valuable scribbles.

In case you haven't figured it out, I really didn't fly an honest-to-goodness big airplane. It was one of those little model kind, about ten inches long. But it does have a real gas motor and makes noise like crazy — enough to make you think you're really flying a big one.

There are problems though. Like when your fifth grade son keeps jumping up and down and insisting that he should get to fly it because after all, he yells, it's his birthday present.

All I've got to say is considering the fun I'm having, he's going to need a better reason than that.

†

JSW

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Editor and Business

Manager John S. Workman

Associate Editor Doris Woolard

Editorial Assistant and

Bookkeeper Karen Compton

Office Secretary Kathleen Storey

Circulation Manager Jane Raiford

Poetry Editor Barbara L. Mulkey

Contributing

Editors Alf A. Eason

R. O. Beck

Myers B. Curtis

Arvill C. Brannon

John H. Thompson

Officers — Board of Managers

Chairman Edward G. Matthews

Vice Chairman Charles Casteel

Secretary Kenneth Parker

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Hunger, ethnic minorities, given priority by GCOM in semi-annual meeting

ATLANTA, Ga. (UMC) — "Immediate priority" action on the crises of world hunger and ethnic minority churches was ordered here March 14 by The United Methodist Church's planning and coordinating agency. Plans include the suggestion that each member fast one day per week.

While the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) was unable to agree on an over-all theme for the next quadrennium, it acted speedily to authorize response now to the current crises. This is the first time GCOM has used its new authority for such an effort.

As part of the program, the council approved:

For hunger — Funds resulting from the fasting to go through the UM Committee on Relief; urging the government to authorize immediate massive shipments of food to nations with wide-scale starvation; establishment of a national grain reserve; efforts to change life-styles and food production/distribution to better meet national and world food needs. The Board of Global Ministries has responsibility for coordination.

For ethnic churches — Affirmation of an "immediate crisis in the ethnic churches" in leadership, open itineracy of pastors, inclusiveness and communication; calling of a consultation on the ethnic minority local church (probably next fall) to design policies and strategies to deal with the problems. The Board of Discipleship was named to coordinate.

In other actions of its March 13-15 semi-annual session, the council presided over by Dr. John T. King of Austin, Tex.:

- Accepted an essentially "status quo" report from a committee on location of church agency headquarters.

- Directed a study of general church periodicals (*Today* and others) in view of a "serious" circulation decline.

- Feted Dr. Paul V. Church of Dayton, Ohio, upon his approaching retirement as chief executive, and elected the Rev. Norman E. Dewire to succeed him as general secretary.

- Heard a review of United Methodist participation in major current ecumenical organizations.

Hunger, minority churches, other concerns

The response to the world hunger crisis follows numerous responses by individual bishops and annual conferences. It recognizes the many-faceted reasons for the problem as well as the need for strategies for both short-range and long-range action.

On minority churches, the council's action followed a warning by Dr. Grant Shockley of Candler School of Theology, whose research on this subject GCOM is supporting, that such congregations are in trouble and face continuing declines. He called it both a peril and an opportunity for the church that at least 40 per cent of U.S. blacks belong to no church

and that their media age is 21 compared to whites' 39 years.

In contrast to this quick action, the council debated more than two hours before re-referring to its Section on Planning and Research a proposal for a 1977-80 theme that would have brought together requests for emphases on world hunger, on evangelism and on racial inclusiveness and would have stressed "commitment to Christ" in meeting many "hungers of humankind."

The council's other major debate was over the report of a committee set up jointly by GCOM and the General Council on Finance and Administration to study agency headquarters locations, headed by the Rev. Edsel Ammons of Evanston, Ill. After 2½ years of consideration, it recommended continued decentralization and no changes at present in siting of the several boards in six locations, but development of a policy to govern future assignments with periodic review, taking into account factors of serviceability, economics and denominational history. The argument came over a proposal that "serious consideration be given to moving all or a major portion of the Board of Global Ministries (now in New York City) to a location west of the Mississippi River." Debate concentrated heavily on such a move rather than on continued study of the proposal. The report now goes to Finance and then to the 1976 General Conference.

The Joint Committee on Communications was given responsibility for a study

of church periodicals, in view of the report by Dr. Roger Burgess, editorial director, that the family publication *Today* dropped 28 per cent in circulation in its first year, that the three general periodicals (*Today*, *Today's Ministry* and *Newscope*) anticipate a half-million dollar deficit this year and have used a subsidy of more than \$6 million over the past 18 years.

The council also:

- Considered, but deferred action on, a Council on Youth Ministry proposal for church-wide study of human sexuality.

- Proposed that Heritage Sunday be observed on the Sunday prior to May 25 as a church-wide "special day without offering."

- Heard that 1974 giving for the Advance, mission specials, totaling \$11,920,430, a 25 per cent increase and the highest in the program's 26-year history.

- Affirmed a policy that only meetings under the auspices of official UMC structures can be designated as meetings of the church and "have authority to use the copyrighted symbol" (the cross and flame). It was noted that the name and symbol had recently been used without authority by a charismatic gathering.

The next council meeting will be Dec. 2-5 in Chicago.

Council Directors to Local Churches

More about the Resource System

Last week we talked about the basic resource brochures in the Resource System for Local Church Councils on Ministries. We want to continue the review of this important resource by brief discussions of the individual Guidelines.

Guidelines for Christian Social Concerns

As a work area chairperson of social concerns you will play a vital role in helping your local church decide on its action. You are (1) a communicator, (2) a facilitator, and (3) an administrator. This booklet will help you carry out all three of these important roles.

Guidelines for Ecumenical and Inter-religious Concerns

This booklet provides a major resource for building a worldwide Christian cooperation process in your church. It will help you start with your church's present interests or concerns and move toward a fuller, more comprehensive form of ecumenism.

Guidelines for Education

This booklet includes suggestions for designing the educational program for your local church. It asks questions which should be considered by those responsible for planning and administering local church education.

Guidelines for Evangelism

In this resource you will find helpful suggestions to give your group guidance to "Go and make Disciples." Remember also to pray for guidance and strength for this important task.

Guidelines for Health and Welfare Ministries

These guidelines are prepared to assist your church to examine its role in the midst of human need, to assess its potential for ministry, and to respond wherever possible.

Guidelines for Mission

Since the Board of Global Ministries has specific responsibilities to missions, ecumenical concerns, health and welfare, and the United Methodist Women, you may discover that the major emphases of each of these areas are apt to be reflected in the others as well. As you study this manual which describes your special responsibility, watch for special opportunities to develop cooperative ventures. Remember, our mission as Christians is to all men wherever they may be.

Guidelines for Stewardship

It is highly recommended that the pastor work through this material with the chairperson for a more effective program. This booklet will help you and the other members of your church make stewardship a style of life... as it should be for all Christians.

Guidelines for Worship

This booklet is designed to help you find answers to questions concerning your duties as worship chairperson. You will need to work closely with the minister because of his close relationship to the worship work area.



CAPTAIN WITHERS M. MOORE, a U.S. Navy chaplain and a native of Little Rock, counsels a visitor to his office in London, England. (U.S. Navy Photo by Joe Cote)

Chaplain Moore named Rear Admiral

Navy Chaplain (Captain) Withers M. Moore, a member of the Little Rock Conference, has been selected for promotion to Rear Admiral. The selection has been approved by President Ford. Moore is the son of retired United Methodist minister and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Moore of Little Rock.

Chaplain Moore is currently serving as Fleet Chaplain for U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, on the staff of the Commander in Chief at London.

Moore, 48, was selected from 70 senior captains and is the youngest Navy chaplain ever to be selected for flag rank. The Navy Chaplain Corps has only two chaplains of flag rank.

A veteran of 31 years of naval service, Chaplain Moore has served 22 of those years in the Navy Chaplain Corps. He began his Navy service during World

War II and was commissioned as a Navy line officer at the age of 18. Most of his World War II service was in China.

Following the war he went on inactive duty, attended theological seminary, served as an ordained Methodist minister and returned to active duty as chaplain in June, 1953.

Chaplain Moore has served aboard the cruiser USS Little Rock, as Navy Chaplain Corps Historian in the office of the Chief of Chaplains, and as Staff Chaplain for the Chief of Navy Technical Training at the Naval Air Station, Memphis, at Millington, Tenn.

Chaplain Moore is a graduate of Hendrix College, Southern Methodist University and Yale University. He is married to the former Betty Moore of Little Rock. They have one daughter, Mrs. Catherine Reynolds of El Dorado.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



North Carolina Wesleyan College, due to a sizeable indebtedness and insufficient operational funds, is faced with two alternatives — to close after May commencement or be turned over to the state. The board of trustees has decided to ask the state to take over operations. Dr. Thomas Collins, president, said that the North Carolina Legislature will be asked, should it agree to operate Wesleyan, to retain the present administration, staff and faculty for one year.

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The Synagogue Council of America, which includes leaders of the three branches of Judaism in the U.S., has issued a policy statement in the American Jewish community stating: "In the face of a rising wave of national isolation and self-interest, we must affirm the interdependence of all mankind and the mutuality of responsibility which alone can prevent future Holocausts." Analyzing the causes of the world food problem, the document concludes that these are symptoms "not of transient crisis but of something deeper and enduring: the approaching end of unlimited economic growth and the developing shift of the world's cardinal objective from growth to survival."

†

Crockford's Clerical Dictionary, the periodic register of the Church of England has issued a blunt warning that Christian leaders may have to speak out against the strong left-wing in British politics. Under the heading, "The Threat of Totalitarianism in British Politics," the writer (described as "a person of distinction" in the Church) says "It can all too easily be forgotten that the class war is a cardinal principle of Marxism and that a growing number of people on the left-wing of politics are dedicated to preaching the class war."

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New President Addresses TCC

AUSTIN — United Methodist Bishop W. McFerrin Stowe of the Central Texas and North Texas Conferences addressed the sixth annual Assembly of Representatives of the Texas Conference of Churches (TCC) in Austin after his election as president-designate. He will succeed Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tschoepe of Dallas as president in 1976. The TCC is the first statewide ecumenical organization to include Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Protestants. (RNS Photo)

Thursday, March 27, 1975



Southern Baptist 'Catholic Watcher'

SAN DIEGO — Dr. C. Brownlow Hastings (left), the official "Catholic watcher" for the Southern Baptists, chats with Archbishop William Baum of Washington, D.C. (center), chairman of the U.S. Bishops' committee on ecumenical and interreligious affairs, and Bishop Leo T. Maher of San Diego, at the National Workshop for Christian Unity in San Diego. Dr. Hastings' work is part of the Southern Baptist Convention's interfaith witness department, which began seven years ago to inform Baptists of world religions. "We have two main areas," he explains. "One to inform Baptists of the beliefs of the world religions and the other serving as a catalyst to get Baptists in contact with people of other religions." In his study of Catholicism he has recently completed three months at Catholic University and Georgetown University, both in Washington, and he attends as many Catholic conferences as possible. (RNS Photo)

Charles Colson, convicted in the Watergate cover-up and released from prison in February, will speak on the topic "A New Man in Jesus Christ," at the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in Miami Beach in June.

†

Christianity Today, a prominent evangelical journal, suggests in a recent editorial that the appointment of a Buddhist clergyman to serve as chaplain for the California State Senate "should help to disabuse those who still think that the U.S. is a Christian nation." The writer comments, "We live in a pluralistic society in which freedom of religion is guaranteed and church and state are separate. No particular religion, Christian or non-Christian, is to be singled out as normative or given support by the state."

†

The Governing Board of the National Council of Churches, meeting in Chicago, decided to continue work on the possibility of a major U.S. meeting of Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church and conservative evangelical denominations, for 1977 or later.

†

State Rep. Kent D. Shelhamer, urged the retention of Pennsylvania's "blue laws," prohibiting Sunday merchandising, as he addressed an audience of legislators and representatives of religious and civic organizations at a quadrennial Legislative Field Day program. Rep. Shelhamer said, "We're not anti-business, but we feel there are enough hours in the week to allow every person to buy what he or she needs."

†

Logos Journal, a Pentecostal publication, expects to publish twice monthly a national tabloid newspaper aimed at reporting miraculous occurrences and "the good things happening in the spiritual life of the world."

†

A growing problem has developed at Jerusalem's Wailing Wall, and the two chief rabbis of Israel are divided about its solution. Tufts of grass and weeds and small trees have sprouted in the cracks of the ancient stone wall — the only surviving part of the Jewish Temple destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70. An engineer said the plants place the wall in danger of collapse. The chief Western rabbi maintains that they should remain as a symbol of the destruction of the Temple and Jewry's longing for redemption. The chief Oriental rabbi says they should be removed to preserve the wall.

Bishop Joel D. McDavid of Florida said the greatest contribution the American church can make to India is to help native leaders improve the country's resources. The bishop, accompanied by his wife and representing United Methodism's Council of Bishops, recently spent a month there. He said it was obvious that "continued church support is essential if India is to overcome her vast economic and social problems." "Despite its ancient culture," Bishop McDavid said, "India has been an independent nation for only 28 years and is very nationalistic. India seems to be moving in the right direction, but an entire society cannot be changed overnight."

†

One hundred United Methodist women met at Marydale Center in Erlanger, Ky., to learn how men control church conferences and to speed up the process of ending that control. The meeting was the first of a series of political training workshops aimed at equalizing the influence of men and women. Sponsoring the workshops are the Church Commission on the Status and Role of Women, United Methodist Women and the unofficial Women's Caucus.

†

Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer, internationally known evangelical philosopher, speaking at Willow Grove, Pa., charged that "neo-orthodoxy is being taught under the name of evangelicalism" in many American evangelical seminaries and churches. The Reformed Presbyterian scholar stated that although Christians ought to cherish the heritages of their denominations, "we mustn't allow our denominational distinctives to become a moat separating us from the rest of the children of God."

†

Dr. Grady Cothen, new president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, says "Our basic objective theologically is to stay in the center of our Baptist constituency, meaning that we will not veer sharply to the left or to the right since we believe most Southern Baptists are neither strongly to the left or to the right (in theological beliefs)."

†

Father Patrick O'Neill, O.S.A., who specializes in working with young people and young adults, said in an interview that youths today are no longer concerned with radical social change, but are seeking to associate with "The Establishment," with law and order — a position their prototypes of the 1960s rejected.

News from the churches

THE REV. KELLY JONES, pastor at Hoxie United Methodist Church, is presenting the messages for a Pre-Easter revival March 27, 28, and 29, at the Hoxie Church. The services will begin at 7 p.m.

DR. EARL HUGHES, pastor at Forrest City, is the evangelist for a Holy Week Revival being held at First Church in Trumann, March 23 through the 28th. The Rev. J. Leon Wilson is pastor.

ALTUS United Methodist Church has announced an Easter Sunrise Service which will be followed by a breakfast. Mrs. Melba Conquest, Sunday School superintendent, is in charge of arrangements for the event. The Rev. J. C. Wright is pastor.

THE REV. ALF A. EASON, director of the Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries, will be the speaker for the fifth annual Prayer Breakfast to be held at Highland Church in Little Rock on Saturday, March 29th at 7:30 a.m. The prayer breakfast at Highland had its beginning in 1970, during the ministry of the late Rev. Bryan Stephens, as an event to commemorate the period between Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. The Rev. Louis M. Mulkey is the present pastor.

THE REV. BOB EDWARDS, pastor of Rose City Beacon United Methodist Church, will be the speaker for the Rose City Easter Sunrise Service to be held in Calvary Baptist Church, Rose City, at 6:30 a.m.

THE REV. BOB ORR, pastor at Marked Tree, was the guest evangelist for a revival held at Forrest Hills United Methodist Church in Forrest City March 16-18.

HAHN NGUYEN, a native of Vietnam and a student at Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, was guest speaker for the UMY of First Church, Walnut Ridge on Sunday evening, March 16.

FRIENDS of the late Rev. and Mrs. T. O. Rorie Jr. will be interested to learn that Mrs. Rorie is now making her home with their daughter in Virginia Beach, Va. Correspondence may be addressed to her at 620 Chesapeake Trail, Virginia Beach, Va. 23452.

WORD HAS COME to the **Arkansas Methodist** of the death of the Rev. W. R. Johnson, a retired Lay Minister of the Little Rock Conference. He died in early February at Fort Worth, Texas, where the Johnsons had made their home since retiring in 1967. Brother Johnson served 11 and one-half years as a Supply Pastor in the Little Rock Conference. His last appointment was Twenty-eighth Street Church in Little Rock. Mrs. Johnson is at home at 3155 Cortez Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76116.

THE REV. WILLIAM C. ONSTEAD

The Rev. William C. Onstead, a retired Lay Minister of the Little Rock Conference, died March 6 at Shreveport, La., where he made his home. He was 77, and was a native of Hope, Ark.

Among appointments served in the Little Rock Conference were Kingsland, Hatfield, Winthrop, Washington Circuit, Martin Chapel and Bismarck Circuit.

Burial was at Bismarck, March 8.

THE REV. VERLIN E. MIKESELL, associate pastor of Trinity Church, Little Rock, was a recent pulpit guest at Hunter Memorial Church, Little Rock.

THE REV. JAMES MAJOR, vice president of Hendrix College, was a recent guest speaker at Wades Chapel and First Church, Foreman, where the Rev. Guy Downing is pastor.

PRE-EASTER SERVICES are being held at Hatfield Church in Hope District March 26-28 at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Guy Downing of Foreman is the preacher for the Wednesday evening service, the Rev. Travis Langley of Horatio, the Thursday evening service, and the Rev. John Alston of DeQueen will present the Friday evening message. An Easter Sunrise Service is planned for March 30th according to Pastor Bun Gantz.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT WHITE MEMORIAL

The United Methodist Fellowship, an organization in the Little Rock area, is sponsoring Holy Week services now in progress at White Memorial Church in Little Rock. The theme for the series, being held from March 23-28, is "The Holy Spirit."

Featured speakers include: Sunday, Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, president of Philander Smith College; Monday, the Rev. C. C. Hall, Sweet Home pastor; Tuesday, the Rev. Fred Arnold, pastor at Asbury, Little Rock; Wednesday, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent; Thursday, the Rev. Elijah Morgan, pastor at Mark's Chapel, Pankey, and Friday, the Rev. J. H. Thompson, associate director of the Councils on Ministries of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences.

The combined choirs of St. Paul Church at Maumelle, Mark's Chapel, Wesley Church in Little Rock, Duncan United Methodist, and the host church, will provide music. The Rev. Varnell M. Norman is pastor of the host church. The services begin at 7:30 p.m.

LAY SPEAKERS TRAINING PLANNED IN CAMDEN DISTRICT

Laypersons in Camden District are invited to participate in a Lay Speakers' Training event at First Church, Smackover on April 13 from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., according to an announcement by Dr. Charles W. Richards, district superintendent. Dr. Myron Shofner will lead, assisted by the following staff persons: Jake Whitehead, associate professor at Southern State College, Magnolia, the Rev. John T. Dill, Marysville-Silver Hill pastor, and the Rev. John F. Walker, host pastor. The evening meal will be provided for persons participating.

PART TIME YOUTH CHOIR DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

Lakewood United Methodist Church, Fairway at Topf, North Little Rock, is seeking a part time youth choir director to lead choirs for senior highs and junior highs. If interested contact Dr. Clint Burleson. Telephone 753-6186.



Historic Washington Church Celebrates

The congregation of Washington Church in Hope District held special services on Sunday, March 9 in celebration of that church's long history of service in the area, beginning in 1814. TOP PHOTO: Bishop Eugene M. Frank (second from left) presented the sermon. Others in photo include Mrs. Luvenia Worthey, pianist; Mrs. J. A. Hickerson, soloist; Mr. Hickerson; Mrs. Land; the Rev. John Wesley Rushing, pastor; Mrs. Peggy Mann, and Mrs. F. A. Porterfield. Part of the congregation, which included former members and friends is shown in lower photo.

†

Choir Members Present Memorial Gift

The Rev. Earl B. Carter (left), pastor of First Church, North Little Rock, accepts for the church a new music stand presented by the adult choir as a memorial to the late Mrs. W. J. (Sue) Yoder, a former choir member who recently lost her life in an automobile accident. Making the presentation is Mr. Lloyd Derden. BELOW: Dr. Ashley Coffman of the Hendrix College music department and director of the choir makes use of the new stand as he prepares to direct the choir.



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Stuttgart UMY Honors Pastor, Study Superintendent

United Methodist Youth of First Church, Stuttgart honored their minister, the Rev. Jack Wilson on his birthday, and Mr. Sam Hill, who for the past 18 years has served as Superintendent of Study for their church, with a "gag party."



International
Women's Year
1975

'Talent Bank' created

Women in leadership studied

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — More than 150 women have responded to a Talent Bank established by the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women here, and of these, more than 70 have indicated they might be interested in employment on the general church level.

The bank was established by the commission in order to locate the names and skills of women available for such work and have the information on hand for boards and agencies seeking staff members. The bank does not function as an employment agency, the sponsors stress.

Skills and experience of women who have responded to date include communication arts, alternative schools, management, clinical pastoral education, women's studies, college teaching, parish ministry, international ministry, police dispatching, parenting, book-keeping, editing and migrant ministries. The women are representative of all geographical areas and racial and ethnic groupings, range in age from 20 to 80 or above, and cover a wide educational spectrum, including 22 doctorates.

Of the more than 70 who have indicated an interest in general church employment, 58 have said they would

relocate without restriction, according to Sharon Zimmerman Rader, coordinator of the Talent Bank.

Among the first 135 who responded were 79 ordained ministers and another 16 in the deaconess/home missionary category.

Although the project is concerned primarily with general church employment, there have been some requests seeking women available for annual conference staff or campus ministry positions.

The report notes that at present the Commission on the Status and Role of Women is the only general denomina-

tional agency with women in the top staff position, and only seven women are at the "second level of leadership." To date, it continues, the boards of Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry are the only agencies to establish numerical guidelines for employing women in executive and staff positions.

One of the long-range goals adopted by the bank's sponsoring commission in 1973 was that "by 1976 women (will) fill one-third of the professional staff positions in the United Methodist national boards and agencies."

Churches sponsoring 5-minute program segments

'Women of Faith,' Year-long radio feature

NEW YORK (RNS) — "Women of Faith" throughout American history will be featured in an interdenominationally-sponsored series of radio programs expected to begin this Fall.

The five-minute radio series will continue through the Summer of 1976, spanning the International Women's Year designated by the United Nations and the U.S. Bicentennial.

One of the women whose lives will be featured, will be Mary Dyer, a Quaker martyr who took a strong stand for religious freedom in colonial Boston, knowing that it could lead to her death by hanging.

Others include Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an associate of Susan B. Anthony in the suffrage movement and editor of The Woman's Bible; and Sojourner Truth, an illiterate slave who became an eloquent abolitionist and women's rights speaker of the 19th Century.

"Women of Faith" is one of the most widely-sponsored interdenominational broadcasting ventures to date.

Sponsors of the series include Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal Church, Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern), United Methodist Church, United Presbyterian Church, and Church Women United. Other churches are considering sponsorship.

The series will be available to church and community groups after the programs have been broadcast.

Producers of the "Women of Faith" series said it is designed "to help women discover their heritage, reflect on its meaning for their own lives and build upon it for the future."

The 50-week series "will highlight the lives of women who dared to act on their beliefs and were willing to suffer the dire consequences that sometimes followed."

"The primary audience for the series

is the "person at home during the daytime hours to lift up the role models for women out of a rich history they were not taught at school," the producers said. "Also, to help women achieve a stronger sense of selfhood and a more dynamic faith."

However, the producers stressed that "Women of Faith" is not strictly a "woman's program." They said it is being produced to "provide an interesting new look at history which women and young persons will react to with enthusiasm."

Women's program units of the sponsoring denominations are taking a major role in funding, advising on personalities to be featured and in selecting women across the country who will help to market the program in local areas. Marketing will be done in close cooperation with denominational broadcasting offices.

Scarritt announces Women's Study- Travel Seminar

The Center of Women's Studies at Scarritt College has recently announced its sponsorship of a Travel Study Seminar to Mexico City in June-July, 1975. This seminar is designed to celebrate International Women's Year and is also sponsored by The Tennessee Conference Commission on Status and Role of Women, The Tennessee Conference Executive Committee, United Methodist Women, The Middle Tennessee Steering Committee for the International Women's Year 1975 and Church Women United, Nashville Executive Committee.

Beginning with an orientation at Scarritt on June 18, 1975, the whole experience is designed to help women from the church in the U.S. to experience the issues confronting women in Latin America and throughout the world. Those participating will be encouraged to share their experience with other women in their home communities.

Leadership for the seminar will include Louise Weeks, Dean of the Center of Women Studies at Scarritt and Marian Derby, staff member CIDAL, Cuernavaca, Mexico. Two other women from the U.S. will be included in the leadership.

The cost of this travel seminar is \$550. This includes transportation from Nashville to Mexico City, housing, some sightseeing and baggage handling. Meals and personal expenses are not included. Interested women should contact Louise Weeks at Scarritt College, Center of Women's Studies, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

DR. WILLIAM SISTRUNK, professor of horticulture at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, was the featured speaker for the March 19 meeting of United Methodist Men at Central Church, Fayetteville. Dr. Sistrunk showed slides of his recent trip to Gambia, Africa and spoke on "United Nations' Program in Developing Countries."

Christian Personhood Weekend

for
United Methodist Women of Little Rock Conference

at Ferncliff Camp, April 12-13

FOR: Local Church chairpersons of Christian Personhood and one other local woman

LOCATION: Ferncliff Camp, Ferndale, Ark. 15 miles west of University Avenue, Little Rock

REGISTRATION: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12

Theme: "One in Spirit"

Pre-registration required
Deadline April 1

REGISTRATION

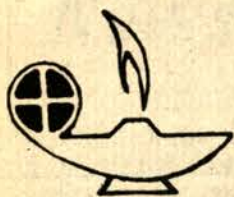
Name _____
Address _____
Church _____

Send to: Mrs. Louis Fish
6600 Tulip Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72209

BRING: Bible, inspirational materials, notebook, pen, walking shoes, flashlight, sheets, pillow, blanket, towel

COST: \$10.50 per person
Includes meals, lodging, insurance

Lucille Nix,
Conference UMW President



The Sunday School Lesson for April 6

by SARAH GALLOWAY

God's Glory in Creation

Scripture: Psalms 104. Selected verses: 104: 1-4, 24-34; Devotional Reading: Psalms 95:1-7.

Orientation: Concluding the study of Hebrews (unit 1 of the third quarter) with its five affirmations of faith should have equipped us anew, with some fresh solidarity in the surety of our General Theme of "The Living God Seeks Man." With the April 6th lesson, we begin eight studies on "Great Old Testament Themes," dealing with some existent life needs.

The manner and method of God speaking to man 2500 years ago, continues today — certainly in new and different ways — as he moves to recreate and redeem all of his handiwork. These eight lessons take us through May. Three of them are based on the Psalms, dealing with the glories of creation; the other five with various facets of God's continuing presence with man. The studies in Psalms lend themselves beautifully to the use of some of the very wonderful audio-visual resources available.

Expectations of this lesson: That we will explore — in some depth again — the mysteries of our universe, reflecting on the glory of God's creation, and the power and love with which he brought it into being. At the same time we will be praising him in worship.

Looking at the scripture: The unknown writer of Psalm 104 is singing a hymn of praise as he opens his prayer that all his being — his very soul — will bless the Lord, his God who is very great. He plunges right into a delineation of God's majesty in his creation of all nature, stretching out the heavens like a tent, enumerating the many glories and wonders of his handiwork — the manifold works of his creative power — the waters, the clouds, the stars, the wind, the light, mountains, the seas, the oceans, fire, the trees, tender grass, and the moon. At the same time he is suggesting laws of order and formulae for their function for beauty, for beast and for man.

Continuing in verse 30, he is reiterating God's ownership and loving care for what he has made, and called "good," as he "sends his spirit and new life to replenish all the living of the earth." The Psalm closes with a doxology of thanksgiving and praise, vowing to continue as long as he has breath. In some manner, he seems to be expatiating on the first verse of Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof." The author is not making nature a God to be worshiped. The Genesis account of the creation, has God rejoicing in his handiwork, saying it was "good" and that he was "pleased." The Psalmist is rejoicing in an outcry of praise — not to nature — but to the creator of nature.

He no doubt was standing in awe, and great wonder at the magnitude and splendor with which he was surrounded, causing him to burst forth in such depth of soul.

Memory verse: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom thou hast made them all (Psalm 104:24).

In the class: When we leave our class session today and go into the sanctuary to join in the morning worship, we will join with the congregation in an affirmation of faith in the Apostle's Creed, as we say together, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven

and earth." What will be taking place for us, will be adding our voices to that of the author of this Psalm. Let us do so with the same degree of exultation of his heart and soul!

This might be just the right time to examine our senses (if we have not done so lately) for possible insensitivity, dullness, and lack of appreciation and interest in nature about us — the forests, flowers, rocks, streams, birds, fish and even the minute and obscure — such as grains of sand, mustard seeds and bits of moss and fern.

Cultivating a Sense of Awe

And above all, are we educating our children's senses in the laboratory of life, for seeing, feeling, hearing and sensing the sounds, beauties and interests of nature's objects? Awhile ago a young bride visiting in my yard was amazed to see that a stalk of corn started from a grain of corn. Is our generation creating small universes with mystery and awe left out?

When this happens, people find it easy to deny the faiths and formulas their finite minds do not understand either in a science lab or on a spacecraft, or both. It is the hope of the writer of this lesson that with a better comprehension of the vastness, glory and beauty of the earth, it would overwhelm us, thereby extracting us from the small webs we have woven for ourselves.

We know very little about spider-dom, but with the coming of each spring-summer season, a spider — the same one or his off-spring — weaves a giant web of delicate artistry, just outside an entrance door to our house just under a flood light, tying it to the light and a holly shrub below. It is a thing of rare beauty as the light comes on at dark, especially after dew is present. Year after year this takes place, but we notice that with each new web there is greater width and breadth than the last. We wonder, if for him there is value in the larger web, or is it his nature to enlarge his universe?

With the outdoor education, the camping and ecology programs and studies (such as some at Aldersgate) and the splendid documentaries on TV, there is a growing awareness and interest in the secrets of nature. With the likes of Joe Poe in Little Rock, who with Mrs. Poe, often sits through hours of darkness on the crag of a precipitous mountain waiting for a rare flower bud to open so their camera can photograph it; or Bob Bearden of Conway who with knapsack slung over shoulder struggles a foot at a time up Pinnacle mountain for the sheer joy of the overview round about — there, are souls blessing the Lord!

This writer has often wondered how stork showers for an expected baby ever got started. It might be trite to use such an analogy, but it is plausible to think of our heavenly Father getting ready for his children, "preparing a place" for us, a habitat of rare beauty and substance? Granted, it would be some stork shower! But that's not all. Think of the other bodies in the stellar system — the great galaxy of heavenly bodies!

Ecological Stewardship Taken Seriously

We must conclude that all this is God's domain, and as children of his planet earth, he let's us do the housekeeping. In fact, he glorified our stewardship when he committed to

our care his priceless holdings. If God corrects evil and wrongdoing through and by man, he also trusts us to be good gardeners — to cultivate, care for and protect his treasured handiwork, remembering there are others to pass this way.

We might even do something about the "beer can" culture that surrounds us, and plant dogwoods, instead. Why not try some beautiful craft work based on these Psalms lessons, some of you creative souls. Make some of those beautiful wall hangings of burlap super-imposed with some of the creation ideas that express or indicate your feeling for his creation.

Try some of these: awe amazement, wonder, splendor, beauty, resplendent, creation glory, meditation, mystery, majesty, hymn of praise; in addition to these ideas you might try some creation objects — clouds, stars, the sun, the mighty ocean, flaming fire, winds, and flower. Such joy!

Included here is a suggestion that your class might like, to help your Church observe Rural Life Sunday, which is the fifth Sunday after Easter — May 4th, along with a short rogation or prayer service it was my privilege to write for use in Pride Valley Church a year or so ago — or you might use it as a class worship.

Rogation Service

"The Beauty Of The Earth"

LEADER: In the beginning God created: the heavens, the earth, the darkness, the light; the dry land, the seas; the moon and stars, and the sun.

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

LEADER: Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees, bearing fruit in which is their seed. And out of the ground, the Lord made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food."

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

LEADER: The Lord created the beasts of the fields, and the birds of the air.

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

LEADER: Then the Lord God created man and his mate and placed them in the beautiful garden of Eden and gave them dominion over it, and all His Creation. Therefore, we are not only stewards of His Creation, but gardeners of the earth.

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

LEADER: Thank you, Lord, for the giant oak, the stately pine, the elegant elm, the hickory, the ash, the dogwood, the redbud, the walnut, the laurel, the buckeye, the hawthorne, the cypress, the black gum, the sassafras, the maple, the sarvis berry, the elder, and all the galaxy of glorious forests about us.

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

LEADER: Of his handiwork, also, are the flowers of the fields, and tropics; the ferns of the hills and marshes and the masses of the cool damp glades.

PEOPLE: I wish that our people really loved beauty!

PRAYER-IN-UNISON — or to be sung — 35 Methodist Hymnal
"For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies; Lord of all, to thee, we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise."

For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and trees and flowers, sun and moon, and stars of light; Lord of all, to thee we raise our hymn of grateful praise. Amen.

Conclusion: The responsible "answering back" to God for his gifts and goodness is love. Many elements in nature provide for us a bulwark of recovery and redemption: Mark's gospel, 6:31 invites, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place and rest awhile." From the Interpreters Bible: "It is not enough to say that religion is what a man does with his solitude; but religion without solitude will not avail." Calling man to his best worship, is one of creation's great ministries.

Arkansas Methodist

From Our Readers . . .

ANSWER TO ATTENDANCE SLUMP: SERIOUS BIBLE STUDY

To the Editor:

. . . I read with interest the recent article on Sunday School attendance across the country, and have to admit that these statistics tell us of a serious problem in nearly all churches. It's a tragedy, because this is where we have our greatest opportunity to learn something about our Christian faith and heritage.

I've taught Sunday (Church) School on the adult level for years (off and on), and many times have been sorely disappointed with the prepared lessons that are recommended for study. Oftentimes they've been "sermonettes" that draw from isolated Bible verses that are many times taken out of context. There has been a lack of continuity, and frequently even the teacher finds it difficult to get across the message that was intended.

Not so with the newest adult series on "The Living Bible." It is a refreshing change, and one that adults particularly have been waiting for. It is surprising to find how many lifelong church members have never really had the opportunity for an in-depth systematic study of the complete Bible; and it has worked wonders with our class.

We began this three-year course in September of 1973, with 17 adults present. In the past 18 months, our class has grown to average over 60 each Sunday, with a high of 68 . . .

Needless to say, as a teacher it has been the greatest challenge I have ever had — and a wonderful experience. Together we are searching as lay people should for a deeper meaning to the message of the Bible; and in so doing, we have already found a mirror for life situations that each of us face today.

I can't help but believe that this is the answer to some of our attendance problems, particularly on the adult level (but perhaps also for our young people as well) — serious Bible study that offers continuity of thought and really brings the Bible "to life".

Bob Cheyne
Bella Vista, Ark. 72712
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LAST WEEK AFRICA, THIS WEEK IRELAND NEXT WEEK — WHO KNOWS?

To the Editor:

It may surprise you to get a letter from as far away as Ireland but I have heard of the magazine you edit from a friend in your country and I write you to know if you could send me some copies. I am interested in such publications as they let me know what is happening in other churches in different parts of the world, and I feel that I have much to learn that would be for the good of my own ministry.

Indeed, if you feel able to put my name on your mailing list for a time, I can assure you that I will be very pleased . . .

Another of my interests is studying how ministers . . . are presenting the Christian gospel . . . I hear that in your land many churches print or duplicate their ministers' sermons . . . If you know of any in your area doing this perhaps you could kindly let me have their names and addresses so that I could contact them for some copies.

I serve two small Presbyterian Churches in a rural area, where never much exciting happens. Work is very pleasant in spite of various problems and pressures and the people are quietly loyal.

Thanking you in anticipation of a reply. Hoping I am not giving you any trouble.

(The Rev.) William McKinney, B.A.
342 Glenshane Road
Claudy
Londonderry BT47 4HP.
N. Ireland

EDITOR'S NOTE: Are there any churches which duplicate their pastor's sermons which would wish to communicate directly with Mr. McKinney?
†

'CARE' CAN HELP THE STARVING

To the Editor:

I wish you would please use this article in your paper.

The organization CARE is asking Americans to skip a meal a week and

send the money to CARE.

A total of 10,000 people are dropping dead a day of starvation, in other countries. That is the size of a community of a small town.

Everyone in America is real worried about the inflation and energy crisis, it could get a lot worse, and I believe it will unless people wake up to their starving neighbors. We as a majority, are a God-fearing nation. It is one of God's commandments "Love Thy Neighbor As Thyself." A lot of people in America are letting their neighbors in this world starve to death every day.

Perhaps you are one who gives to charities every once in awhile and feel you have done your Christian duty. . . . God has been good to this country. I believe because we always stood ready and willing to help our fellow countries and fellow man and did so. I've heard people say why is it we in the United States are the only ones who give, and other countries do nothing. Is this the right attitude?

We already have our own warning of the food shortage, soaring prices, and the energy crisis. I can't solve world problems of energy, inflation, and food, and I don't know of anyone who has the answers to them, do you?

The President of this country doesn't have the answers. The conference the President called of some of the most intelligent men of the United States did not find the solutions. I don't think we can look to ourselves to solve these problems. They belong to the Lord and Jesus.

In Luke 6:38 Jesus said "Give and it shall be given unto you." Further, Jesus said in Matthew 10:8, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

It's something you could do that would be constructive and the Lord, will see your good work if it's weekly, as a really sincere effort to love your neighbor as you should. . . .

The address to send to is — CARE, World Hunger Fund, New York, N.Y. 10016. The CARE organization is feeding 20 million persons a day. Thank you for your attention.

Barbara Rupp
Mexico, Mo.
†

A THANK YOU

To the Editor:

I want to express my appreciation through your paper to Sarah Galloway for the interesting interpretations of the Sunday School lessons. I think they are the best we have had.

Thank you too for letting us have a woman's viewpoint and suggestions.

Mrs. Edna Mahle
811 S. Lowe
Stuttgart, Ark. 72160
†

CONCERNED

To the Editor:

I work for a lady that is a member of the Methodist Church that receives a copy of your **Arkansas Methodist**. I am not a Methodist but am concerned about what I read in the **Arkansas Methodist** concerning the ordaining of homosexuals to the ministry.

In Paul's writings to the Corinthians he warned against such matters as this: I Cor. 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor 'effeminate,' nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

The **Grossett Webster Dictionary** defines the word effeminate as womanish, weak, delicate, and unmanly. You say you do not condone this practice. Paul didn't either! Paul told the people to abandon these practices and not to sit down to bread with such. Now if Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ, which he was, and carried the teachings of him, how can anyone condone any such practice?

My opinion may not be much but it does come from the teaching of the New Testament which was given to us as a guide to salvation. I don't condone the practice either and think someone should take a firm stand against it along with the other common but major decisions that are placed on the leaders of churches with little regard to the offense. Some will take to the decision as long as it is the word of the truth and the word of God.

Eugene Burnett
Rt. 3 Box 272
Wynne, Ark. 72396
Member of Church of Christ
†

WHY MOMMIES GET NERVOUS

To the Editor:

Only half of my **Arkansas Methodist** was delivered to me this week (March 13). Really, I expect better service than that — I need page 17. Please send it to me by air-mail special delivery. I have my own reasons for this request and I'm getting more and more nervous over it.

Sue Workman
921 Mitchell St.
Conway, Ark. 72032

EDITOR'S NOTE: What my Mommy has reference to is my hard-hitting, no-holds-barred full disclosure (issue of March 13) of my most embarrassing situation, the account of which was continued from page 3 to page 17 of that issue — which latter page she (somehow) failed to receive. So, Mom, for your benefit we are reprinting the whole thing on page 13 of last week's paper.

Fasting not enough, farmers say

Church should focus on self-help programs

WAVERLY, Iowa (RNS) — A consultation of farmers on world hunger said here that U.S. farmers are willing to help feed the needy but that the added costs of producing excess food must be borne by all citizens.

The consultation, convened here by The American Lutheran Church and Wartburg College, was attended by 130 farmers from 13 states and a number of church leaders, specialists in agriculture, and college students.

While advocating gradual changes in American eating habits, the farmers were critical of the current emphasis being placed on fasting and eliminating meat as a means of alleviating the world hunger crisis.

"We believe fasting is useful for raising a consciousness of hunger among many and may help us to identify in a modest way with the hungry," the consultation said in a statement. "But we question whether any saving in food actually gets to hungry people as a result

of fasting — it is certainly not an automatic transfer.

"We would stress that fasting is saving in order to allow giving. The second step of sharing money for overseas aid and support to self-help development programs is essential if the 'faster' is to affect more than his own self-awareness."

The consultation cited the need for world food reserves for "insurance against disasters and famine, and for the chronically hungry in early stages of a nation's development."

Farmers urged the curbing of energy and fertilizer use for non-agricultural purposes, reducing consumption of grain-based alcoholic beverages and developing food packaging methods which are "less demanding of products made from petroleum and paper."

Church agencies and government were urged to "give major attention, except in time of emergency needs, to self-help development approaches rather

than to direct relief."

The consultation said farmers are willing to continue present production levels if there is opportunity for a fair return on their investment and assurance that the cost of providing excess food for others will be shared by all U.S. citizens.

United Methodist Named To CWS Directorate

CHICAGO (RNS) — The Rev. Paul McCleary, a United Methodist World Division executive, is the new director of Church World Service, the relief agency of the National Council of Churches. The 44-year-old former missionary in Bolivia succeeds James McCracken as head of Church World Service, a \$25 million annual program supported by Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

United Nations undergoing critical reassessment

United Methodist leader urges U.S. to leave U.N.

A widely-known Methodist clergyman and teacher, who has served on numerous committees of the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, has urged that the United States leave the United Nations.

Dr. Franklin H. Littell, professor of religion at Temple University, who admits he had strongly supported the UN since its founding, says that he has reached "the painful conviction that the UN Assembly now resembles a thoughtless mob and no longer conducts its affairs as a reasoned or rational body."

Dr. Littell expresses his views in an editorial in a recent issue of the *CCI Notebook*, a newsletter published by Christians Concerned for Israel, an organization of some 7000 members in the United States, Europe, Canada, South Africa and Australia. Dr. Littell is president of the organization.

"The recent diplomatic assault on Israel in the United Nations and UNESCO," the editorial reads, "reminds us of how few governments there are in the world that have any concept whatever of the dignity and integrity and liberty of the human person, or any idea that governments are finally answerable to the informed will of the governed."

Dr. Littell notes that "the Communist bloc and the

Arab League bloc and their fellow travelers among the new nations put together an overwhelming vote to make a small gang of terrorists (12,000 members at high tide) the spokesmen for millions of 'Palestinian' Arabs."

"The most cruel aspect of the action was betraying some 375,000 loyal Arab citizens of Israel to the lowest elements of a romantic myth: 'the Arab nation' . . . thinking to kill Israel, they have in fact killed the United Nations."

Dr. Littell then asks, "Why should the United States remain a member of the United Nations, which so shamelessly betrays the terms of its own Charter, which so grossly imitates a lynch mob rather than a rational and responsible assembly?"

He notes that the governments which set up the assault on Israel, "voted to welcome Yasir Arafat into their club publicly, as they have been financing and arming him secretly for years, because his is the political style they understand and he would run their kind of government."

The public action was taken now, "because they feel certain that by using oil as a weapon and by acting while America is badly damaged internally they can strangle or mute any protest."

"Unless the present course of appeasement is rapidly

reversed, there is a logical time for the United States to terminate its membership in the United Nations: July 4, 1976," Dr. Littell said.

"Is it not time to disassociate ourselves from 'representatives' whose chief characteristics are the encouragement of terrorism, the subversion of justice and the repression of all movements toward popular sovereignty?"

"Why should we, in the Bicentennial season, hesitate to make clear that we abhor dictatorships, feudal despots and would-be dictators; that we still regard with contempt those regimes that suspend legislatures, obstruct the administration of justice, survive by terrorism and repression, render the military independent of and superior to the civil arm and are deaf to the claims of justice?"

Dr. Littell is an internationally-known scholar and churchman, who publishes widely in his special fields of interest — American religious history, radical Reformation and Jewish-Christian relations. He is the founder and chairman of the International Scholars Conference on the Church Struggle and the Holocaust and is a former president of Iowa Wesleyan College.

†

North Arkansas COM

(Continued from page one)

I'm not opposing it; I just want to know where we are." He said "we've done a pretty good job in the past in selecting people; I just see dangers in the proposed system."

Dr. Stanley Reed, lay man from Batesville, said he favored the plan because he "felt that in order to have any voice as a layman," you had to "go to one spot and get your business and stay there for 20 or 30 years before, as a layman, you can be heard in the Methodist Church — ordinarily." He said he felt the measure would give a "more broad-based, enlightened representation."

Conway District Lay Leader Jim Lane said he favored the proposal but suggested it be done in a way that would better insure "every Methodist layman in the Conference the right to make nominations or send resumes." He suggested the possibility of utilizing the *Arkansas Methodist* rather than the Board of Laity or the Commission or the COM.

Saying that though he did "not question the pure motives" of the Commission, the Rev. Charles Ramsay said the measure would "open the door to the possibility of really violating the democratic processes" by "using Conference money and Conference staff." He said

the program was "getting on the edge of the possibility of manipulation."

Hollis, who presented the proposal, said "if you think this system leaves people out, the one we have now really leaves people out."

Following more discussion the Council voted to approve the proposal.

'Pastoral Care' Office Referred Back To Conference

In another matter involving long discussion the Council voted to "ask the Annual Conference to reconsider its action in the matter of the Office of Pastoral Care and Counseling."

At its 1974 session the Conference voted approval of the establishment of such an office. But pending development of the plan, the office had not been funded.

Implementation of the plan called for a "special meeting of the COM" to deal further with the matter, anticipating possible participation in the program by the Little Rock Conference. That meeting had not been held.

Against the background of a previous report that the Council on Finance and Administration had "already received requests for funds in excess of \$206,000 over against a benevolent apportion-

Non-government organizations state strong U.N. support

Say efforts to undermine 'irresponsible'

NEW YORK (UMC) — Strong but "not uncritical" support of the United Nations has been recorded by representatives of 14 non-governmental religious organizations (NGOs) accredited to the UN. The statement came in response to several current criticisms.

The statement was delivered also to the Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements of the House Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington, by the Rev. Robert McClean, United Methodist Office for the UN executive here and president of the Group of Religious NGOs.

While calling most of the recent annual assembly's accomplishments positive, the statement showed dismay at

the "disappointingly little progress" in disarmament, human rights, religious intolerance and terrorism and for citing only Chile and not other countries for "abhorrent violations" of human rights.

Among the criticism to which the group reacted was that of the "automatic majorities" of the developing world, pointing out that "this frequent majority acts with great diversity" and that 52 per cent of the assembly's resolutions were adopted by consensus or unanimous votes, including those of the U.S.

The statement voiced the NGOs' recognition of "the coming to power of the new forces in the world . . . and their emerging claims to justice," of "the trend toward economic justice" and of the risks of "actions which reduce the universality of membership in the UN."

Noting that "The UN system is constantly evolving, responsive to changing needs and is becoming a more effective center for harmonizing the conflicting interests of its member states," the group urged that "the UN be supported, but not uncritically, and strengthened as a means of realizing the aspirations of the people of the world for justice and peace. It asserted "efforts directed toward undermining the UN would be irresponsible."

†

"Hi" and "Lo"



AREN'T YOU WEARING
YOUR HALO
HIGHER THAN USUAL,
HI?

YES, LO. THAT'S TO INDICATE
MY PRIDE IN THE PEOPLE
WHO ACTUALLY GAVE
TO CHARITY
THE AMOUNT THAT THEY
CLAIMED IN THEIR
INCOME TAX EXEMPTION.



ALNWA

AUDIO-VISUAL AID FOR PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Recently received in the Conference Audiovisual Library is the WORK-KIT FOR THE PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE. It is designed as a Guidance resource for the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee to help this Committee work more effectively as a committee, face the issues of the different expectations of people about the church and the pastor's role, build an agenda that covers comprehensively the responsibilities of the committee, and begin to learn how to deal more creatively with controversy.

To book this resource write: Methodist Film Library, 715 Center, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

DELTA SUB-DISTRICT UMYF ANNOUNCES FUTURE EVENTS

Delta Sub-district youth in the Monticello area announce a series of events including a District Retreat to be held April 18-19. The Friday evening program is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m., and will continue through Saturday. New officers will be elected. (We suggest that youth seek more complete information from their youth directors or pastors.)

In a meeting to be held at McGehee at 1:30 p.m. on May 4th, a constitution will be drawn up.

The next regular Delta Sub-district meeting will be in the form of a picnic on the beach at the Mississippi River near the Bunge Corporation on May 25th from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Each group is requested to take their own food. First Church, McGehee youth will provide the entertainment and Dumas youth will present the devotional program.

Thirty-seven youth attended a March 17 sub-district meeting held at Dumas.

THE GRAND PRAIRIE Sub-district UMYF met at Mt. Zion Church with 62 attending the March 9 event. Lonoke won the banner with 18 present. The next meeting will be held on April 13 at the Carlisle Church.



New UMM Officers Take Over At St. John's

Shown are Charles Adkins, treasurer; Oscar Hicks, program chairman; Louis Garr, chaplain; Richard Krajewski, vice president; James Abbott, past-president, and John Williams, president. The organization of United Methodist Men was entertained at a recent monthly dinner meeting by the Reveille Singers. Plans are underway for a Fishing Tournament, scheduled for April 19, according to the Rev. David D. Scroggin, pastor of the Van Buren Church.

Traskwood Refurbishes Sanctuary

Demonstrating their faith in the future, Traskwood United Methodists have recently renovated their sanctuary with new carpets, vinyl floorcovering, and paneling. Love offerings and memorial gifts made the project possible. Mr. E. A. Still is board chairman; the Rev. Ed McCulloch is pastor.

Florida Conference shows substantial membership gain

LAKELAND, Fla. (Fla. UMI) — Bucking a national trend of declining church membership, The United Methodist Church's Florida Conference registered a net increase of 3,025 members in 1974.

Seven of the 12 districts reported gains to help advance the Conference's total membership to 324,141 according to the Rev. D. G. Diefenwirth, statistician.

Numerically, Florida is the third largest among the church's 70 Annual Conferences in the United States, surpassed only by the West Ohio and the Virginia conferences.

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.

Mar. 30—Sunday	Col. 3:1-4
Mar. 31	Luke 24:30-35
Apr. 1	John 20:24-29
Apr. 2	Micah 7:7-10
Apr. 3	Ezek. 37:3-6
Apr. 4	Rev. 1:4-8
Apr. 5	Jer. 31:10-14
Apr. 6—Sunday	John 20:19-23

MRS. MONA FAYE CALEF

Mrs. Mona Faye Calef of Waldron died March 4. She was 81.

She is survived by her husband, Warner M. Calef of Waldron; one sister, Mrs. Frank Moore of Oskaloosa, Ia.; three sons, Louis F. Matthew of Albany, Minn., John W. Matthew of Anaheim, Calif., and the Rev. Carl V. Matthew of Little Rock, associate pastor of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church; one daughter, Mrs. Robert Southard of Battle Mountain, Nev.; and 12 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held March 7 at Square Rock United Methodist Church with the Rev. George J. Kleeb officiating. Burial was at Square Rock Cemetery.

For
COLDS
take 666



METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

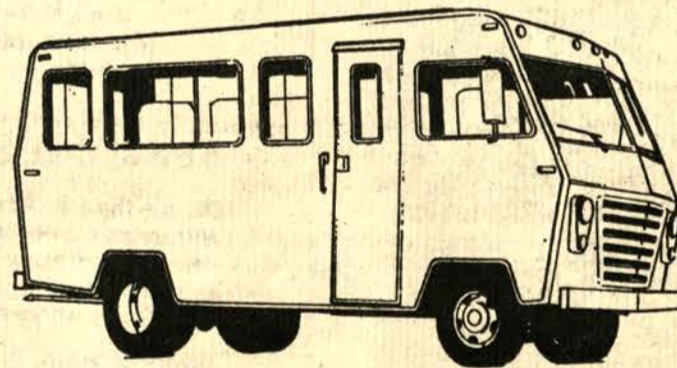
The following people gave memorial gifts to the Methodist Children's Home in February as tribute of their love, sympathy, and respect of a loved one or friend. A memorial card has been sent to the family in notifying them of this remembrance.

ELBERT SEVIER ATCHLEY
by Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Royer
by Mr. & Mrs. A. L. McKinney
RAY ARNOLD
by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Baumgardner
by Miss Lucy Doris Patterson
by Mrs. Fred Loe
MRS. WILLIE ATKINSON
by Mr. & Mrs. Bill D. Self
W. R. ATKINS
by Mr. & Mrs. G. R. (Dick) Mosley
MRS. DON (Sherry) BRATTON
by Markham United Methodist Women
c/o Mrs. Joe Roussel
by Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Mowrey
by Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Heron
by Mrs. Anna Ahning
WILL BATTY
by Miss Mary Florence Scabey
MARCEL BOURGAIN
by Mr. & Mrs. Ed Horton
by Mr. & Mrs. G. R. (Dick) Mosley
BOSCOE BLAGG
by Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Norton
by Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Chamberlin
by Mrs. W. E. Leek
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Dante
REV. FRANCIS A. BUDDIN
by Dr. Elmer L. Davis
by the John W. Rushings
by Jean Gordon
by Miss Annette Wood
by Rev. & Mrs. Harold Sadler
WILLIAM BOOTH
by Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Powell
by Miss Irma Steinbach
MISS LOUISE BOZONE
by Mrs. Scott Christie
MISS MILDRED CONE
by Edith Robinson
MRS. C. W. CATHEY
by Mrs. Vera E. Payne
by Mr. & Mrs. Ed Horton
MRS. ELDON CURETON
by Mrs. Small Morgan
MRS. CARTER
by Mrs. Small Morgan

MRS. PEARL CATHEY
by Mr. & Mrs. G. R. (Dick) Mosley
by Claude Langley Family
MRS. MARY PATTERSON COLEMAN
by Mrs. Margie Coker
ROBERT I. CAMPBELL
by Mr. & Mrs. Dan McBride
MRS. VERNON COULTER
by Mr. & Mrs. Howard E. Maxwell
MRS. LUCILLE DURLY
by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Mates
by Mrs. Marvin Carson
by Rev. & Mrs. Gene Ratekin
MRS. GEORGE DURLY
by Mr. & Mrs. Garvis Pollard
LUCRETIA E. DAVIS
by Mrs. Thomas H. Foake, Merle,
Tommy, Chuck, Harriet & Nona
by Mrs. Lelah Pirtle
PAUL DICKERSON
by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Baumgardner
BENNY PARK (Butch) ELDRIDGE
by Felix S. Bunch
by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Haaty
LAUREL ENOCH
by Mrs. Mabel Nelson, Shelton,
and Janis
WALTER B. EVANS
by Mrs. Selma Janes
by Mrs. Annie G. Neuhart
MRS. JOHN ENSMINGER
by Mr. & Mrs. Lute Jones &
Luellen Sam Bowman
G. L. FRANKS
by J. Marion & Reba Newman
by Mr. & Mrs. Zebe Perry
TOMMY FALLIS
by J. P. & Kathy Jo Walt
MRS. ANNIE MARR FLENIKEN
by Dr. Herbert M. Alston
MRS. OLLIE KEITH GIBBS
by Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Abbott
ANJO TEMPLE GALLOWAY
by Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Hoffman
MRS. MARGARET GARRETT
by Rev. & Mrs. Gene Ratekin
DAVID GANNAWAY
by Bea & Ernie Ursey
JOHN M. GAY
by Mrs. L. D. Griffin
MRS. LAURA K. GOFF
by Leo O. Grant
HENRY G. GARDNER
by Frank & Dorothy Mann
WILLIAM FRANK GOWER

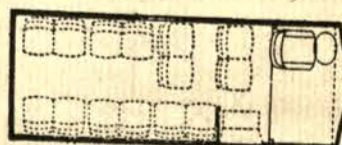
by Mr. & Mrs. J. Partish KODDINS
WALLACE F. HARRIS
by Mrs. Wallace F. Harris
R. C. HICKINGBOTHAM
by Mr. & Mrs. L. L. Jones and
Luellen
by David P. Henry
GARY HALL
by Ruth Hall Phillips
JAMES HALL
by Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Grayson
MRS. FLOLANCE HALIFIELD
by Mrs. S. G. Watson
REV. DEWITT HARBERTSON
by Rev. & Mrs. John W. Rushing
by Fred L. Arnold
EDDIE HILLMAN
by Mr. & Mrs. John P. Phelps
WINNIE HAMILTON
by Mrs. Kelser Seamans
by Mr. & Mrs. H. T. Baber
by Mrs. J. W. Spivey
by Mrs. Jay Nolley
MRS. HUFFMAN
by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Baumgardner
ARTHUR HERRING
by Mr. & Mrs. Howard E. Maxwell
MR. ALSY HAYES
by the John W. Rushings
REV. FRED R. HARRISON
by Rev. & Mrs. W. W. Barron
by Mrs. W. A. Barrow
by Mr. & Mrs. Loyd Rhiddlehoover
by Mr. & Mrs. George D. Cress
by Mrs. Jo Hart Madding
by Rev. & Mrs. John W. Rushings
by Elmer L. Davis
by T. A. Prewitt
by Miss Annette Wood
by Mrs. Marcie C. Buhler
by Rev. & Mrs. Harold Sadler
by Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dennis
by Fred L. Arnold
by Primrose United Methodist Church
REV. JOHN L. HOOVER
by Mr. & Mrs. W. T. Robinson
JIM HALL
by Mr. & Mrs. Simon Capps
MRS. ALICE B. HOPE
by Mrs. Vera E. Payne

(To be continued)



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Little Rock

Easter and the Miracle of Life

by Jesse Moore *

Someone said, "It is winter." I looked around me, sure enough it was so. The trees were bare. Only the wind blew cold and mournfully through their branches. I looked at my yard. Once not long ago it was a vision of loveliness. My rose bushes were bare, their thorny limbs magnified many times in the absence of leaf and blossom.

Where is the beauty, where is the life that unfolded so beautifully last spring in my iris bed? Where are the colors of last summer's petunias? Where are the childlike faces of the pansies? Where is the long-lasting fragrance of the honeysuckle that rode the air for miles last May? Where has the elusive, vagrant odor of the wild plum gone? What has happened to the tantalizing, exquisite sweet scentedness of the gardenia?

Isn't there anything alive? Isn't the breath of life somewhere? Is winter eternal? "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

.....
This morning in my garden I asked God to bless every living thing. But softly a "still small voice" asked, "What is not a living thing?"

Water the essence

I thought of water. It is colorless and inert. Is it alive with life? Then drinking the water, I thought — what is this body that drank the water? Is it not itself mainly water? This water that I drank is now the essence of my blood and tissue. When, then — is water merely water? And when is it the water of life?

I thought of air. It is invisible. But the air leapt up into my nostrils and

became the breath of life to me. The air becomes the red of my blood and in the secret furnace of my cells it becomes the fire of life itself.

I thought of earth, brown and inert. "Ah," I said, "here is something that is not living." I kicked at the clods under my feet and crumbled some in my hands. Behold! the earth under my feet turned green, bringing "forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Leaf, stem, and blossoms appeared and grain and fruit ripened. I took the grain, ground it, made bread of it, and ate the bread. And it became the bread of life to me. I could not, for the life of me, separate that which was me and that which was earth. Not long before I had kicked the clods, now they were the staff of life to me.

'The stones would cry out'

I meditated further — "There must be something surely that is not alive,

that is not living." I thought, "I have it now! Rocks! They are dead. There is no life in them!" Then I remembered something Jesus once said on His triumphant entry into Jerusalem when the Pharisees asked Him to rebuke the disciples for being so noisy: "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." That which speaks and cries out is alive.

Then I caught a wonderful vision of the world, our earth, God's footstool — not as dead and inert, but as living on and on. "Verily, verily I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

At this season of the year — springtime and Eastertime — our hopes of life, of life everlasting, are renewed. We feel and know life eternal, abundant, full, and rich. We are glad to be alive. Walking in the newness of life, it is a thrilling and

rewarding adventure. Living is colorful and romantic. We live with a zest. As we emerge and walk into the dawnlight of a new day in our lives the stone of heavy care is rolled away from our tomb of despair. We literally come to life at Easter and springtime.

Oh, is not life sweet! What if we had never lived! Oh, the richness, the fullness, the abundance and the everlastingness of the Christ life that is ours! Oh, how wonderful, how marvelous, how victorious and how triumphant it is!

Life is everywhere

Life is everywhere. It shouts to me with a thousand voices that I recognize. Morning shouts it with sunshine, birdsongs, and broken clouds bordered with soft light. Sunrise and sunset speak it eloquently in a deep and joyful silence. Noon's brazen mouth of fire shouts it gladly.

Twilight, tiptoeing across the earth at evening, speaks it forth in a still small voice. Spring shouts it with green hallelujahs. The horns of summer blow it across the deep, cool woodlands and the sweet scented meadows. Fall, having gathered all the colors of the summer flowers and rainbows, repeats with sounding joy the song of life from radiant wooded hills. Even winter rumbles and echoes life across the brooding snows. The winds carry it to every nook and corner of the earth.

Yes, the earth — yea, the universe — is simply working with life. Let a shower of rain fall and a desert blooms. Life drifts here and there on every current of air. The depths of the oceans are swarming with life — life everlasting.

Life the eternal stream

The stream of life never ceases to be. It is an eternal outpouring of God. Life may change phases and forms but there is never a least cessation of it.

We marvel at the return of spring, at the hope that Easter gives us, and an indescribable feeling of joy lifts our hearts and minds at every sign of winter's end. Oh, the miracle of spring! One day a tree is cold and bare, the next it is like something out of fairyland.

But more marvelous still than birds singing, flowers blooming, sweet odors drifting lazily about, and golden sunlight is the renewal that takes place in human hearts, minds and lives. This is because of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

He, who gave the birds their songs, the flowers their colors and fragrances, the trees their foliage and fruits, the fields their harvests, and the tomb its emptiness on Easter morning, gives to us, now and forever, life triumphant, life eternal and everlasting, and life victorious.

†

*Mr. Moore, "a writer by hobby," is a resident of Little Rock, living at 4213 West 10th Street. He is retired, having been associated with a paper company for 20 years.

Poetry Panorama

By Barbara Mulkey

Halford Luccock wrote, "Prayer without God is a cold, bleak prayer; the world without God is a cold, bleak world," and he illustrated this idea with a version of the Lord's Prayer written by Lyman Abbott:

"Our Brethren who are on the earth, Hallowed be our name. Our Kingdom come, Our will be done, for there is no heaven. We must get this day our daily bread; We neither forgive nor are forgiven. We fear not temptation, for we deliver ourselves from evil. For ours is the kingdom and the power, for there is no glory and no forever."

It might be added that earth without spring is a cold, bleak earth; and life without Easter is a cold, bleak life.

Beautiful Spring

Oh, for the joy of beautiful spring
With crocus-a-peepin' and birds on the wing.
Hearts overflowing with frivolous mirth
At the sights and the sounds
Of God's wonderful earth.

Slivers of grass, all tender and new
Bedecked and adorned with pearldrops of dew.
Cool north wind — winter's last fling
Yet warmed by the sun . . .

Ah! beautiful spring.

—by Imogene Lewis Harding
Harrison, Ark.

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Easter Is Hope

Good Friday is a day of gloom
Of sadness and great loss
Because our Lord and Savior
Died so cruelly on a cross.

Then Easter comes with joy and hope
And as long as I have breath
I will tell the wondrous Story
That He broke the chains of death!

The wonder of the Miracle
Is that we can do the same
If we follow in His footsteps
And revere His Holy Name!

—by Juanita Steadman
Los Angeles, Calif.

