

# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas. Thursday, November 6, 1975

94th Year, No. 44



## North Arkansas Conference implements structure, approves Retirement Center measure

Meeting Nov. 1 in Special Session, the North Arkansas Annual Conference approved 195 nominees to fill offices in a new organizational structure and narrowly approved a resolution authorizing Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc., to "continue conversations concerning the possible development of an ecumenical retirement center." The newly elected officials will assume office Jan. 1, 1976 and serve, unless otherwise designated, until Dec. 31, 1980, the completion of the next program quadrennium.

Bishop Eugene M. Frank presided at the Saturday meeting, which was attended by approximately 250 persons. Held at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, the meet began at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:40 p.m. Dr. Clint D. Burleson, the host pastor, gave the invocation and Mr. Branch Fields, Lakewood's lay leader, gave the official welcome to conference members and guests. The Special Session had been authorized at the Conference's regular session last June, primarily for the purpose of implementing the new or-

ganizational structure approved at that meeting in Conway.

Other agenda items at the Nov. 1st session included the ordination of six ministers to the order of Deacon (see **Proceedings**, page two), changing of the Conference's Standing Rules to conform to the newly adopted structure, and the election of members of the boards of directors of Wesley Foundations at Arkansas State University, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas, and Arkansas Tech.

### Nominations Are Approved

The session's principal business item, election of persons to offices in the new organizational structure, consumed the major portion of time. To fulfill requirements of the structure, 179 nominations were made by the Nominating Committee and 16 by the Bishop (to the Board of the Ministry).

Bishop Frank called on the Rev. Earl B. Carter, vice chairperson of the Nominating Committee, to preside during the Committee's report. By

order of the newly adopted structure, the Resident Bishop of the Area serves as chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Stating that the Committee had sought to maintain a balance between clergy and laity and to assure equitable representation of women, minorities, and youth and young adults, Mr. Carter identified the 179 nominees by the following categories: 87 lay persons (42 women and 45 men, including nine Blacks and 12 youth and young adults); and 92 clergy persons (three women, 89 men).

In three instances nominations for various offices were made from the floor, but in each case the nominee of the Nominations Committee was elected.

Among officials elected by the Conference were:

**Chairperson, Conference Council on Ministries**, the Rev. Sam Teague; **Conference Lay Leader**, Mr. Bob Cheyne; **Conference Secretary**, the Rev. Dewey Dark; **Conference Statistician**, the Rev. Allan E. Hilliard.

**Conference Coordinators:** **Children**, Mrs. Verna Maxwell; **Youth**, Mrs. Vicki Allen; **Young Adult**, Mrs. Ann Henry; **Adult**, the Rev. Jerry Canada; **Family Life**, the Rev. and Mrs. (Linda) Waymon Hollis; **Camps and Conferences**, the Rev. N. Wayne Clark.

**Chairperson, Council on the Professional Ministry**, the Rev. Jim Beal.

**Chairpersons of Boards:** **Church and Society**, the Rev. Tom Barnett; **Discipleship**, the Rev. William Wilder; **Global Ministries**, Mrs. Nadine Hardin.

**Chairpersons of Commissions:** **Equitable Salaries**, the Rev. Frank Clemmons; **Religion and Race**, Mrs. Euba Winton.

**Chairpersons of Committees:** **Group Insurance**, the Rev. Gail Anderson; **Memoirs**, the Rev. James Barton; **Archives and History**, Dr. James S. Upton;



Presiding At Special Session

Bishop Eugene M. Frank presided at last Saturday's Special Session at which the major agenda items were the election of officials to implement the new organizational structure of the North Arkansas Conference, and matters relating to the proposed Aldersgate Retirement Center.

**Structure**, Mrs. Pat Freemyer; **Policy and Review**, The Rev. Charles Ramsay.

The chairpersons of remaining boards, commissions and committees are to be named by their respective memberships or as otherwise required, and announced at a later time.

### Aldersgate Retirement Center

The Rev. Dewey Dark, chairperson of

(Continued on page two)

## Arkansas Council of Churches to hold 20th Assembly

The Annual Assembly of the Arkansas Council of Churches will be held Tuesday, Nov. 18, at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 North Mississippi, Little Rock. "The American Dream and the Christian Vision" will be the theme of the event, which will mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Council.

Keynote speaker and principal resource person for the Assembly will be the Rev. Eduard N. Loring, pastor of Clifton Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, Ga.

The format for the meet will include caucuses by participating denominations, a worship service, a business session, a review of the Council's 20-year history, and a "reaction panel" composed of representatives of participating churches. The panel will respond to the keynote message and will address issues related to the question "How can local churches participate meaningfully in the Bicentennial Year celebration?"

Mr. Loring, a graduate of Presbyterian College, holds the B.D. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, where he is currently a candidate for the Ph.D. degree. From 1971 to 1975 he was assistant professor of American Religious History and Ethics at that institution and has lectured widely on the American religious experience. He is currently an instructor for "The American Dream, Century III: A Series of Symposia for the Atlanta Community."

Mr. Floyd Sexton of Texarkana, Council president, will preside throughout the session. Co-hosts for the event will be the Rev. J. Gordon Swope, pastor



The Rev. Eduard N. Loring

of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the Rev. Dean Sudman, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Little Rock. The noon meal will be served by the women of the Faith Lutheran congregation.

Plans for the Assembly have been under the direction of the Program Committee, chaired by the Rev. W. T. Keys, pastor of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Hope, and the Rev. Lester M. Bickford, first vice president of the Council, pastor of First Christian Church in Paris.

Registration for the event is scheduled for 9 to 9:30 a.m. The registration fee is \$1 and the price of the noon meal is \$2.50. The Assembly is open to interested persons and those planning to attend are requested to register before Nov. 18 by writing to Arkansas Council of Churches, P.O. Box 6011, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.



New Deacons

Shown with the Rev. N. Wayne Clark (left), secretary of the Board of the Ministry, of the North Arkansas Conference are those ordained to Deacon's Orders at the Conference's Nov. 1 Special Session. From left: (Mr. Clark), the Revs. Paul J. Crossman, Joseph W. Bourgeois, Alfred Eckles, Leroy Craig, Wayne Gould, Russell Bailey.





At The Special Session

Approximately 250 persons attended the Nov. 1 Special Session of the North Arkansas Conference at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock.

## Retirement Center

(Continued from page one)

the Board of Health and Welfare Ministries, presented a resolution from that Board which would authorize Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc., "to continue . . . ecumenical conversations and grant permission to the Board to enter into any agreements and mergers necessary to bring an ecumenical center into being."

The resolution, identical to one passed by the Little Rock Conference at its June, 1975 session, noted that the Retirement Center board had been "in conversation with other denominational groups concerning the possible development of an ecumenical retirement center."

Considerable discussion centered around the resolution, with Conference members expressing concern that insufficient information on the proposal had been provided and that the resolution would in effect "give a blank check" to the Center's board.

Mr. Dark noted that the resolution called for permissive legislation and was not a commitment by the Conference to any specific venture or financial proposal, noting that any such proposals would require approval by the Annual Conference.

Following a lengthy discussion the resolution was approved by a vote of 85 for, 69 against. In his closing remarks to the Conference, Bishop Frank spoke to

the Retirement Center proposal, noting the need for the services that would be rendered by such a facility and stressing the need for a clearer understanding of the entire proposal.

### Membership Gain Noted

In a non-agenda item, a mimeographed report, distributed to Conference members but not spoken to, noted that in the first ten months of the Conference Year a total of 1201 persons had been received by Profession of Faith, representing a net membership gain of 1380.

The report concluded "If we continue to work hard through Dec. 31, we shall reach our goals of 1500 on Profession of Faith and 500 net increase and our membership will stand at its highest point in our history."

In another matter, the Conference noted the untimely death of the Rev. James B. Chandler, in his fifth year as pastor of Huntington Avenue Church, Jonesboro, and instructed its secretary to express the Conference's sympathy to Mrs. Chandler.

Scheduled to adjourn at noon, the Conference voted to extend the session in order to complete its business. Bishop Frank adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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## PROCEEDINGS

**CALL TO ORDER:** The North Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church met in Special Session, Nov. 1, 1975, 10 a.m., at Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, Ark., Bishop Eugene M. Frank, presiding; the Rev. James M. Meadors Jr., secretary.

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"; prayer by the Rev. Clint D. Burleson, host pastor. Welcome by Mr. Branch Fields, Lakewood lay leader.

**BOARD OF MINISTRY:** Wayne Clark, sec. of Board of Ministry, presented Joseph W. Bourgeois for admission as Probationary Member and election to Deacon's Orders. Unanimously approved.

Lay pastors presented for election to Deacon's Orders: Russell Murphy Bailey, Leroy Craig, Paul J. Crossman, Alfred Eckles, Wayne Gould. Elected. All ordained by Bishop Frank, assisted by Wayne Clark, who presented certificates to each.

**SUSPENSION OF RULES:** Floyd Villines moved that rules of the Conference be suspended in order to amend them in accord with new structure adopted at regular session in June, 1975. Carried.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Mimeographed report distributed. The Rev. Earl Carter, vice chairperson of the Committee, presided. Additions to report made where names inadvertently omitted. Report considered office by office and group by group. Adopted. Bishop Frank expressed appreciation to the committee.

**MOTION:** Joel Cooper moved the Conference instruct the Structure Committee to frame a more workable, specific process for handling nominations from the floor. Charles Ramsay objected, saying the procedure had worked well in giving all a chance to nominate from the floor and enabling Conference to make final decisions. Motion approved.

**AMENDMENT:** Motion by Earl Carter that membership of Board of Ministry be 16 persons rather than 14 as stated by Structure Committee report. Adopted. Sixteen persons as nominated by Bishop in consultation with current chairperson of Board of Ministry were elected.

**STANDING RULES:** Robert E. L. Bearden, sec. of Cabinet, offered revisions in Standing Rules. Wayne Jarvis moved that Structure Committee define "major board, committee or commission" (Rule 21). Charles Ramsay moved

## Arkansas projects receive funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. (UMC) — Two United Methodist projects in Arkansas are among 29 across the nation which have received recent grants from the church's Minority Group Self-Determination Fund. The current grants, totaling \$194,382, were approved by the denomination's Commission on Religion and Race.

The Arkansas agencies, in the Education and Day Care category of projects funded, are the Union Grove Community Center in Camden and the St. Paul (Maumelle) Day Care Center, Little Rock. The agencies received grants of \$7000 each. About \$800,000 per year is made available for such grants from the church's World Service fund.

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## Hendrix College Choir Candlelight Carol Service

Greene Chapel, Hendrix campus

Dec. 1 and 2 at 8 p.m., and Dec. 4 at 4:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets are free but must be reserved. For tickets: send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Linda Kinnard, P.O. Box 219, Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. 72032, or to Scott Lewis, P.O. Box 199, Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. 72032.

Please give number of tickets requested along with the date and alternate date you wish to attend.

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that Standing Rule 8 be referred to the Cabinet for determination (concerning Journal listing of changes in boundaries of pastoral charges).

Allan Hilliard moved that Conference Treasurer's books be closed on Jan. 7 (Rule 14). Failed. Robert Cheyne moved that in Rule 6 last phrase be changed to read "within 31 days after the closing of the Conference Treasurer's books." Approved. With Rule 7 deleted, rules as revised were adopted.

**TERMS OF OFFICE:** Marie Jordan moved for Nominating Committee that those elected to Conference positions take office Jan. 1, 1976 and serve through Dec. 31, 1980 "except where otherwise designated." Carried.

**EXTENSION:** Myers Curtis moved extension of session beyond 12 noon to complete agenda. Carried.

**WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARDS:** Wayne Jarvis moved election of Wesley Foundation Boards of Directors, Arkansas State University, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas, Arkansas Tech, as amended. Approved.

**ALDERSGATE RETIREMENT CENTER:** Dewey Dark presented and moved resolution authorizing board of Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc., to continue "ecumenical conversations and grant permission to the Board to enter into any agreements and mergers necessary to bring an ecumenical center into being," etc. Discussion. Carried; 85 for, 69 against.

**NOMINATIONS:** Dewey Dark presented name of Clyde Parsons in place of James Chandler as member of Aldersgate Retirement Center Board.

**COURTESY:** Conference instructed the secretary to express sympathy to Mrs. James Chandler in the untimely death of her husband, the Rev. James R. Chandler, who died of a heart attack on Oct. 18. He was serving in fifth year as pastor of Huntington Avenue Church, Jonesboro.

**COORDINATION THROUGH CCOM:** Earl Carter moved that all councils, committees, etc. coordinate dates of meetings, programs, events, through Conference Council on Ministries office. Approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Earl Carter announced Nominating Committee to meet immediately upon adjournment. William Wilder encouraged purchase of new history on Methodism in Arkansas. Charles P. McDonald reported on placement of Vietnamese refugees, noting goal of 21 had been exceeded; sponsors needed for single young men. Wayne Jarvis announced that General and Jurisdictional Conference delegation to meet upon adjournment.

**CLOSING REMARKS:** Bishop Frank spoke concerning Aldersgate Retirement Center proposal, noting need for services to elderly and need for clarity of understanding of proposal. Closing hymn, "Blest be the Tie"; benediction by Bishop Frank.

## Benton Church announces Preaching Mission

Dr. Glenn Evans, director of Town and Community Evangelism in United Methodist's Board of Discipleship, will be the speaker for a New Life Preaching Mission at First Church, Benton from Sunday, Nov. 9th through Wednesday, Nov. 12th.

Dr. Evans, a Texan by birth, is a member of the Southern California-Arizona Conference. He holds a degree in sociology from the University of Redlands, Calif., and the STB degree from Boston University School of Theology. Union College, Barbourville, Ky., has honored him with the doctor of humane letters degree.

Dr. Evans has served as pastor on an Indian reservation, a missionary to the Hawaiian Islands, and for 13 years as superintendent of Henderson Settlement in the Appalachian region of Kentucky.

His first sermon will be presented at 10:40 a.m. on Sunday, and at 6:30 p.m. he will conduct a closed youth forum. He will preach each evening at 7:30 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday. A 15-minute hymn sing will precede each of the evening services. A daily morning study hour is planned. The Rev. Clint Atchley is pastor at First Church. Visitors are welcome to attend the services.

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## "We Care" Mission at Hamburg

Eight ministers of the Little Rock Conference joined the pastor of First Church, Hamburg, the Rev. Bill Stewart, in a "We Care" Mission, Oct. 21-23, with Dr. Virgil Keeley, Pine Bluff District superintendent, serving as coordinator. Mr. Bill Fuller, youth minister at First Church, Little Rock, directed singing and worked with the youth.

Mr. Vernon Harrison, chairperson for the church's Task Group on Evangelism, led in planning for the mission. Over 100 homes were visited and more than 200 personal contacts were made by the visiting ministers.

Other ministers taking part in the mission were: the Revs. Tom Abney, campus minister at the University of Arkansas at Monticello; Dr. Roy Bagley, pastor of First Church, El Dorado; Allen Bonsall, pastor of Wesley Church, Pine Bluff; Calvin Mitchell, pastor of First Church, Star City; Tom Nation, pastor of Capitol View Church, Little Rock, and Robert Riffin, pastor of First Church, Portland.

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## HOLY SPIRIT CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS

All registrants of the Conference on the Holy Spirit who have requested housing have been assigned accommodations. Those who have asked for rooms in homes will receive their assignments when they register Thursday afternoon. They will not receive this information in the mail.

Camping hook-ups are available at Aldersgate for \$2.00 per night. Campers will have access to rest-rooms but not to water — must bring their own.

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## From the Bottom of the Heart

### Some, hopefully, not-too-flighty thoughts on the Spirit

If a person can think and write about cows while flying from Louisiana to Africa, it would seem that that person ought to be able to meditate upon the Holy Spirit while travelling from Little Rock to Indianapolis. Or, if that's asking a bit much, that person should at least find it easier to think on such lofty thoughts while jetting south, away from Indiana and toward home in Arkansas.

Being that person, and having satisfied, for a spell, my need to write about cows and Africa, and with the United Methodist Conference on the Holy Spirit coming up this weekend in Little Rock, it occurred to me that I need a crash course in meditating on that subject.

So having to attend the annual meeting of the United Methodist Association of Communicators held at Indianapolis last weekend in conjunction with a briefing on General Conference issues, it seemed the travel hours would be a natural time for such exercising of the mind and spirit.

But I must confess, to my embarrassment, that I found it surprisingly difficult to do, no matter in which direction I was travelling. I'm aware that this says a lot more about me than it does about the Spirit, Him/Her\* being willing to leave Arkansas occasionally and go with anyone at any time to any place, just so long as it's a round trip.

But in my efforts, which were not entirely devoid of momentary contacts, several lights were turned on. One, that the Spirit is not Someone who — or some "thing" which — is content to sit still just for folk to meditate upon while engaged in casual or spare time activities. The Spirit will not be "played" as a travel game to pass the time.

It's not that the Spirit won't respond to our searchings and seekings and waitings. It's more that real, honest communion with the Spirit is both a very UNusual and a very usual thing.

I'm sure I already knew this. Or at least I should have known it, especially so soon after what was such an honestly "Spirit-filled" — in one very real sense of that term — venture in Africa. For the Spirit of God is with us all along our way. His/Her presence doesn't require any courting or wooing on our part before coming to fellowship with us, or to nurture us, or to lay His/Her heavy claim upon us. It is necessary, of course, that we make ourselves available, that we become aware; that we "be still and know . . ."

I was tempted, once, while flying high above Indiana and thinking on ultimate things, to steal a glance out the window on the chance I might see the Spirit up there somewhere. I did glance and did glimpse, but what I saw was not the Spirit but a reflection in the window — of someone passing along in the aisle beside me.

That was enough to remind me that the Spirit is not "up there" or "out there somewhere," but is wherever we happen to be — in this case right here on Delta flight number 534, in the No Smoking section, row 12, seat A (and probably in the Smoking section, too). The Spirit of God is everywhere, in every circumstance.

My ruminations also reminded me that just as the Spirit is not content to be the passive objective of our casual meditations, neither is the Spirit willing to be the impersonal object of, or theme for, editorials. Nor will the Spirit settle for being the inactive participant in conferences on or about or in honor of Him/Her. It is always the other way around: we are the Spirit's subjects; He/She is not ours. We are to be at the Spirit's beck and call; not the Spirit at ours.

In spite of the inevitable difficulties in communication which we will encounter along the way, the Spirit of God is the very best of travel companions, whether one is going to Indiana or Africa or home from the office or down the hall in a wheelchair or to school or wherever. We need to travel more closely with such a Guide.

The United Methodist Conference on the Holy Spirit, meeting this week (Nov. 6, 7, 8) at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock, can be a most significant event in the life of the Little Rock Conference, its sponsoring agency. Well-planned and staffed with outstanding leadership, the event can be either a

"conference" which adjourns and is over, or it can be a "conferring" which will continue, far down the way, to bring new life to the Church and to the community.

We can know that the Holy Spirit of God will do His/Her part. Whether the rest of us do ours is an answer each of us will give for ourselves.

*\*I'm using this dual reference not in the flippant manner we sometimes do in our self-conscious efforts to poke fun at the women's movement. Its use is an honest attempt to acknowledge a truth about the nature of God, as well as a sincere effort to correct our insensitive use of the masculine gender in our references to the Deity.*

## Off the Top of the Head

### Prescription medicine

Writing about trips to Africa with cows is, I've learned, a thing you just don't suddenly stop doing. Not, that is, if you want to avoid getting the journalistic bends or something. So, on the advice of my doctor, I am tapering off slowly. With that foreword I offer the following bits and pieces.

### Trick and treat

- Fun things to do while travelling to Africa in an airplane with 140 cows:
- Tell the pilot, at 30,000 feet over the Sahara Desert, that the cows are hungry and thirsty and want to get out and graze awhile.
- Suggest to the crew, as they fly over the Atlantic Ocean, that they should devise a plan — just in case the bad guys try to cut us off at the pass and try to rustle our cattle.
- Tell the Flight Engineer, who's a native of Brooklyn and has seen only one cow before in his whole life, that it's his turn to milk, and hand him a pail and a stool.
- Put on your new Western style hat that Heifer Project friends have given you and pretend you're "Duke" Wayne riding the Chisholm Trail. To do this while flying over the Mediterranean Sea, you have to close your eyes, plug your fingers in your ears, and think real hard.

### Valuable things learned while on trips to Africa

Did you know that in the Southern Hemisphere, when you wash your clothes in the lavatory sink, that the water swirls counterclockwise when it goes down the drain? I'm told that in the Northern Hemisphere it swirls clockwise. But I seldom wash my clothes in lavatory sinks whenever I'm in the Northern Hemisphere, so I wouldn't know about that.

### More valuable things learned

Did you know that an elephant looks scary when you're focusing on him through the lense of your camera and he turns and runs at you? Well, he does. And if you don't believe me, you can ask Charley. And if you don't believe Charley, ask Mary. And if you don't believe Mary, ask Dorothy. If you don't believe Dorothy, ask Al. Al wasn't there, but he saw Dorothy and Mary and Charley and me, and what Al said was "You all looked scared to me!"

Al believes us. You should, too.

## Arkansas Methodist

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### NOTICE TO VISITORS:

#### DANGER - ELEPHANT:

ELEPHANTS ARE WILD ANIMALS AND ARE DANGEROUS. DO NOT TAKE ANY LIBERTIES WHATSOEVER WITH THEM.  
DO NOT MOVE NEAR THEM AND IF THEY COME NEAR YOU, MOVE AWAY.  
NOT TO DO SO COULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.  
THE NATIONAL PARKS' ORDINANCES SPECIFICALLY FORBID LIBERTIES BEING TAKEN WITH WILD ANIMALS. SERIOUS STEPS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ANY PERSON IGNORING THIS WARNING.

Now they tell me.

*John*



## Council Directors to Local Churches

With All Saints' Day behind us, we now turn in the direction of observing Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. If the responsible groups in your church have not already begun planning in detail for their observances, then now is the time. In many churches the Council on Ministries is the group for this. In others the Work Area on Worship will be the group and in others a task force will be the responsible group. Whatever the group, on with the job!

**Thanksgiving** this year is Nov. 27, thus Thanksgiving Sunday is Nov. 23. Many churches have traditional ways and services for observing Thanksgiving. Others are looking for new observances. The Bicentennial theme could easily be developed this year. And, as we hear again the stories of the

### NEW AUDIO-VISUALS

**THE GIFT THAT MULTIPLIES** — Color Filmstrip — 96 Frames, Cassette recording. Adult/Youth version, 20 minutes. Children's version, 15 minutes.

**PURPOSE:** To tell about the work of Heifer Project in helping the hungry help themselves with food-producing animals.

To book, write your Methodist Audio-visual Library, 715 Center, Little Rock, AR 72201.

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## Make Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas observances meaningful

Pilgrims and their struggles to find a place where they might live by their faith, we will be confronted with the issues of their world and begin to see how they relate to our world.

Further, with World Hunger such a burning issue today, we might explore the possibilities of doing more this year than filling a basket for a needy family in our immediate neighborhood.

**Advent 1975 begins Sunday, Nov. 30.** Advent and Christmas are times of surfacing again the recognition that we believe in a God who acts in history to help humankind.

As you plan your observances of Advent, why not check to make sure you have helped clarify the story of how this season came into being. The message of a love so great that those who practice it are ready to suffer needs to be told again and again.

The planning of Advent observances needs to be such that the central faith affirmation will be obvious to all. Further, the meaning of this festival in the world of rapid change and increased suffering needs to be seriously considered.

Plans you make for celebration ought to keep in mind the need for direct communication and not become so complex that they demand increasing time and persons in order to be completed. Simple and clear programs and decorations which are in harmony with ecological awareness are needed. Human to

human response should be our desired goal, not performance of stage personality and audience.

Especially important in the celebration of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas is the use of music. Advent, for example, can be made much more meaningful with the proper use of proper Advent music. And, there are enough people in any given congregation who know enough Advent hymns so that at least one can be used each Sunday in Advent.

Selections such as "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," and "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" can do much to help a congregation (and a pastor!) to grasp the mood of expectation, et cetera, which is most appropriate for this season.

Chrismon Trees, Advent Jesse Trees (see the Interpreter November-December 1975, p. 67) and just plain old Christmas trees in proper perspective add to our celebration. Also, it's not too late to plan a "Hanging of the Greens" for your church. A telling of the story of the Boy Bishop could help children understand Santa Claus in a more Christian perspective.

Oh, yes, old fashioned Caroling Parties are not out of date and are quite proper even during **The Twelve Days of Christmas — Dec. 25 to Jan. 6.**

If you need additional help contact your Council on Ministries or the Rev. Mike Clayton, Little Rock Conference

Council Board of Worship or the Rev. Muriel Peters, North Arkansas Conference Council Board of Worship.

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### Hendrix prof to attend Romanian conference

Robert M. McGill, associate professor of music at Hendrix College, has accepted an invitation by the National Alliance for Arts Education of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to participate in an international arts education conference Oct. 28 through Nov. 11 in Romania.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Alliance for Arts Education and the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation of New York.

Sixty leading arts educators from throughout the United States will participate in this first exchange between Romania and American educators. The participants will visit schools, art clubs, youth organizations and cultural facilities throughout Romania.

McGill has also been named to serve on the advisory board of the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation.

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### Arkansas Methodist

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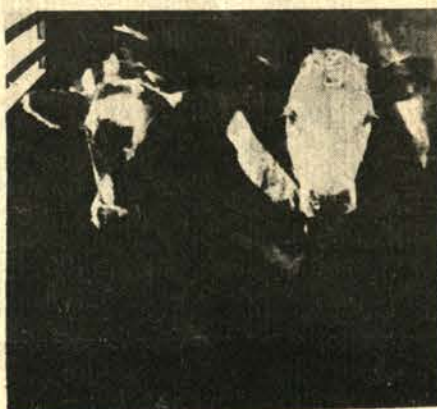
Young people of Marmaduke United Methodist Church who provided funds to help defray expenses of Honduras shipment.

### From Marmaduke to Honduras

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes Triplett of the Marmaduke United Methodist Church were joined by the Rev. and Mrs. L. L. Bounds, pastor and wife, and the Bounds' son Allan, in providing two heifers for shipment to Honduras, through Heifer Project International. Mr. Triplett, a lay leader in the Marmaduke Church, is a former State Representative from Green County.

Young people of the church gave their backing to the project by sending money to Heifer Project International to help defray the expense of shipping the heifers to Honduras.

The Rev. Ben F. Jordan, Paragould District superintendent, accompanied Rev. Bounds on a visit to the Heifer Project International Ranch at Perryville when the two heifers were delivered for processing and shipment.



These two heifers left their Marmaduke home on Oct. 13 to join 46 others at the HPI farm for shipment to Honduras.

## Because of you...



beautiful things happen to children who might otherwise be forgotten.

War, disease, famine. Family problems, divorce, death. A few of the reasons many of the world's children cry themselves to sleep each night — convinced they are forgotten. But beautiful things happen every day to more than a million children around the globe through the United Methodist Child Support Program. While they may be provided home, food, medicine or education, the most beautiful gift they receive is knowing someone cares.

Be that someone by sending your gift today



Please send your gift through your local church, annual conference, or to:

United Methodist Child Support Program Rm. 1439 475 Riverside Dr., New York, N. Y. 10027

The United Methodist Child Support Program is a part of the world wide ministry of the Board of Global Ministries, with all child care institutions approved as Advance Specials.

Apply my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to project checked:

**WORLD DIVISION** ☐ To provide annual \$75 scholarships for children in Sonapat Boy's Hostel, Nur Niwas Girl's Home or Butler Memorial Girl's School, Delhi Conference, India. 006156-S-RB

**NATIONAL DIVISION** ☐ To provide care, education and Christian nurture for neglected children at the McDonnell United Methodist Center, Houma, Louisiana. 550531-6

**UMCOR** ☐ To provide care and education for children from nomadic tribes, including support of an orphanage and youth training center, northern Kenya, Africa. 140530-5

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Church \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_



# NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



A new Gallup Poll survey reveals that 22 per cent of the nation's adult population believe in astrology; 24 per cent read astrology columns daily, and 77 per cent know the "astrology sign" under which they were born. The Oct. 3-6 poll was based on answers by 1,536 adults interviewed in more than 300 localities in the U.S.

Dr. Oliver Q. Hyder, a psychiatrist and medical director of the Christian Counseling and Psychotherapy Center in New York, said in a New York Times report that people are turning to astrology as part of their "religious search." He said that "if they do not find their spiritual need being met by personal faith in Jesus Christ, then they turn to something else." Dr. Hyder described astrology as "self-destructive" and said "it is clear from Deuteronomy 18 that astrology is a sin."

Approximately 2,000 delegates from 50 Christian denominations attended the Continental Congress on the Family held in St. Louis to offset the "increasing deterioration of the family." Sen. Mark O. Hatfield, honorary chairman, challenged the churches to help build new models of "care and concern" that support persons of all ages. He said, "If the church can't build bridges across the generations, how do we expect others to?"

Evangelist Leighton Ford, addressing the weeklong Continental Congress on the Family in St. Louis, said that "many Christian parents think their biggest job is to protect their children," but "that may be the best way to lose them." He said parents must encourage children to ask questions, then help them find Christian answers.

Dr. Mark Lee, president of Simpson College in San Francisco, told the Continental Congress on the Family, "It cannot be doubted that the nuclear family needs help. It seems to be disintegrating before our eyes. We are desperate to do something. The contention here is that singles may have been the objects of even greater neglect than the family. The whole task is before the church," he added.

Dr. William Sloan Coffin, Yale University chaplain, told a "hunger rally" in Duke University Chapel that there are 400 million people on the verge of death because of hunger and that need must be transferred to responsibility. "The basic problem," said Dr. Coffin, "is not that there is not enough food, but the food is over here and the hunger over there." He said "The main problem is feeding people, nutrition, getting the food over there and helping those to help themselves."

David Y. K. Wong, architectural engineer of Hong Kong — and president of the Baptist World Alliance, said following a recent visit to his mainland China homeland, "there is a hunger for God's word in China." Mr. Wong said he was "received warmly" everywhere he went. The BWA president said, "The door will definitely open, but it will be opened from the inside. Let us pray that when that day comes, we will be prepared to respond in creative new ways as God himself leads and directs."

Fifteen directors of the Religious Research Assn. have petitioned the U.S. Census Bureau to include a question on religious affiliation in the 1980 census. They declared that "the work of researchers dealing with religion is greatly handicapped by the absence of reliable data on religion . . ." and "such information would be helpful in general demographic studies and in the development of important social indicators of the quality of life."

Dr. Ernest C. Hynds, journalism professor at the University of Georgia, reporting on a survey of the nation's newspapers, said that while some newspapers have reduced coverage of religion in recent years, others have increased the amount of space they give to religion and have created new staff positions in the field. Dr. Hynds sent a four-page questionnaire to about one-fifth of the nation's 1,750 dailies, chosen at random. Responses came from nearly half of those queried. Dr. Hynds suggested that the trend of using more interpretive stories may spread, and "the amount of space devoted to basic questions such as man's never-ending quest for a confident faith to live by may be substantially increased."

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued a nationwide appeal urging all "serious minded" people of Britain to join a massive campaign to reverse the nation's apparent "drift toward chaos" and disillusionment. Dr. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury, described a 4-point approach which he believed could be taken to solve current problems. These included individual commitment, strengthening of the family, fair and honest work, and the creed: "God first, others next, self last."



## Meditation Period

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Public school students in New Haven remain silent for a minute during a period of meditation. The Connecticut state legislature earlier this year passed a law, which took effect Oct. 1, requiring all public schools in the state to set aside a minute each day for meditation.

Jews, Muslims, and Christians joined in a special prayer service in a Hebrew synagogue in Jerusalem seeking an end to the bloodshed and for "inter-communal" reconciliation in neighboring Lebanon. Prayers were offered in Hebrew and Arabic.

Parishioners of a Roman Catholic parish in Columbus, O. were asked in a full-page advertisement in the church bulletin to turn in their handguns. Father Richard Engle, pastor of St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, said the guns would be taken to a foundry and melted down into crosses to be given to congressmen and other political leaders.

Ruth Bell Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, has been elected the first woman trustee of her alma mater, Wheaton College (Ill.).

Valery Chalidze, co-founder with Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr. Andrei Sakharov of the Moscow Human Rights Committee, and Pavel Litvinov, a grandson of the late Soviet Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov, spoke at the Church Center for the U.N. on the occasion of the publication of the second edition of Sakharov's "My Country and the World." They came to support Dr. Sakharov's call for a general political amnesty in the Soviet Union.

Andrei Tverdokhlebov, co-founder of three human rights groups organized in the Soviet Union and established as affiliates of international organizations, was arrested last April for "anti-Soviet slander." The International League for the Rights of Man, of which the Moscow Committee is a chapter, is reported to have written to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Anatoly Dobrynin, to relay its request for permission to send a legal observer to Tverdokhlebov's upcoming trial. Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski is said to be among those approached for the assignment.

Twenty-two members of a tree-dwelling people in Indonesia have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The new converts, reported to be the first tree dwellers to join the Adventist Church, live in a remote mountain area. An Adventist spokesman said "the unique trait of these people is that they build their homes atop long poles reaching up into the treetops. There seems to be no particular reason for it, except that's the way they've always done it." A chapel has been erected where the tree dwellers can meet for religious services.

## Mobile Passages

ROME — The owner of this car parked a few blocks from St. Peter's Square evidently takes his religion seriously. Scrawled all over it are prayers and quotations from the Bible.



—RNS Photo



# Little Rock

UW

First United Methodist  
Church  
October 9, 1976



**THESE LADIES** were among more than 400 who registered for the Second Annual Meeting of United Methodist Women of the Little Rock Conference on Oct. 11th at First Church, El Dorado.



**MRS. LOUIS FISH**, conference treasurer, led the Pledge Service, assisted by the six district treasurers, each of whom placed a part of the completed symbol which formed the banner seen here.



**THE LITERATURE ROOM** provided a pleasant place to browse during intermission periods. Mrs. Ida Bell Mitchell, conference secretary of Program Resources, had charge of the display.



**MRS. JAMES T. YOUNG** (right), associate treasurer, assisted Mrs. Fish with counting of offering received for World Hunger in the amount of \$422.



**MRS. RUBY LEE JACKSON** (right) of Pine Bluff, a member of the South Central Jurisdiction Core Planning Group, and Mrs. Gladys Icenhower of Texarkana, a member of the conference Committee on Nominations and others engage in serious reflection.



**WORKING** behind the scenes preparing the luncheon were these ladies in the kitchen area.



**SPORTING** "look alike" coverall aprons were these four ladies. The entire kitchen crew wore the red, white and blue attire.



**MRS. HAZEL DABNEY** (left), Pine Bluff District president, and Mrs. J. Robert Prator, conference Mission Coordinator of Christian Social Involvement.

## Third Annual Meeting of Little Rock Conference UMW

October 9, 1976  
First United Methodist Church,  
Arkadelphia



**DR. ROY BAGLEY**, host pastor, Mrs. Bagley, Mrs. Gray, who gave the principal address, and Mrs. Waters, program chairperson at luncheon.



# Conference

West Church,  
1975



by others, filled important roles  
ual meeting at El Dorado. Left  
ix; Camden District President,  
NW at host church, Mrs. Victor  
dent elect of First Church, El



HIS FRIENDLY TRIO of ladies were  
among others of the host church who  
sisted with registration, and in  
numerous ways made their guests  
el welcome.



DEN DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Charles  
ards, Conference President Mrs. Nix, Mrs. Richards, and  
erence Treasurer Mrs. Fish at head table.



MRS. C. JARRETT GRAY, keynote speaker and regional director of the Woman's Division in the Kansas City area, told the women: "... We must proclaim the Word of God — live the Word of God so that women in every station of life may find ways in their communities to seek to serve others, and seek to be about the business of our Lord ..."



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS Mrs. James Nix, conference president; Mrs. Gray, keynote speaker, and Ms. Joan Clark, regional worker of the Woman's Division in the Dallas area, who led a workshop on "World Hunger" during the annual meeting.

## The President's Message

By Mrs. James Nix

### We must change, or become static

"This is the day which the Lord has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it."  
This is the world, a changing world, which the Lord has made,  
We are the people, a changing people, whom the Lord has made  
This is the love which the Lord has given,  
Let us rejoice and be glad.

God, here we are, ordinary women,  
Pushed and pulled and twisted by life,  
Until we're not sure who, or what, or if, we really are.  
And we hear you say, not loud and clear,  
But in a low persistent murmur,

There's a new day a dawning —  
There's a new world aorning —  
There's a new you becoming,  
Rejoice and be glad. Amen, Amen.

Change, change — That's all we seem to hear these days. There's a part of me that wants change — to think new thoughts, to love new friends, to reach out in new ways to God. But there's another part of me that likes the feel of sameness — same old bathrobe, same old menus, same Sunday morning routine. So there's a tension within me between wanting to change and to remain as I am, between pushing toward change and holding back.

If only I knew that these changes were God's will, that they were all good. But I am imperfect and I am not God, so I do not know. Like it or not, I am obliged to live in a world I do not understand, a world that is constantly changing, sometimes for the good and sometimes for the bad.

Think of changes that have affected you in the last few months:

- good and not-so good changes
- one that resulted from a decision you made all by yourself
- change in a group that you helped to make happen
- one that affected you, but over which you had no control, except your attitude toward it.

Now think about God and your relationship to him? How did you feel about God as a child? How do you feel about God today? Has your relationship changed, if so, how?

Change in and of itself is neither good nor bad. Change is God's will if his love flows through us more easily. Change is good when it makes our world more likely to express God's love. Love can result from change or love can be the powerful force which causes change. Read I John, chapter 4, and see what God's love can really do through us.

God is. God always has been. God always will be. God is. We change, our world changes, but God remains the same, always. Love is. Love always has been. Love always will be. We change, our ideas change, but love remains the same, always.

Change brings with it commitment. We as United Methodist Women, have a commitment — to each other, to our church, to our community at home and to our neighbors throughout the world. I would ask each of us to search our hearts and minds to see if we have changed in 1975; if so, how — and if not, why? If we cannot change, then we become static. Can God's work be done if we are static?



# Finding Strength in Serving God

By JOEL COOPER Pastor, Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, Ark.



## Lesson for November 16

**ORIENTATION:** In last Sunday's lesson we saw a spoiled Joseph, strutting in his long coat with sleeves. Today we see a changing Joseph. The Scripture Lesson does not tell us very much about the reasons for his changing character, but we shall assume that his father's religious faith had somehow become his own. He found the strength he needed to rise above his "pit" of despair, to resist sexual temptation, and to return to a position of prominence.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Genesis 39.

**CONCLUSIONS HOPED FOR:** (1) That you will come to a better understanding of God's way of helping men; (2) That you might find new reasons and thus new strength for resisting temptations; (3) That you might be better prepared to have patience when your right action results in punishment.

### "...bought by Potiphar..."

The Ishmaelites took Joseph down into Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, "one of Pharaoh's eunuchs, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian." (NEB) Of course, Joseph was happy to be rescued from the "pit" into which his brothers had thrown him, but slavery was worse. Moreover, I imagine that Joseph had called upon the God of his fathers to help, but the heavens were brass. He was not rescued from the Ishmaelites, nor did he escape the dehumanization of being sold and bought. That was not the way God intended to help.

God helped Joseph by giving him the strength to accept his situation and by guiding him to take good advantage of the situation. Surely Joseph did not start out in a position of high trust in Potiphar's household. Little by little he earned that position as he worked with diligence and effectiveness for his master. This was the way God helped him. And somewhere during this process I believe Joseph became conscious of God's help.

Have you ever been in the pit of despair? Of course you have. Did you pray to be delivered from some "Ishmaelite," some "Potiphar"? Were you delivered? Not everyone is rescued in the way he prays to God that he be rescued. God has his own way of answering prayer.

Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He prayed for deliverance, but God did not give him deliverance. God gave him the strength to live with his thorn and be wonderfully effective in spite of it. Do you have a thorn? God may not remove it, but he will give you the strength to live and serve effectively in spite of it.

### "Think of my master"

Joseph continued to be blessed by God, even as a slave. He became the personal servant of Potiphar and was put in charge of Potiphar's household and all his property. Joseph, still technically a slave, was entrusted with everything Potiphar possessed. No doubt, this gave Joseph free movement about the house. And this created another problem for him.

Somebody's wife made advances toward the handsome Joseph. I say "somebody's" because we cannot be sure it was Potiphar's wife. Potiphar was a eunuch. The word rendered "officer" means "eunuch" and is so translated in the New English Bible. (Gen. 39:1) The Interpreter's Bible says that some eunuchs were married, but I judge it was not common.

What we have in this story is another illustration of the mingling of the works of two or more writers. One writer identifies the wife as Potiphar's. The other identifies the wife as that of an unnamed Egyptian. Note that Potiphar's name is used only in the first verse of the chapter.

But regardless of whose wife she was — she was a devil. She would not leave Joseph alone, could not keep her hands off him. She was utterly frank in her advances. We must assume that Joseph was greatly tempted. In this day when sexual morality is at a low ebb, how many young men would take the position Joseph did? How did he do it?

I think his words to the woman are clues to his strength. He said, (NEB) "Think of my master." Joseph would not betray a trust. His master had entrusted him with everything. For the sake of his master, he could not stoop to this treason. The clamor of his body was strong, but his faithfulness to his master was stronger.

Many an act of adultery today would be prevented, if we considered the feelings of all persons concerned. There are those who see nothing wrong with sex between any two consenting adults. But this is to assume that no one other than the two "consenting" are involved. And this is almost never the case. Absent husbands are involved; absent wives are involved; absent children are involved. Adultery is treason against one's mate; it is a breach of trust. "Think" of those who trust you, and be strengthened.

### "How can I...sin against God?"

In this passage we see the second way Joseph found strength to resist the temptress. He saw the proposed action not only as a breach of human trust but as a sin against God. Remember that this incident took place long before Moses and the commandment against adultery. And the book of Genesis carries many stories about sexual activity which are not exemplary. But Joseph had worked out his faith. He had concluded that such action was wrong because it was against the will of God, a sin.

But Joseph was not just talking to himself. He said to the woman, "How can I...sin against God?" By implication he was asking her to consider the same question. He hoped she would give up her persistent advances. No doubt he knew what might happen if he refused her. She would yell, "Rape!" What a position to be caught in! His only chance to escape unscathed from the predicament was to convince her that before God she had an obligation, too.

What has happened to us? We have been stripping away our Puritan ethics which described rather precisely how we ought to act. In its place we have substituted the principle that whatever feels good is good. "Modern" man has no sense of sin against God. He knows about the sense of meaninglessness, frustration, helplessness, but he does not have a sense of what God wants him to do or not to do. His ethics are pragmatic. If what he does works, i.e., helps him to achieve what he is trying to achieve, and if it does not get him into trouble, then it is acceptable behavior. He says in essence: "It is all right to do whatever you can get by with."

The thrust of the Christian faith is against this position. We assume that those actions

which degrade the abundant life for all, which break trusts, which diminish love, which ride roughshod over the feelings of people — are wrong in God's sight — Sin.

But "modern" man, secular in philosophy, has lost the sense of sin, and thus has lost the very best deterrent to promiscuous behavior; he has lost the source of strength to resist temptation. He no longer asks himself as he faces an ethical decision, "How can I...sin against God?" And we are all poorer for this posture.

### "...he refused..."

It was a daily ordeal; the devil woman never let up. One day Joseph came into the house as usual to do his work. There were no servants around. This time the woman grabbed Joseph and pleaded with him. He knew he had to get out of there fast, so he slipped out of his cloak, leaving it in her hands, and ran out of the house. The woman was infuriated! How do we put it today? — "there is no wrath like the wrath of a woman scorned." She shouted for the men, telling them that Joseph had tried to rape her, that he had run when she screamed, leaving his cloak behind. This same story was repeated to her husband when he came home. Naturally, he was furious. Joseph was fortunate that he was not killed as soon as he was found. He was thrown into the Round Tower prison.

Get the picture: Joseph was jailed for doing the right thing. It is bad enough to be punished for doing the wrong thing, but to be punished for doing the right thing is unbearable. Why did not Joseph become sullen and disenchanted? Why did he not cry out to God: "Why have you done this to me? I did what was right, and what did it get me? Prison, that's what!" If such thoughts entered his mind, the Bible does not speak of it in this chapter. Joseph began immediately to build up the trust of the jailor.

### "...the Lord was with Joseph..."

That is the way the Bible story explains the turn of events which continued to soften Joseph's punishment, i.e., "...the Lord was with Joseph..." But notice how the Lord worked. He did not reach down to lift Joseph from the pit; traveling merchants did this. The Lord did not save Joseph from slavery; He helped Joseph accept his predicament and make the best of it. And things were going well indeed, until the she-devil lied about him.

But the Lord did not save Joseph from the consequences of her lies, did not save him from prison. Rather, the Lord gave Joseph patience, presence of mind, and perseverance so that once again the punishment was softened. Joseph was made a trustee in the prison. This made possible a later sequence of events which resulted in Joseph's release and restoration to power.

This is the way the Lord works in our lives today. He does not save us from every hardship. He does not guarantee that all will be well if we just do right. Christians get hurt just as pagans do. But he does work through men and events, through history and the strengthening of our own lives to soften the blows or to make us resilient enough to snap back. The promise is not release from all burdens; the promise is never to give us more than we are able to bear with his help.



# Lord's Day being 'vulgarized' by commerce and athletics, say critics

NASHVILLE (RNS) — The religious community has been called on to make the secular society understand the value of observing the Sabbath — not only for spiritual renewal but for practical benefits.

"Neither man nor machines can continue indefinitely without rest," said Harold Lindsell, editor of Christianity Today, the evangelical fortnightly published in Washington, D.C.

He told a consultation here sponsored by the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States that "during World War II, it was found that a seven-day week did not increase production. Men actually produced less in seven days, over the long haul, than they did when working six days and resting one day."

"The Sabbath is God's day," Mr. Lindsell said. "But Jesus said that man was not made for the Sabbath. The Sabbath was made for man . . . It was part of God's natural revelation for man in nature itself."

The two-day meeting was attended by representatives of 14 denominations from 15 states, the District of Columbia and Canada. Theme of the consultation was "The Lord's Day in Contemporary Culture."

Franklin Littell, professor of Religion at Temple University, denounced what he called "commercialization and vulgarization" of holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas; and the "abuse" of Sunday by professional athletes.

"With TV almost universal, commercialized athletics has become even more arrogant in the usurpation of the Sabbath than discount stores," Dr. Littell said.

"Reading about the fantastic profit-taking, hearing about the way sportsmanship is sacrificed to tactics to win, sometimes bordering on the homicidal, a Christian historian inevitably remembers the circuses which centered the passions of the ancient Roman mob."

Don Oosterhouse, an attorney from Grand Rapids, Mich., said that "if a person is faced with a conflict between his religious convictions and the demands of his employer, he does have some legal help."

Mr. Oosterhouse said the legal assistance "is not as complete as most of us would prefer. Nonetheless, the legal protection is significant and can be utilized more effectively than it now is if people are adequately aware of it."

Brooks Hays, a former U.S. Congressman from Arkansas and former Southern Baptist Convention president, said the campaign to strengthen and maintain the Sabbath at a national level should be a matter of education, not legislation.

"We must remember pluralistic elements in our society," Mr. Hays said. "We must have a winsome way of reaching those who have been overcome by the mindless escalation of man's passion for entertainment."

Dr. Littell said that "although government cannot successfully legislate Sabbath observance as a religious obligation for citizens, it can and should do far more than is presently done to inhibit the desecration of the holy days."

In his speech, Mr. Lindsell said "there is nothing to show that people will buy fewer goods because they could not buy on Sunday." He said a universal observance of the Sabbath would result in "an immediate 15 per cent saving of fuel and electricity," and give people more time to "spend with their families, rest and relax . . ."

## Youth leaders should be more 'representative,' stresses former national youth president

LEESBURG, Fla. (UMC) — What does the top Methodist youth leader of 25 years ago think of today's controversy embroiling the United Methodist Council on Youth Ministry (UMCYM)?

From 1949 to 1953 "Jamie" Jones was president of the then National Conference of Methodist Youth. Today he is the Rev. Dr. Jameson Jones, president of Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo.

"The generation gap has widened tremendously in recent years and that is one of the UMCYM's chief problems," he said in an interview here, where he was the principal speaker at the Oct. 24-26 weekend retreat of Florida United Methodist Men.

"In my day the youth were a step ahead of the church on social issues, such as racial integration," he recalled. "Today, UMCYM members probably feel they are ten steps ahead of the rest of us on current issues . . . and that is farther out than the church can accept or handle."

On the question of restructuring the Youth Council, Dr. Jones, a delegate to General Conference, said he favors a national youth organization "with primary leadership in the hands of young people."

But he stressed that youth leaders need to be chosen "in a more democratic process, more broadly based in the life of the church." Presently, he added, "they pretty much hand-pick their own successors who hold similar beliefs."

The national youth organization, he said, needs to be structured into the general church "so that there can be both opportunity to influence and affect the church, and accountability to the church through a close relationship to a board or boards which provide staff guidance. We are talking about a fine line of whether our youth can have their own organization and lead it without being dominated by the adult establishment."

The mood of the church, Dr. Jones believes, "is that we should have a youth organization that is more inside the life

and structure of the church, and not as independent and autonomous as the present UMCYM."

He said that most adults look at the present structure and see a small "in" group that "doesn't represent and seldom leads" United Methodist youth church-wide.

"My basic idea is that if we are to have a youth organization that claims to represent United Methodist Youth at the national level, the only way is to pay the price in time, money and energy for it to be thoroughly democratic and representative," he said.

"My concern is that the whole church needs to do a better job in working with youth, and providing them opportunities to grow and participate in the total life of the church — from the local church up."



"Your hang-up with Junior is nothing. Think of the problems METHUSELAH must have about the generation gap!"

## Spiraling insurance rates attributed to faulty attitudes

VENTURA, Calif. (RNS) — A Wycliffe missionary doctor on furlough here nostalgically recalled his work in the steaming jungles of Peru, where office calls cost 25 cents and home visits are free.

Dr. Larry Dodds said he was also struck by the difference in attitudes of patients in the U.S. and in Peru — a difference which he feels is partly responsible for the spiraling rate of malpractice insurance here.

Dr. Dodds and his wife, Lois, are missionaries with the Wycliffe Bible Translators at the Wycliffe base at Yarinacocha, Peru. A three-man team of doctors there serve a half million inhabitants in an area the size of California. The Dodds are home in Ventura for a one-year furlough.

Describing the difference in "mind set" of patients in Peru and Americans, Dr. Dodds said that "in the jungle the mortality rate is very high."

"If you get sick or need surgery you're grateful that you're still alive or get better after treatment because that's more than you hoped for," he said.

The 33-year-old missionary physician noted that "here, the expectation is that you will be every bit as well or better than before . . . If not, you sue."

Dr. Dodds, who is now practicing family medicine with six other physicians in Santa Paula, used to pay \$6,000 for a year's malpractice insurance. The rate is expected to rise to \$24,000 a year in January.

The Dodds, who have three children, will return to the Peruvian mission community next August. Mrs. Dodds does technical writing for Wycliffe's linguistics and anthropological department in Yarinacocha while her husband works at the outpatient clinic there.

Wycliffe, which has headquarters in Huntington Beach, Calif. is working toward the goal of providing the Bible to every tribe in its own language. More than 600 languages, including 44 in Peru, are being studied by the translators.

## From Our Readers

### A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

To the Editor:

Welcome home! I've followed your African adventures with keen interest. It's been easy to become involved because you were so much in it yourself. Your fears and hopes, frustrations and patience, disappointments and victories have been shared by countless people. I've read the *Arkansas Methodist* in service stations, restaurants, motels, and homes in several states. People everywhere have said the same thing: "I can believe in a project like this."

Last year, my family, instead of sending Christmas cards, mailed a simple postcard to our friends informing them that we had made a gift in their honor toward combating world hunger. This year we will do the same, and Heifer Project International will receive our gift.

Bob Gentry  
Assistant to the President  
Scarritt College for Christian Workers  
Nashville, Tenn. 37203

### A NOTE OF THANKS

To friends in Arkansas:

Thank you for your unselfish love and support. Because of this I am looking forward to a brighter future in the service of the Lord and his Church.

I have just finished my first term and my first module, on which I received a B plus. I shall continue to do my very best. May God bless each of you.

Cordella Donaldson  
Scarritt College for Christian Workers  
Nashville, Tenn. 37203

NOTE: Miss Donaldson, a resident of Jamaica and a 1975 graduate of the College of the Ozarks, Clarksville, is doing graduate study in Church and Community Work at Scarritt. A number of United Methodist Women members in Arkansas are helping provide for her needs beyond the scholarship assistance she receives. — the editor



# Membership loss real, Discipleship Board told

## Evangelism, Church School emphases projected

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — Accomplishments were celebrated and verbal bouquets were exchanged between administrative staff and elected members of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship here Oct. 24-26 as the difficult three-year history of the agency was reviewed.

The Board of Discipleship was created by the 1972 General Conference and the new members were charged with pulling together into one agency the units and functions of three program boards which had long historical roots in the denomination: Education, Evangelism, and Laity. A Commission on Worship was also included.

Much of the Board's time during its six meetings has been spent struggling with organizational issues, restructuring, staffing, and financial difficulties. While finances continue to be a problem, the other concerns appear to be largely resolved.

For the 100 elected members of the Board, the October meeting was the last in their four-year terms. The Spring, 1976 meeting was cancelled to conserve finances.

Dr. Melvin G. Talbert, elected general secretary of the Board in 1973, said a new level of unity and cooperation exists among the staff and expressed appreciation to Board President Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, Richmond, Va., and other Board members. Dr. Talbert and

his staff were praised for bringing about difficult changes in the organization.

In the first draft of a report on membership trends in The United Methodist Church, Board members were told that a membership loss in the denomination is real. Between 1965 and 1974, the denomination lost more than one million members, a figure that represents more than the total membership of the Evangelical United Brethren Church which united with The Methodist Church in 1968.

Board members were also given the first draft of a statement on the charismatic or neo-Pentecostal movement within the church. The Rev. Ross E. Whetstone, assistant general secretary of the Board's Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship, said the charismatic movement is being nourished by the present socio-cultural environment.

"Given the increasingly depersonalized, transient, and experiential character of that environment, this movement is likely to continue to provide for many Christians a most attractive and authentic expression of the Christian life," he said. "The church must, we believe, be prepared fully to accept and to minister to this constituency in our congregations."

Both the membership and charismatic reports will be further revised by the Division's executive committee in March

for transmittal to the Board's executive committee and eventually the General Conference in April.

### Evangelism and Church School Highlighted

The Board approved a tentative strategy for a comprehensive plan for evangelism during the 1976-80 quadrennium. Developed during the past 18 months, the proposal calls for a plan of evangelism in every local church which will be the norm, not a special emphasis.

Another major proposal approved by the Board for the 1976-80 quadrennium is a program for strengthening the church school. Entitled, "Decision Point: Church School," the program will attempt to increase the number of persons enrolled, deepen their commitment to Christ and the church, and improve the quality of teaching and learning. Each year of the quadrennium a new phase of the program will be introduced including a theme, special program emphasis, a focus on the role and work of key persons, a field program emphasis, and several related action goals.

The Board approved a lengthy set of legislative proposals for the 1976 General Conference. Included among these is the proposal for a new national youth organization which has more accountability of the annual conferences and Board of Discipleship than the present Youth Council.

During its three-day sessions, the Board also:

- elected the Rev. Maxie Dunnam as editor of *The Upper Room*.

- heard a progress report on a statement being developed on the philosophy and theory of local church Christian education. It will replace a popular booklet entitled "Foundations of Christian Teaching in United Methodist Churches."

- formed a task force to study the church's responsibility related to the issue of child abuse.

- commended the United Methodist Council on Evangelism which will host a Congress on Evangelism in Philadelphia, Jan. 4-8. President Gerald Ford and Evangelist Oral Roberts are among the speakers for the event which will include 13 individual sub-conferences.

- affirmed a plan of fair employment calling for a goal of at least 20 per cent employment of ethnic minorities in the staff by 1976 and the "steady and intentional employment of women in the total professional staff by 1976 and in the executive staff level between now and 1978." At an earlier meeting, the Board set the goal of female employment at 30 per cent.

- affirmed plans by the Division of Lay Life and Work to host a national convocation of United Methodist Men in 1977.

## Congressional resolutions would encourage 'Thankful Giving'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (RNS) — Resolutions have been introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives aimed at "broadening the observance of Thanksgiving" by focusing on the problem of world hunger.

The resolutions declare it to be the sense of Congress that:

- "The national observance of Thanksgiving should include a voluntary practice to be called 'Thankful Giving,' whereby Americans are invited to share with those who are hungry abroad;

- "Before starting their Thanksgiving meal, families should consider making a personal donation to the hungry abroad as a way of giving thanks for the feast that follows;

- "For those families or individuals who do not have a favorite charity, the Office of Food for Peace of the Agency for International Development is requested to serve as a focal point in locating an appropriate charity;

- "The President, the governors of the several states and local public officials should consider recommending the observance of 'Thankful Giving' in their Thanksgiving Proclamations;

- "Schools, churches, clubs, labor organizations and the media should disseminate and promote the concept of 'Thankful Giving.'"

Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.), who put the Senate version into the hopper with 11 co-sponsors, explained its purpose is "to give those Americans who are concerned over the hunger issue the opportunity to respond in a personal way as they themselves prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving . . ."

"This resolution . . . would supplement the efforts which our government engages in to encourage food production

and help those who are hungry," he said.

"This resolution, which would establish the practice referred to as 'thankful giving,' would rekindle the original purpose and spirit of Thanksgiving," he continued. "This resolution does not in any way obligate any one to give and particularly those who are not in a position to do so."

"In the resolution itself, we have called upon the Food for Peace office of the Agency for International Development to be of service in locating charitable organizations for those who wish to make inquiry as to where to make contributions," Sen. Humphrey said. (Interested citizens may send their contributions to: Thanksgiving, Box 68, Washington, D.C. 20044.)

Rep. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) introduced an identical resolution in the House, and has invited all other Representatives to join him in co-sponsoring the resolution.

## Financial picture 'looking up' for Board of Discipleship

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — The critical financial trend which led the United Methodist Board of Discipleship to spend \$1.1 million more than its income during 1974 has been reversed, the 100-member governing body was told here Oct. 24-26.

The board, chaired by Bishop W. Kenneth Goodson, Richmond, Va., voted to approve the use of \$200,000 from general funds to cover projected expenses in excess of income for 1975 and adopted a "break-even" budget for 1976 totaling \$8,392,644 (including \$3,605,035 for The Upper Room).

Two ad hoc "emergency" committees, each composed of five board members, were formed to give guidance and counsel to two non-program units of the board: Discipleship Resources and Central Support Services.

The Board of Discipleship was created in 1972, bringing together units of the

former Boards of Evangelism, Education and Laity and a Commission on Worship. To balance expense and income during 1973 and 1974 the board dipped into its general fund of \$1,137,215. The 1975 action will increase that amount by \$200,000.

The greatest portion of the 1974 deficit was in The Upper Room (\$602,059) but during 1975 the financial picture has dramatically changed. Through September, The Upper Room was showing \$176,325 income in excess of expense. It was also reported that sales of Upper Room devotional literature in September reached an all-time monthly high.

While the general financial picture of the program units of the Board looks good, Dr. Melvin G. Talbert, General Secretary of the board, acknowledged serious financial difficulties in Discipleship Resources, the resourcing unit for the Board. Already Discipleship Resources has released half of its staff and cancelled its national publication, *Man-date*.

In an economy move, the Board cancelled its final meeting of the 1972-76 quadrennium which was scheduled for March, 1976. The executive committee will meet in March and July.

The Board had originally planned to meet in Detroit, Mich., for its October meeting but in March decided to move to Nashville because it would be less expensive. Money saved by the move, possibly \$1500, will be given to support the Board's Task Force on Hunger. Board members stayed in low-rate motels and received a \$5 per day food allowance.





## News from the Churches

**PINE BLUFF DISTRICT UMY** will meet for a district rally at Lakeside Church, Pine Bluff on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 9:00 a.m. Registration is \$1.50 and the noon meal will be furnished.

**PULPIT GUESTS** appearing at Huntington Avenue Church, Jonesboro, during October and November include: Oct. 26 — the Rev. Glenn Bruner, retired minister, Jonesboro; Nov. 2 — the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, associate director North Arkansas Council on Ministries; Nov. 9 — Dr. Francis Christie, dean of Hendrix College, and Nov. 16 — Dr. Myers B. Curtis, director of North Arkansas Council on Ministries. Jack Sugg, church lay leader, and Charles Rasbury, Administrative Board chairman, will be in charge of evening worship services.

**THE REV. GEORGE STEWART**, a chaplain at Methodist Hospital in Memphis, was the pulpit guest in First Church, Marianna, on Sunday, Oct. 26th. The Rev. W. L. Douglas, Marianna pastor, reports in the church bulletin that he is growing stronger each day and he hopes to return to his full schedule in four to six weeks.

**CAMDEN'S** Chief of Police, R. D. Bentley was the speaker for the recent Laity Day observance at Monette and Black Oak Churches. Chief Bentley, the father of Pastor David B. Bentley, is a member of Timothy United Methodist Church of Camden. Special music was presented by Geneva Bentley, and Elmer and Roberta Sims of Levy Church, North Little Rock.

**THE REV. BOB FELDER**, pastor of Mallalieu United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, was the guest speaker for a potluck supper sponsored by United Methodist Men of St. Paul Church, Fort Smith, Tuesday, Nov. 4.

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR** of First Church, Stuttgart, honored Grady Greene during Laity Day services for his 50 years of service in the choir. He was presented a gold lapel pin the shape of a lyre. Hymns and anthems sung during the service were Mr. Greene's favorites.

**MR. ELMO KNOCH** of Arkansas Enterprises for the Blind, demonstrated an electronic device for communicating with the blind and deaf at a recent meeting of United Methodist Men in St. Luke Church, Little Rock.

### Personalia

**MARIE (MRS. GRAFTON) THOMAS** of Little Rock is the author of a meditation accepted for publication in the November/December issue of **THE UPPER ROOM**, the worldwide interdenominational devotional guide. Her message is based on the theme "How to be like Jesus." Printed in 40 languages, **THE UPPER ROOM** has a readership in excess of ten million persons per issue. Mrs. Thomas' husband, Mr. Grafton Thomas, is treasurer of the Arkansas Area of The United Methodist Church. They are members of Winfield Church.

**NEWMAN FAIR**, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Cagle E. Fair of Little Rock, is a member of the 25-voice Candler Choralists from Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. A graduate of Hendrix College, Newman is working on the master of theology degree at Candler.

**PHILIP BRIAN BENTLEY**, son of the Rev. David Bentley, pastor of Monette-Black Oak Charge and Mrs. Bentley, was born in Paragould Oct. 9. He is the Bentley's second son.

### TRAVEL SEMINAR

Dr. James T. Clemons, Professor of New Testament at Wesley Theological Seminary, will lead a travel seminar to Rome and Greece Dec. 29-Jan. 16. Special attention will be given to the background of St. Paul's thought. For further information, please write Dr. Clemons at 4400 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, D.C. 20016.



Among adult participants in Spiritual Adventure Day were, left to right, Taun Nguyen, Rong Tong Pham, Mrs. Roy Ghazimorad, Mrs. Barbara Brinkley, Dr. Roy Ghazimorad, Dr. Ralph Hillis, Mrs. Tony Holifield, pianist for the event.

### Spiritual Adventure Day in Jonesboro District

"Love Thy Neighbor," was the theme of the recent Spiritual Adventure Day attended by nearly 100 United Methodist Women of Jonesboro District at Wayland Springs Camp. Mrs. Janis Monroe of Nettleton, district chairperson for Christian Personhood, coordinated the program.

Dr. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District superintendent, led singing and presented a solo following a meditation by Mrs. Lynette Blevins.

Mrs. Barbara Brinkley, district vice president, moderated a panel of five members as they dealt with the subject, "The Reality of Who Is My Neighbor."

Panel members and their areas of discussion included: Dr. Roy Ghazimorad, Mental Health; Miss Judy Burris, Child Care; Rong Tong Pham and Taun Nguyen, Refugee Resettlement, and Dr. Hillis, Our Responsibility.

An Agape meal was served at noon-time and an offering was received for World Hunger.

Following a period of quiet personal reflection and meditation, Mrs. Pauline Bartholomew led in prayer, and District President Mildred Osment presented a message challenging the group with the question, "What of Tomorrow?"

†



### Weekend Retreat

Twenty-nine members of the Monette-Black Oak Charge in Jonesboro District took part in a recent weekend retreat on Bull Shoals Lake at Lead Hill. On Saturday the group visited Eureka Springs and attended the Passion Play. On Sunday morning Diane Wimberly of Monette led the campers in a period of "spiritual fellowship" and worship.

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### 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.

Nov. 9—Sunday ..... I Thes. 5:1-3  
Nov. 10 ..... Luke 21:5-9  
Nov. 11 ..... I Cor. 15:51-54  
Nov. 12 ..... II Peter 3:10-13  
Nov. 13 ..... II Thes. 1:6-10  
Nov. 14 ..... Rev. 10:8-11  
Nov. 15 ..... Joel 2:1-2

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**THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON** Sunday School Class of McCrory Church, met recently for a luncheon honoring Mrs. R. E. Wilson, who had served as class secretary-treasurer for several years. The Rev. Victor E. Green, pastor, was master of ceremonies for the festivities.

"MUSIC OUR FOREFATHERS Sang" was the theme of a recent potluck supper and fellowship evening at Grand Avenue Church, Stuttgart, honoring new members. The program, a part of the church's observance of the American Bicentennial, featured several instrumental solos and a display of over 60 old Methodist hymnals and songbooks, dating back as far as 1823.

**THE REV. LLOYD CONYERS**, pastor at Osceola, was evangelist for revival services held recently at Lake Street Church, Blytheville. The Rev. Charles P. Reed is pastor.



Sharon Griffin, chairperson for the Taster's Tea, and Linda Clanton, chairperson for recipes, extend a warm welcome to all.

### BICENTENNIAL TASTER'S TEA FRIDAY

Winfield United Methodist Church, located at 16th and Louisiana Streets in Little Rock, will be the scene of a Bicentennial Taster's Tea this Friday, Nov. 7th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Seven periods in the history of the church will be represented in costumes and table decorations. Treats for tasting will include all manner of good things "from appetizers to dessert." Recipes for all delicacies will be available for a nominal fee. In addition handcrafted items will be available for purchase. Proceeds will be used for the preservation of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Tickets are \$1.50 and may be purchased in advance or at the door.

†

**LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT** Parsonettes will be the guests of Mrs. J. E. Dunlap at the district parsonage, 205 South Ridge Road, Little Rock on Nov. 13th at 10 a.m.

**LAKE STREET CHURCH**, Blytheville, raised in excess of \$1300 from a barbecue stand at the County Fair. The church has, for more than 30 years, sponsored such a stand.

**DR. HENRY RANKIN**, United Methodist minister and district superintendent, Houston, Tex., was the revival speaker at First Church, Walnut Ridge, Nov. 2-6.

**MARRIED COUPLES** with no children: Challenging work as house-parents in group home with teenagers. Part time or full time work. Training and supervision provided. Send resume to: Youth Home, Inc., 1921 West 22nd, Little Rock, Ark. 72202 or call 376-9231.

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## Paragould District hosts Indian pastors



**Fellowship Meal At Newport Church**

Pastors and lay people of the Northeast District of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church with hosts from Paragould District at Saturday, Oct. 11 fellowship meal in their honor. The following morning the Indian pastors and lay persons, in observance of Laity Day, spoke in Paragould District pulpits.

### Making Speaking Assignments

Paragould District Superintendent Ben Jordan (center left) and the Rev. Dick Haltom (center right), head of the "Partnership In Mission" project in Paragould District, join the Rev. Willie Gooden (left) of Preston, Okla., and the Rev. Ben Burgess (right) of Henryetta, Okla., in making speaking assignments for Sunday morning.



## Poetry Panorama

by Barbara Mulkey

*Perhaps autumn is not put to poetry as often as spring, but its colorful imagery is no less rich in hope . . . as the poet, Louise Hajek, reminds us in "Autumn Riches:" "Golden wheat in golden sun, Golden moon when day is done, Chrysanthemums in golden flower, Golden leaves in golden shower — Autumn's coins in shining shoals . . . To line the pockets of our souls."*

### Autumn

Cool is the hazy day,  
And fleecy clouds roll end to end.  
The golden days of summer  
Have faded in the wind.

The autumn's sudden chill  
Leaves trees in beauty gowned;  
And sparkling, silver frost  
Lies like a blanket on the ground.

The Master reigns. His work  
With loving hands attending,  
As golden autumn leaves  
Are lazily descending.

Do not be faint of heart.  
It is not the end.  
It is only the beginning.

—by Imogene Lewis Harding  
Harrison, Ark.

†

### Indian Summer

The frost-kissed maple tree blushes  
At Nature's loving touch;  
The big hickory tree is a pyramid  
Of burnished gold.

Sumac brightens the fence rows  
With her sprays of scarlet and  
Her rich purple seed heads.

The black-eyed Susans transform  
The somber fields into  
A riot of nodding yellow heads;  
The poison ivy robes himself in crimson  
As he climbs the old elm tree.

The sweet-gum becomes  
A breath-taking symphony  
Of yellows, reds, purples, maroons,  
While at her feet the wild asters  
Timidly lean their lavender cheeks  
Across the sun-burned grass.

Soon winter will come,  
And these beautiful lyrics of color  
Will fade;  
But the trees promise  
A return engagement  
Next spring.

—by Charles A. Stuck  
Little Rock, Ark.

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## Paragould District youth guests in Indian Conference



**Indians And Palefaces**

Thirty-two youth and two adults from Paragould District attended an Indian District Youth Retreat at Preston, Okla., Oct. 11-12. Arkansas churches represented included Pocahontas, Tuckerman, Swifton, Corning, Newport, and First Church and Griffin Memorial in Paragould.



**Close Fellowship**

En route the youth travelled at night to reach their destination in time for the Saturday rally.



**'The Bishop's House'**

Some of the Indian hosts in front of "The Bishop's House."



**Holy Communion**

The retreat included a communion service led by the Rev. David Moose, Paragould District youth coordinator. Fresh, unleavened bread was baked by Indians.

### Football Game

Activities included structured and informal sharing between the two ethnical groups. A documentary film on the Creek Indian Nation entitled, "The Long Road Home," was viewed. On exhibit was a display of bead jewelry craftwork.

