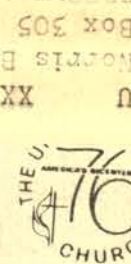


Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, November 20, 1975

94th Year, No. 46



Way paved for major projects at Aldersgate

Retirement Center, youth facility to benefit from gift, Women's Division decision

A gift of property by an Arkansas family and a decision by two committees of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries have made possible a significant advancement toward the realization of two top-priority projects of Aldersgate, Inc.

The action is a key development in plans which would see the construction of a retirement facility at Aldersgate's site in west Little Rock and the establishment of a residential treatment program for socially-disoriented adolescent boys.

Announcement of the developments was made at the Nov. 13 meeting of the Board of Directors of Aldersgate, Inc. Executive Director C. Ray Tribble reported that the Executive Committee and the Property Committee of the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries — which Division owns the 160 acres on which Aldersgate is located — had voted unanimous approval of an agreement which makes possible the pursuit of the two projects.

The agreement would transfer 40 of the agency's 160 acres to Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc. for the purpose of construction of a retirement facility. The transfer would be in exchange for property donated to Aldersgate, Inc. by Dr. and Mrs. Allen R. Rozzell of Little

Rock. In turn, the Women's Division would make that property available to Aldersgate, Inc. for use as a treatment center for disturbed youth.

The agreement would contain a reversion clause stipulating that if construction of a retirement facility is not underway within a five-year period, the 40 acres would revert to the Women's Division and the Rozzell property would revert to Aldersgate, Inc. The arrangement calls for no transfer of funds between Aldersgate, Inc. and the Women's Division. The agreement is expected to be finalized within the month.

The developments represent a breakthrough in over three years of conversations between the Aldersgate, Inc. board and the Women's Division in efforts to develop a plan whereby a retirement center could be built at the Aldersgate site. Aldersgate, Inc. board chairperson Jo (Mrs. W. E.) Arnold praised all parties involved in the long decision-making process and said the agreement opens the way for a new chapter to be written in Aldersgate's quarter-century history of Christian service. The decision came one week after a survey team from the Women's Division had made a two-day visit to the Little Rock properties.

The Rozzell property, located at



PRINCIPALS in the development of Aldersgate's proposed retirement center and juvenile treatment facility are (from left) Dr. James B. Argue, chairperson, Board of Directors, Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc.; Mrs. Jo Arnold, chairperson, Board of Directors, Aldersgate, Inc., and Dr. Allen R. Rozzell, who with Mrs. Rozzell donated gift of Springwood Farm property.

Ferndale, ten miles west of Little Rock, consists of an initial gift of seven acres and a 6,000-square-foot seven-bedroom, five-bathroom home. Valued at \$180,000, the property was presented to Aldersgate by the Rozzell family, long-time friends and supporters of Aldersgate. Known as Springwood Farm, the property has been the site of the Rozzell's residence for the past six years. The home, constructed between 1907-11 and originally known as Wooten Villa, is a historical landmark in the Ferndale community. It underwent extensive renovation in 1968-69.

The Rozzells are members of Pride Valley United Methodist Church. Dr. Rozzell, a pathologist at St. Vincent's Infirmary, is currently serving his second term as a member of the Aldersgate, Inc. Board of Directors.

Retirement Center Plans

The proposal for construction of a retirement facility was initiated some three years ago by the Board of Directors of Aldersgate, Inc. Both the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences gave approval to the concept at their regular sessions of 1973, each naming members to the Board of Directors of Aldersgate Retirement

Center. That board signed articles of incorporation on June 27, 1974.

The May, 1975 regular session of the Little Rock Annual Conference approved a resolution authorizing the Retirement Center board to pursue conversations with other denominations regarding the possibility of ecumenical participation in the project. The resolution states that permission is granted to the Board "to enter into any agreements and mergers necessary to bring an ecumenical center into being. The Board is further authorized, if it deems advisable, to merge Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc., into and become a part of an existing organization" for the purpose of carrying out the development of such a retirement facility.

An identical resolution was approved by the North Arkansas Conference during a called session Nov. 1, 1975. Representatives of the ecumenical group met Nov. 14 to continue discussions of such a possibility.

Current plans envision a facility of approximately 200 units with an anticipated cost of \$3,250,000. The project would be designed to provide retirement housing for persons in all income

(Continued on page three)



Urban Ministries Consultants Meet

The Rev. James C. Simms (center, with papers) of Pinckneyville, Ill., a field consultant with the Department of Urban Ministries of the Board of Global Ministries, and team coordinator for the Urban Ministries Consultation being held Nov. 14-22 in Little Rock, is shown with team members. From left: the Rev. James Ozier of Dallas, Tex., Dr. Negail Riley of New York City, Ms. Marjorie Lutz of New York City, the Rev. David Lawrence of Knoxville, Tenn., Mr. Simms, the Rev. Leonard Cowan of Wichita, Kans., the Rev. Marcus Booker of Atlanta, Ga., and Dr. J. E. Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District. The nine-day consultation involves 25 Little Rock churches. It will conclude with a report and evaluation meeting Nov. 22, 8:45 a.m., at Asbury Church.



SURVEY TEAM from the Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries, which visited Aldersgate Nov. 5-6. From left: Mr. Paul Bankes of Philadelphia, Pa., attorney for the Women's and National Division; Mrs. Jewell Tillis of New York City, treasurer of the Women's Division and team chairperson; Mrs. Jewell Helms of Kokomo, Ind., member of the Properties Committee, Women's Division, and Mrs. Nadine Hardin of Fort Smith, a Consultative Member of the Women's Division.



Brookland Church Breaks Ground

Ground was broken at Brookland Church in Jonesboro District Sunday, Nov. 2 in preparation for construction of a new sanctuary and educational unit which will cost an estimated \$110,000. As shown in architect's sketch above, the building will be of colonial architecture. Completion date is scheduled for May 1, 1976. BELOW: Participating in the ceremonies were, left to right, Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District superintendent; the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, minister; Mr. Mickey Neff, Church School superintendent; Mr. Jerry Rackley, lay leader; Mr. Wilson Shipman, Administrative Board chairman; Mr. Alva Neff Sr., Building Committee chairman; Mr. Lestel Elder, Finance Committee chairman; Mr. James Gambill, Trustee chairman. More than \$50,000 have already been raised for the project, and it is anticipated that pledges from the congregation will pay off indebtedness within five years.



The Rev. Tommy Tyson



Mrs. Lee (Pat) Ritchie

Jonesboro Church schedules revival

The Rev. Tommy Tyson, one of five brothers who are ordained ministers in the United Methodist Church and serve in the North Carolina and Virginia conferences, will return to First Church, Jonesboro, as the preacher for a revival, Nov. 30-Dec. 3. Tyson was one of the principal speakers for the Holy Spirit Conference held there last year.

Before entering full-time evangelistic work, Tyson, a Duke University Divinity School graduate, was director of the Department of Spiritual Life at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa during its first three years of existence.

Mrs. Lee (Pat) Ritchie of Arlington, Tex., will lead the singing for the

four-day revival which begins with the 10:50 a.m. Sunday worship service on Nov. 30th. Mrs. Ritchie, who was a voice major at Oklahoma Baptist University and Oklahoma City University, has presented sacred concerts throughout the Southwest. She, with her husband Lee, an aeronautics engineer, teach in the area of Christian home and family life. They are the parents of two high school boys.

In addition to the 7 o'clock evening services, Sunday through Wednesday, noontime sermons will be presented Monday through Wednesday, with a snack lunch to follow. A nursery will be open for all sessions.

Little Rock pastor to write lessons for winter quarter

The Rev. Larry D. Powell, pastor of Markham United Methodist Church in Little Rock, will author The Sunday School Lesson for the winter quarter for publication in the *Arkansas Methodist*.

A native of Nettleton, Mr. Powell earned the B.A. degree at Hendrix College in 1963 and the B.D. degree, cum laude, from Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in 1966. He has done additional graduate study at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, and Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif. In 1973 he was selected as one of two ministers of the North Arkansas Conference to participate in a six-weeks continuing education program at St. Paul School of Theology, Methodist, Kansas City.

Prior to his appointment in 1975 to Markham Church, Mr. Powell was pastor of Cavanaugh Church in Fort Smith. While in that city he was an instructor in biblical studies at Westark Community College. He previously served pastoral appointments at Kaiser and Greenbrier.

Mr. Powell is the author of numerous articles published in religious and secular journals. He is a member of Poet's Roundtable of Arkansas and the Arkansas Writers' Conference. He has



The Rev. Larry D. Powell

received a number of literary awards in both state and national competitions, the most recent being a first place award in the Oct. 18 National Poetry Day observance at Hot Springs.

Mr. Powell is married to the former Beverly Dudley of Jonesboro. They have two sons, Bryan, age 14, and Wade, aged 9.

The winter quarter of the International Lesson Series is a 20-lesson unit entitled "The Gospel of Matthew." Covering the first 18 chapters of that gospel, the unit emphasizes its special interest in interpreting Jesus in the light of Old Testament prophecies.

Pension Fund receives new pledges

Members of First United Methodist Church, Star City, and First United Methodist Church, Gould, have recently committed these churches to full support of the Pension Fund Campaign of the Little Rock Conference. Both congregations have accepted their apportionments to this campaign in full.

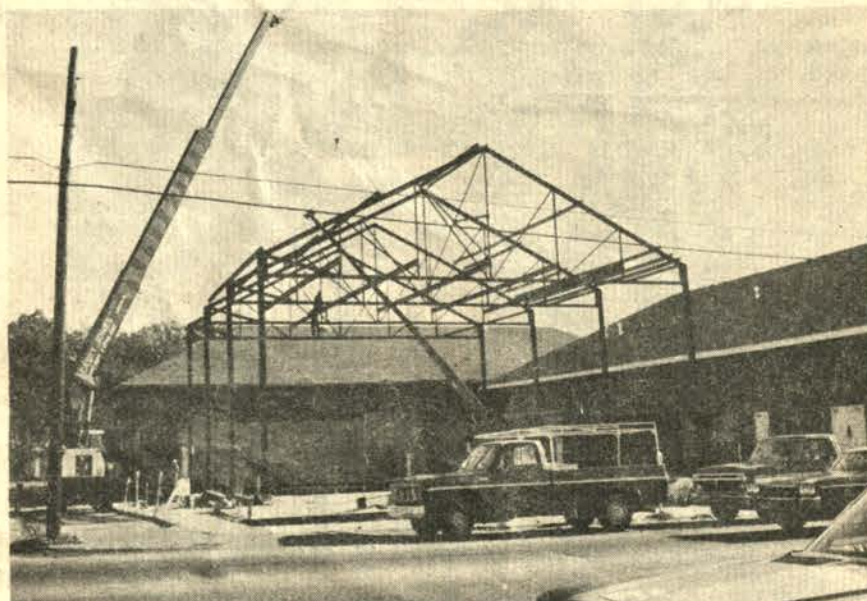
In addition, they have pledged to pay their fair share to the Special Gifts phase of the Pension Fund Campaign through their budgets, with First Church, Star City, paying \$2,800 in Special Gifts, and First Church, Gould, paying \$720. These Special Gifts will be paid over a period of seven years, beginning in 1975.

The Rev. Calvin D. Mitchell is pastor of the two churches, and the Rev. Everett Vinson is the superintendent of Monticello District, in which they are located. Mr. Merle Peterson of Dumas is

the layperson in charge of fund-raising in the district.

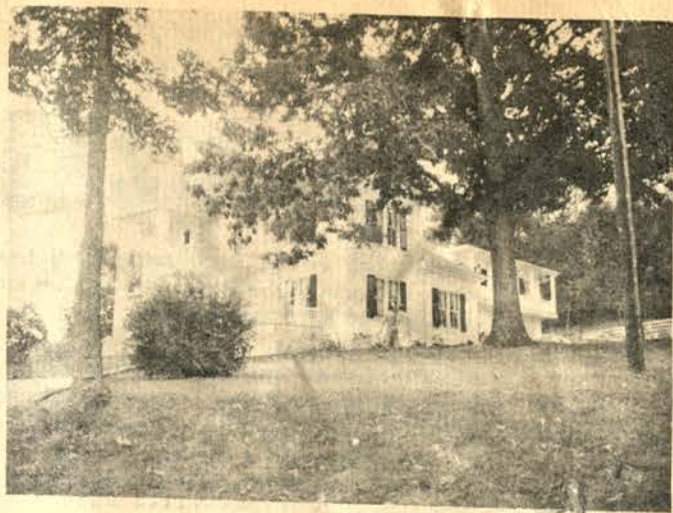
Readers are reminded that memorial gifts, or gifts in honor of individuals, may be made to the Pension Fund, Little Rock Conference, and mailed to Grafton Thomas, Treasurer, Box 6009, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

These gifts become part of a fund through which the pension program for retired ministers and their wives, and widows of ministers, of the Little Rock Conference, will be stabilized and improved. Donors receive acknowledgement of these gifts, and a card telling of the gift is sent to the person honored, or the family of the person memorialized. Periodically a list of these gifts is printed in the *Arkansas Methodist*.



Steel Rises For New Sanctuary At Malvern

Having recently completed a new education wing and major renovation of Fellowship Hall (seen in background) the congregation of First Church, Malvern, is moving ahead with construction of a new sanctuary which will be constructed at an estimated cost of \$650,000, including furnishings. Upon completion of this project the church property will be valued at approximately one-million dollars. The chapel in the new education building has been named the Homer G. Tolar Chapel in honor of Mr. Homer G. Tolar, a faithful member of the congregation. Dr. Dewey Allen is chairperson of the Building Committee.



SPRINGWOOD FARM donated to Aldersgate, Inc. by Dr. and Mrs. Allen R. Rozzell.

Aldersgate, Inc. (Continued from page one)

brackets, with the primary goal of making the facility available to those in the low and middle income levels, the group most in need of such housing, according to a feasibility study conducted by the board.

The Board of Directors of Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc. consists of 17 members as follows: the resident bishop; eight persons named by the Board of Directors of Aldersgate, Inc.; four persons each named by the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences, which numbers include the Superintendents of the Conway and Little Rock Districts, the chairpersons of the Boards of Health and Welfare Ministries of both Conferences; and, from both Conferences, two at-large members nominated by the Board of Health and Welfare Ministries of both Conferences and elected by the respective Annual Conferences.

Officers of the board are Dr. James B. Argue, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, president; Mr. Thomas P. Williams, Jr., a Little Rock insurance executive, vice president; the Rev. Harry Bass, pastor of Wesley Church, Little Rock, secretary, and Mrs. Gladys Womack of North Little Rock, president of United Methodist Women of the North Arkansas Conference, treasurer.

Treatment Center proposal

The proposal to establish a residential treatment facility for disturbed adolescent boys has been another long-range priority of Aldersgate, Inc. The proposal was developed as a response to the critical need for facilities for youth who otherwise would be placed by the court system in the state Training Schools. The Arkansas state government has given a high priority to the development of such centers.

Funding for the Aldersgate program would be sought from both government and private sectors, with the anticipation that 90 per cent of needed support would come from federal funds, five per cent from state funds and five per cent from private sources.

The program will provide residential and follow up services to 15 boys, at any one time, from the ages of 11 to 17.

The major goal and objective of the program is to "provide an effective alternative to the formal institutionalization or incarceration of delinquent and/or other disturbed youth." It will provide a "non-punitive, therapeutic environment" aimed at returning the youth to the community. In addition to the residential program, follow-up services of assistance and referral will be a part of the center's function.

The staff of the center will include a project director and assistant, a recreation specialist, an education specialist, house parents, a business manager, a farm maintenance supervisor and a cook, plus the part-time participation of Aldersgate's executive director.

Executive Director C. Ray Tribble reports that the proposal for the center has received the encouragement of county judges in the central Arkansas area, the primary region to be served by the facility. Tribble says it is hoped that the center can be in operation by early 1976.

In addition to its relationship with the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries, Aldersgate is related to that board's National Division in matters of staff and program consultation. Of Aldersgate's current \$410,000 annual budget requirements, \$10,000 is provided by the National Division.

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(See related item this page.)

Arkansas Methodist

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The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

'Aldersgate' — an honored name in Arkansas Christian mission

The developments concerning Aldersgate, Inc. (see story beginning page one) are good news for the cause of Christian mission in Arkansas.

Thanks to the generosity of an Arkansas family and the positive outcome of some three years of conversations between Aldersgate and committees of the Women's Division and National Division of the Board of Global Ministries, Aldersgate will now be able to pursue plans for the development of a retirement center and a treatment facility for socially disoriented adolescent boys.

Though yet to be finalized, the developments offer a welcome opportunity to take a closer look at what has come to be one of the most significant expressions of Christian ministry in our state. Throughout its brief 28-year history Aldersgate has rendered a remarkable record of service. While ministering primarily to the Little Rock and central Arkansas area, Aldersgate's influence for good has been felt throughout the two Annual Conferences of Arkansas United Methodism as well as among many other denominations and non-church-related groups across the state.

Since its beginning Aldersgate has been identified by two outstanding "trademarks": its service to the total community without regard to racial, religious, social or other orientation, and its ecumenical approach to mission.

Born during the difficult days when the nation was experiencing intense racial discord, Aldersgate stood forth in the community as a symbol and expression of Christian love. Having representatives of numerous denominations as members of its board of directors and numbered among its supporters and friends, Aldersgate has been a place where Christian mission has been done with a strong ecumenical involvement. Aldersgate has been a significant and visible example of Christians working "in concert" for the common good.

A number of additional factors have combined to make Aldersgate work:

- The agency has been fortunate in its friends. Aldersgate's ministries have inspired a devoted following, instilling an infectious "Aldersgate spirit" in all privileged to be associated with its mission. The generous gift by Dr. and Mrs. Allen R. Rozzell is an example of that spirit.

- Aldersgate's close relationship with the Women's Division and National Division of the Board of Global Ministries has lent an added dimension of strength, enabling Aldersgate to pioneer in Christian ministries which would have been more difficult for a completely local agency to perform.

- Aldersgate's success cannot be fairly accounted for without recognition of the devoted, skillful and energetic ministry of its executive director, C. Ray Tribble. Ray's 14½-year tenure represents more than half the life span of the institution, which in considerable measure reflects the creativeness and dedication of its executive director.

Aldersgate's Growth

Known for 27 of its 28 years as "Aldersgate Camp," the agency, because of an expanded concept of its ministry, changed its name last year to Aldersgate, Inc. Added to its traditional summer camp activities have been day care and socialization programs for senior citizens, medical and diabetic and orthopedic camps, services as an education and retreat center, and an environmental education program (an approximately \$90,000 annual project sponsored and budgeted by the administration of the Little Rock Public Schools). In 1974 Aldersgate joined with the Downtown (Little Rock) Kiwanis Club in the staffing and programming of that organization's Joseph Pfeifer Camp, near Ferndale.

Aldersgate's growth over the past 15 years is further reflected in its increase in budget from \$14,000 in 1960 to \$410,000 for this current year, and the growth of its staff from one full-time person and two part-time associates in 1960 to the present 37 persons employed on a year-round basis.

The large percentage of Aldersgate's current budget figure reflects services contracted with Arkansas Social Services, using federal and state funds matched with gifts from the private sector. While the availability of such funds has enabled Aldersgate to greatly increase its services, such programs have not been without their liabilities — such as the uncertain life span of government-assisted projects.

This fact makes even more critical the realization among Arkansas United Methodists that Aldersgate depends heavily upon its Arkansas Methodist identification. While it is "national" in one sense — being related to the Board of Global Ministries — and "ecumenical" in another sense, Aldersgate is primarily an Arkansas Methodist project, benefiting Arkansas people and looking primarily to United Methodists in Arkansas for support.

Contrary to widespread understanding, Aldersgate receives only minimal funding from the National Division — \$10,000 of its current annual budget requirements of \$410,000 being supplied by that division (which has also assisted with occasional maintenance care through the years).

Approximately five years ago Aldersgate was approved by both Arkansas Annual Conferences as a Conference Advance Special, qualifying it to receive funds from local churches. It deserves serious consideration by our churches as a project worthy of such support.

We congratulate Aldersgate on its past record of service and express appreciation to those who are making its current advancements in Christian mission possible.

†

John

Four leaders look at the Church . . . its priorities, its message, its strengths and weaknesses

Last week we printed condensed highlights of addresses by principal speakers at the United Methodist Conference on the Holy Spirit held Nov. 6-8 in Little Rock, under sponsorship of the Little Rock Conference.

In this issue we bring excerpts from individual interviews with those speakers. Interviewed were: **Bishop Mack B. Stokes**, resident bishop of the Jackson (Mississippi) Area of The United Methodist Church; **Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn**, professor of Church History and Historical Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, Ky.; **Dr. Oral Roberts**, president of Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, Okla., and **Dr. Ross E. Whetstone**, assistant general secretary, Evangelism Section, Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship, Nashville, Tenn.

I: PRIORITY ISSUES BEFORE THE CHURCH

Arkansas Methodist: What do you believe are the greatest issues facing the Church today?

Bishop Mack B. Stokes: One of them certainly has to do with evangelism, with reaching out after people and trying to find better ways and means of drawing them into a living relationship with Jesus Christ so they can be nurtured in the faith into a living, creative relationship with the Church. I'm not talking about gimmicks. I'm saying that the Church has to put its mind to this. The Sunday School is connected with this; it is connected with evangelism.

Number two, I would say we must clarify our great Christian affirmations. There's a lot of fuzziness there. This means a recovery of Bible study. I think we United Methodists have the best interpretation of the Bible, generally speaking, that is available. We aren't hung up on a fierce literalism. But at the same time we do feel the sense of the authority and finality of the Bible. And I think this will help to clarify our sense of conviction and direction rather than letting the world around us call the shots, decide the priorities and so forth.

Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn: I think our great priority is to bring together in a creative blend, a proper balance, the social aspects of the gospel — which include such things as world hunger, justice and so forth — with the spiritual side of the gospel, which has to do with the divine-human encounter and the empowering of the Holy Spirit for a life of witness and service. Somehow the Church has got to get these things together. I think the priority has got to start with spiritual renewal — and then that must extend on out into service.

Dr. Oral Roberts: I see the Church's priority as two-fold. First, it's a message on the renewing of the Holy Spirit in a human heart so a person responds to life — throughout his spirit first and then through his intellect. We are responding intellectually now. And our intellects, by themselves, without being watered by the Spirit, are giving us a government of controlled chaos. And this controlled chaos — sometimes it's not controlled! — is undoing us, because we are responding to it primarily with the intellect. And nobody's that smart.

Secondly, we must pay attention to the individual and to his needs. I think of you — the person. I don't think of a crowd. When I preach on television I have a camera there, and that's a person to me. There are two-and-a-half people on the average in every house where television is being watched. There are 50-million people that watch one of our specials. I don't speak to 50-million people, but to two-and-a-half people.

So I start with you. And you're my whole thought. We need to keep persons, individuals, and their needs as a priority before us.

Dr. Ross E. Whetstone: One priority which I think is basic is how we are going to minister to persons during a time of cultural change. We have a basic restructuring of the "sensory ratios" of people in the Western world — from the rational to the sensory.

The average 18-year-old today has watched 20,000 hours of TV. We find a tremendous hunger in the hearts of men, women and young people for significant personal experience. And we are addressing this as a church which is still geared up to a ministry to people on a rational basis, giving them information when what they want is an experience.

One of our problems is going to be that we must become culturally bilingual and continue to minister to those who can be reached by ideas and information

while at the same time we develop ministries which can reach those who can be reached in other ways.

II: THE CHURCH'S UNIQUE MESSAGE

Arkansas Methodist: Does the Church have a unique message for a time in which many have given up on the future?

Bishop Mack B. Stokes: The unique dimension of Christianity has to do with God's abiding purpose for us and God's abiding love as revealed in Jesus Christ and made available through the Holy Spirit. And I think we ought to stick to what we as Christian people in the community of faith have historically and uniquely had to offer on the basis of revealed religion.

The culture must not decide the nature of the Gospel



Dr. Oral Roberts



Bishop Mack Stokes



Dr. Ross Whetstone



Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn

nor the priorities of the Christian. Jesus Christ abides for ever and ever, the same yesterday and today and forever. And what people need is the grace and power of the new life that is available in Jesus Christ. Unless people are changed and come under a new lordship, I don't think the world will get better.

Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn: I clearly have a settled conviction here that the primary mission of the Church is to bring human beings into a living relationship with God. And I think it is too much to ask of the Church — and it is a medieval concept to think it — that the Church should necessarily have all the answers to population problems, Vietnam, hunger and so on.

I think the Church is essentially and primarily in the business of renewing people, so that these people will go out and penetrate the law profession, the Pentagon, the military, the business world, the classrooms.

As a Christian minister I do not know how to tell a bunch of lawyers how to be Christian lawyers. I've never been a Christian lawyer. I do not know how to tell the people in the Pentagon or the Senate how to do their jobs. I think we've got to get ahold of this priesthood of all believers idea and realize that the Church's primary task is not to tell lawyers what to do and senators what to do and politicians always what to do. We lack wisdom, and we should assume that these people are dedicated Christian people with brains. And God can speak to many people.

So the primary task of the Church is to give principles and guidance and moral values and relate people to God and always insist on the reference to the vertical dimension of life, the spiritual dimension. And then

assume that the lay people are going to be needed to work out some of the problems which the Church does not claim to have answers for.

Dr. Oral Roberts: The unique message of the Church is one of healing. Healing in the sense of the whole man — a broadened message of salvation beyond the soul, beyond the confines of the denomination. And we must put it to work also for the healing of man's body, really ministering to needy people, having a loving attitude to all persons.

My priority is to preach on the healing power of Jesus Christ, his power to bring healing to the emotions, to the minds, the bodies, to people in their poverty.

Dr. Ross E. Whetstone: It seems to me that unless we can translate our message into action, whatever our message might be, then we don't have one. We can express all the compassion and concern in the world, but unless Christian people care enough to really reduce our own standard of living and share with the world, for example, we're not really saying anything to them except spinning out abstractions.

Secondly, there has to be a genuine willingness to confront the structures. We can do without meals, without money and so forth. But that doesn't really get at the problem — though we should do those things. We need to have the courage to get at the formidable job of getting at the structures, making it possible for there to be population reduction, increased production, more equitable distribution of food across the world and so forth.

III: UNITED METHODISM'S STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES

Arkansas Methodist: What do you see as the greatest strength and the greatest weakness of The United Methodist Church?

Bishop Mack B. Stokes: I think the greatest weakness of our Church is a psychological blockage regarding evangelistic outreach. We have a psychology of doing everything except asking such questions as "How am I going to win this person for Christ?" and "How are we going to get him to come to the Sunday School because he wants to come?"

The greatest strength of our Church is the reservoir of spirituality that is deep down there. And it needs to be tapped. That's in the providence of God.

Dr. Kenneth Kinghorn: Our greatest strength is obviously our resources — that we are called into being and breathed into life by the Holy Spirit. It is our greatest strength that we are a divine institution.

Our greatest weakness is that we have sought to act like a human institution and work our life out in terms of organization and Madison Avenue techniques and so forth. God specifically breathed the Church into life and promised the gates of Hades would not overcome it. Our greatest strength is in our nature as being the Body of Christ.

Dr. Oral Roberts: I'm very optimistic about the Church. I think there is coming a renewing of the Holy Spirit within the churches — all of them, but particularly the Methodist Church. And for a very special reason: the Methodist Church is inclusive and not exclusive. It has a free pulpit. We do not disfellowship. John Wesley said "If you are my brother, give me your hand." The Methodist Church is like that. It allows a great deal of freedom.

The greatest days are before the Methodist Church! I'd rather be an ordained Methodist preacher than anything else in the world because the Methodist Church has the vitality in it that in the next ten years is going to be so apparent it'll be like a new church!

Dr. Ross E. Whetstone: Our greatest strength is in our unique traditions, which I think apply at the present time with a special kind of providential opportunity. I refer to the pluralistic and inclusive nature of our church, that we do not insist upon people buying into a detailed set of propositions with respect to their beliefs.

This brings to United Methodism a broad range of theological, social and political opinion, which — if we can be in loving dialogue — can be productive of the kind of information and action which is most needed in the world today.

Our weakness is seen in the rigidity of our structures. We're so large, so big, that our structure has a great deal of inertia — not just in the administrative tasks, but in doing most of the things we seek to do.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's Foundation for Christian Living found in a survey of more than 50,000 churchgoers that they want more sermons dealing with prayer, God's guidance and the Bible, and less on politics and social action. Participants were given a list of types of sermons and asked: "In your personal opinion, which of the following kinds of sermons does today's church need more of or less of, or is the emphasis about right?"

Shimon Grilius, Lithuanian Jew who served in Soviet prisons for five years with dissident Baptists, Catholics and other prisoners of conscience, said in New York City that the time is "ripe" for religious groups in the West to demand that the USSR "stand on trial for religious freedom." Mr. Grilius said religious and human rights theoretically exist in the USSR — but are generally not allowed in practice.

West Virginia's Gov. Arch A. Moore, a United Methodist layman, told a Sunday school class at Charleston's First Church of the Nazarene that after 20 years of public service, nothing has happened to dissuade him from his belief that "politics is a noble profession." Relating the institution of government to God's decree that man live in orderliness, Gov. Moore said, "I do not for one moment suggest that all government is godly, but only that God has ordained government."

Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, new president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis — a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod school which lost most of its students and faculty in early 1974, told his inaugural audience that academic freedom is thriving there. "Academic freedom," said Dr. Bohlmann, "is an outgrowth of commitment to God's truth, not as a condition for discovering it."

Two U.S.-based religious groups — the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) and the Jehovah's Witnesses — have come under heavy fire from the press in Lima, Peru which charges them with counter-revolutionary activities and of having CIA connections. Both groups have denied the charges and, thus far, have continued to operate in Peru.

'Ten Commandments of Crime'

KEYSTONE, Colo. (RNS) — Colorado Springs District Attorney Robert Russel, in addressing the Colorado Corrections Association here, listed the "10 commandments of crime" for society to consider when questioning why children and youths break the law.

1. Make sure that proper standards of conduct aren't learned in the family, church, and school.
2. Don't allow sufficient discipline to be exercised in the family and schools.
3. Learn all about violence in the family and from peers, television, and movies.
4. Neglect constructive interests such as sports, music, literature, jobs, and other activities.
5. Give insufficient education to prevent positive action and the ability to earn an adequate living and to compete.
6. Deny sufficient attention in the family, school, and among peers.
7. Ignore or fail to recognize as early as possible any mental illness.
8. Deny physical and emotional treatment for the very young in the family and school.
9. Deny sufficient community deterrence by the police, prosecutors, courts.
10. Make sure there's a lack of love.



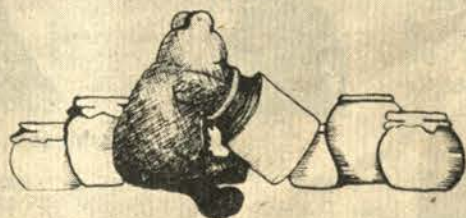
Avoid evil & walk straight ahead.
Don't go one step
off the right way.
Prov. 4.27

Friends always show their love.



What are brothers for
if not to share trouble?
Prov. 17.17

Too much honey
is bad for you,



and so is trying
to win too much praise.

Prov. 25.27



God keeps every
promise he makes
He is like a shield
for all who seek
his protection.

Prov. 30.5

Children's Book Mixes Alphabet And Bible

NEW YORK — These are four illustrations from The ABC's of Proverbs, a new booklet that can help children learn the alphabet, the Bible, and moral principles. Published by the American Bible Society and based on the Today's English Version of the Bible book, it uses four-color illustrations by artist Jane Dyer, each focusing on a different letter of the alphabet, to bring the Proverbs to life for small readers. Copies are available at 35 cents each through the Society's Bible House Book Store, 1865 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10023.

(RNS Photo)

Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, American Baptist theologian and a founding editor of Christianity Today, asserts in the November issue of At/One/Ment — the newsletter of the Ecumenical Clergy Association — that "ours is a time when the recovery of Biblical understanding and authority could precipitate a shattering renewal in all ecclesiastical camps. Theological confusion is rampant in all religious communities. The spirit of revolution today threatens the whole history of Western civilization; the regenerating Spirit of God may yet challenge all existing Christian divisions and precipitate a deeper dedication and life-style than modern Christendom reflects."

Rabbi Shaul Shenker, director of the education program of Orthodox Judaism, told the 53rd National Convention of Agudath Israel, meeting in Atlantic City, that "thousands of American Jews, for years groping for identity, are quietly shifting gears away from spiritual assimilation and are returning to Jewish tradition." "Thousands of American Jews," he added, are now sending their children to day schools, which in 30 years have grown from only seven schools outside the New York area to a total of 422 schools throughout the land.

The Senate has passed a resolution authorizing the President to designate the week of Thanksgiving as "National Family Week." While there are 333 co-sponsors of a similar resolution in the House of Representatives, the measure, as of Nov. 4, was still before the Sub-committee on Census and Population. Interested persons could communicate their views on the measure to the Chairman of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, Rev. David N. Henderson, Room 207 Cannon House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515.

Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, dean of Yale University's Graduate School, declared in an address at Valparaiso University (Indiana) that "what the university owes to its students is not necessarily what the students want, but what the students need; and the university must be sufficiently independent of them to be responsive to them."

Roman Catholic educators meeting in New York City came to the consensus that before students can deal confidently with the pluralistic American experience, they need a strong sense of their own ethnic heritages, a sense of "rootedness," a realization of "Where they come from."

News from the churches

THE SMACKOVER Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a Bicentennial Community Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday, Nov. 26, with Dr. Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University as guest speaker.

THE REV. RAYMOND ATWOOD, pastor of First Baptist Church, will be guest speaker for the Community Thanksgiving Service at Hamburg First United Methodist Church on Wednesday evening, Nov. 26 at 7:30.

JACK BROWN, former drug addict and convict of 30 years, presented a personal witness at a recent Sunday-at-Six service in First Church, Jonesboro.

PHILADELPHIA United Methodist Church, Magnolia, recently held a catfish supper to raise money for a central heating and air conditioning unit for the church. More than 150 persons attended the event. The Rev. Larry Martineau is pastor.

DR. CALVERT JOHNSON, minister of music at First Church, El Dorado, presented a 5 p.m. organ recital last Sunday for the second concert of a musical Vesper Series in the sanctuary of First Church. The selections were those played by Mr. Johnson on the recent completion of his doctor of music degree at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. The recital included Paul Hindemith's Sonata III (1940), Johann Sebastian Bach's Toccata and Fugue in F Major, Cesar Franck's Fantasy in A Major, and Oliver Messiaen's Pentecost Mass.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR of Wesley United Methodist Church, 11th and State Streets, Little Rock, will present a sacred concert Sunday, Nov. 23rd at 8 p.m. under the direction of Mr. Edgar Thompson, and augmented with guest musicians from other churches of the community. The program will include works by Bach, Brahms, Beethoven, Tchesnokoff, spirituals, and contemporary numbers. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Bazaars

Melbourne United Methodist Church announces its first annual bazaar to be held this Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the church basement. Hand-made gifts, crafts and household items will be featured, along with a lunch of chili, soup and sandwiches, desserts, coffee and tea. The public is invited.

Grady United Methodist Church announces its annual bazaar to be held Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the church. Items for sale will be featured in the following special rooms: Christmas, Tea, Knitting, Bake, White Elephant, and Miscellaneous. Lunch will be served. Everyone is invited.

United Methodist Women of the Heber Springs Church "will celebrate God's gift of many creative talents" with a churchwide bazaar this Friday, Nov. 21. Sale items displayed in mini-shops in the education building will bear the following signs: Christmas House, Needlework, Arts and Crafts, Sweet Shoppe, Country Store, Toy Shop, The Attic Shop, and Flower Mart. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and remain open until early evening hours. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

WESTERN HILLS United Methodist Church, 4601 Western Hills, Little Rock, announces a bazaar to be held Friday, Nov. 21, 9 a.m. — 9 p.m. Items for sale will include puppets and plants, patchwork, clay pots, bread-dough art, Keepsake Silverware windchimes, and lots of other goodies.

THE REV. J. H. OLIVER of Hot Springs, retired member of the Little Rock Conference, was the guest speaker for the 96th anniversary celebration of Macedonia United Methodist Church at Lockesburg. The celebration was held on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 9.

DAVID BAKER of Harrison, a pre-ministerial senior at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, recently presented a Sunday morning message at First Church, Harrison. His wife, Lynn, presented a solo. In addition, the New Covenant Singers offered several musical numbers. Don Jones, a 17-year-old member at First Church, recently made a commitment to study for the United Methodist ministry.

THE REV. DON WILLIAMS, pastor at Vantrease Church, El Dorado, recently led that congregation in a Sunday evening Bible study series on the book of Hebrews. A potluck supper and the showing of the film "Dry Bones," sponsored by the Commission on Missions, were featured on one of the four Sunday evenings.

THE UMYF of First Church, Ashdown, raised \$200 for UNICEF with a Sock Hop and a community-wide drive. Jo Ann Biggs is UMYF president.

Personalia

MR. PERRY KING of Charleston United Methodist Church, born on Sunday, Nov. 16, 1885, in a log cabin in the Grand Prairie Community in South Franklin County, was honored with an open house last Sunday, Nov. 16th, 1975 in celebration of his 90th birthday. Before moving to Charleston in 1970 he operated a 695-acre cattle farm where he received several awards for his work in soil conservation. Earlier in life he taught school for 16 years. He has two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

ALLEN W. KIMBROUGH, a 1975 Hendrix College graduate and 1971-72 President of the North Arkansas Conference Youth Council, is attending law school at Southern Methodist University this year on a Hatton W. Summers Scholarship. The scholarships are awarded annually to seven outstanding entering students from an eight-state area, and provide room and board, tuition and expenses valued at approximately \$5,000 per year for the three-year program. Kimbrough, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wade Kimbrough of Conway, has been elected one of three first-year representatives on the Student Bar Association Executive Council, the student government body of the SMU School of Law.



Check To Help On Building Indebtedness

Administrative Board Chairman Percy Bounds of Wyatt Memorial Church, Fort Smith, accepts check in the amount of \$2,200 from David and Glenna Hicks, committee members of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Free Fair Committee, as Pastor Jim Linam looks on. The check, which represents a record in earnings from the cafe which the church operates during the fair, will be applied to the church's building indebtedness.

THANKS-GIVING FOR CHRIST DINNER

United Methodist Men of Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock, sponsored their fifth annual Thanksgiving for Christ dinner on Tuesday evening, Nov. 11 at the church.

The event, in which the entire congregation is invited to participate, is a special "second-mile" effort. Love gifts from this year's effort brought in more than \$2,600 in cash and pledges, which will be used to complete payment of conference claims, and for mission projects.

Doss Tipton and the Shrine Temple Country Band provided after dinner entertainment in the form of a 45-minute concert of country-gospel music.

Mr. Rick Davidson is president of United Methodist Men. The Rev. J. Hillman Byram is pastor at Washington Avenue.

THE AUGUSTA UMYF collected \$105 for UNICEF on Halloween. Another money-making project, a Walk-a-thon, netted the group nearly \$1,000 toward the mini-bus their church plans to purchase. In the offing is still another project, a chili supper.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Griffin Memorial Church, Paragould report a successful annual Christmas bazaar featuring a Holiday Corner, a Country Store, a General Store, and lunch. Opal Dempsey is UMW president; Merita Winemiller served as bazaar chairperson.



'Hutch Landfair Day' at Tillar

Mr. Hutch Landfair receives plaque from the Rev. M. E. Fleming, pastor, "For dedicated service to the church and community (1912-1975) and Sunday School Superintendent (1946-1975)" at Oct. 19th celebration in his honor at Tillar United Methodist Church. The Baptist Church at Tillar dismissed services, and along with members of other denominations joined in honoring Mr. Landfair. The honoree was born Aug. 21, 1891 in Jefferson Township, Desha County, where he has been active in the county Historical Society and has been instrumental in the placing of plaques of historical interest throughout the county. A capacity crowd gathered for the event.

HENDRIX STUDENTS NAMED TO WHO'S WHO

Fifteen Hendrix College seniors have been included for listing in the 1975-76 edition of Who's Who Among Students In American Universities And Colleges.

They include Charles Lamar Campbell, Steven Joseph McNeil and Robert Travis Wells of Little Rock, Nancy Clark and William Winston Meriwether of Conway.

Others included are Margaret Louise Brown of Fort Smith, Thomas Martin Davis of Monticello, Edwin Scott Elphinstone Jr., of Newport, James Scott Hudson Jr., of Texarkana, Mary Beth Karr of Pampa, Texas, and James Wright Kennedy Jr., of Pine Bluff.

Also listed were Linda Kay Moore of Harrison, Andy Prewitt IV, of Memphis, Tenn., Celia Carol Robinson of Dumas and William Paul Tuberville of Magnolia.



'Ninety-five And Going Strong'

Mrs. Viola Cobb, oldest member of Dover United Methodist Church, celebrated her 95th birthday recently by sharing her birthday cake, and coffee with church members, neighbors, and members of her family. The orchid she wears in photo was from her church in recognition of her regular attendance at Sunday School, morning and evening worship, and Wednesday night prayer services.



Life Membership Pin

Mrs. J. A. McGaughey, long time member and leader of Highland Church, Little Rock, was honored recently by her church's organization of United Methodist Women with an honorary Life Membership Pin. Mrs. McGaughey, a former member of the Ladies' Missionary Society, and a charter member of the former Woman's Society of Christian Service, served three terms as president of the women's organization. She gave leadership in many varied fund-raising projects in behalf of the construction of the present Highland Church building. When additional pulpit chairs were needed for the new church, she sold a cow and bought two more. Mrs. McGaughey has provided leadership in meeting many humanitarian needs as well.



Lakewood Men Sponsor Brotherhood Dinner

Father George Tribou (second from left), rector of Little Rock Catholic High, was the speaker for the Oct. 20 event at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock. Laymen from other denominations and other faiths were guests at the dinner, co-sponsored by Methodist Men and the Work Area on Ecumenical Affairs of Lakewood Church. Shown with Father Tribou are, left to right, the Rev. James C. Southerland, associate pastor at host church, Bob Fortney, president of Methodist Men, and Dr. Olin Cook, Administrative Board chairman.



Awarded Special Membership Pins

These ladies were recipients of Special Membership pins awarded at a joint annual meeting of United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock. Left to right, Mrs. J. Calvin Wilkins, Mrs. Harvey Hill, Mrs. Joe Caple and Mrs. William T. Murry Jr. Mrs. Charles Kirby was Awards chairperson.

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. 23—AM—Sunday... Psalm 9:1-11
PM I Cor. 15:45-58
Nov. 24—AM Psalm 34:1-22
PM Eph. 5:1-21
Nov. 25—AM Psalm 103:1-22
PM I Thes. 5:1-24
Nov. 26—AM Psalm 116:1-19
PM Heb. 13:1-18
Nov. 27—AM Psalm 118:1-29
PM Rev. 11:15-19
Nov. 28—AM Isa. 25:1-9
PM Eph. 1:15-23
Nov. 29—AM I Peter 1:1-9
PM I Chron. 16:8-34
Nov. 30—Sunday Psalm 90:1-17



A Tour Around The World'

Participants in "A Tour Around The World," sponsored by the Commission On Missions at St. Paul Church, Maumelle, on recent Sunday evening. Shown in front row is guest speaker, Mr. Gideon Umaneh of Nigeria, West Africa, and at left is Pearlina Miller, who introduced him. Mrs. Carolyn Galbreath served as Mistress of Ceremonies. The Rev. William Robinson Jr., pastor, assisted with the program.



Many Countries Represented

Shown at left are some of the ladies of St. Paul Church who represented countries in various areas of the world including Alaska, the U.S., Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Hawaii, Holland, India, Italy, Japan, Jerusalem, Korea, Mexico, Norway, Philippines and Spain.



Looking Toward The Future

Some of the 26 participants from Western Hills Church, Little Rock, who attended a Council on Ministries Planning Retreat at Aldersgate Camp, Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Here they have gathered with Pastor Bob Robertson early on Saturday morning for meditation at the foggy lakeside before continuing their work of setting goals for 1976.



Retired Ministers' Sunday at First Church, Jonesboro

Retired ministers and wives who participated in the Nov. 9 event (front, left to right): Mrs. George McGehey and Mrs. S. O. Patty; (back): Rev. McGehey, who assisted with service; the Rev. Mitchell Sanford, who presented a vocal solo, and Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Martin Bierbaum and husband, the Rev. Bierbaum, who presented the message of the morning. (Also present were Mrs. Sam Wiggins and Mrs. Norris Greer, both widows of ministers.)

Council Directors to Local Churches

New color filmstrip underscores importance of apportionments

A new sound, color filmstrip, which uses a lesson in phonetics to dramatize the church's primary benevolence fund, has been released by United Methodist Communications.

Titled **The Two Dollar Language Lesson**, it tells how the World Service Fund enables a church to minister beyond the confines of its own building. Featured are young people who learn — via pursed lip and elongated vowel — how even the smallest congregation can minister to people in its community, the nation, and overseas. Its intended audience, however, is the entire church membership.

Terry is one of these young people, and his enthusiasm is contagious. Pastor Bob has insights to share with viewers, as does Financial Chairman Roger Metz. And Betty Gabrielle, chairperson of the Council on Ministries.

Approximately 25 minutes in viewing time, **The Two Dollar Language Lesson** is recommended for use with church leaders — Charge Conference, Administrative Board, and Council on Ministries. It underscores the importance of accepting in full the apportionment for World Service and Conference Benevolences.

The Two Dollar Language Lesson is the first filmstrip about the World Service Fund produced since 1970 when **Where There Is Tension** was released. While the earlier filmstrip is still useful, it is intended for churches facing a crisis.

A full-length color film about World Service is scheduled for release next July, introducing the new financial commitment of the 1977-1980 quadrennium.

Writer-director for the filmstrip was John Clayton; J. Fred Rowles was producer. The executive producer was Edwin H. Maynard, with Bo May as photographer, and Vilmars Zile as sound engineer.

Totaling 117 frames, **The Two Dollar Language Lesson** explores a portion of the Third World in interviews which range from Sierra Leone in West Africa to San Antonio in southcentral Texas. A 16-page leader's guide gives instructions for its use.

The Two Dollar Language Lesson is on loan from your Methodist Film Library, 715 Center, Little Rock, Ark. 72201. It may be purchased from United Methodist Communications for \$4.



Hendrix Players To Present 'JABBERWOCK'

Some of the members of the Hendrix College theatre arts department who will present "Jabberwock" by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, at 8 p.m. on Nov. 19, 20, 21 and 22, and at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 22 in Staples Auditorium. The cast for the play, based on "improbabilities lived and imagined by James Thurber," includes these students who will play roles of the Thurber family. Left to right: Claude Griffin of Pine Bluff, Tim Fox and Rosemary Knox, both of Little Rock, Jeff Jones of Dallas, cast in the role of James Thurber, and Johannes Heuvel of Mountain Home. Admission is free, but seats should be reserved by calling 329-6811.

Becoming Reconciled

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



Lesson for November 30

ORIENTATION: Last Sunday's Lesson ended with Judah offering to become a slave in Benjamin's place. Up to this moment Joseph had not revealed his identity to his brothers, but this unselfish offer confirmed Joseph's hope that his brothers had changed. He could hardly stand it. He knew that things must be made right with his brothers.

The process of reconciliation had been in operation for some time before this moment. Joseph had come to believe that God's hand was in the middle of the inexplicable events of his life, his mistreatment by his brothers included. This softened Joseph's attitude toward his brothers. Then there was the news from Jacob and the joy of seeing his brothers again, particularly Benjamin.

Joseph was ready for reconciliation. But things had been happening to his brothers, too. They had lived with their guilt; they had seen their father's sorrow; they had looked disaster in the face. Through all of this, perhaps, they had come to see the dependent nature of their lives. They were ready for reconciliation.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 45; 50:14-26.

CONCLUSIONS HOPED FOR: (1) That you might see the possibility of reconciliation, even when the breach is ever so wide; (2) That you might understand the role God plays in the process; (3) That, encouraged by this story of reconciliation, you might go into the world to be a reconciler; (4) That you might be reconciled to God.

• • • • •

"I am Joseph . . . his brothers talked with him . . ."

When Judah offered to be a slave in Benjamin's place, Joseph could not control his emotions. He asked all the attendants to leave the room. Alone with his brothers, he said, "I am Joseph." And then he began to weep so loudly that he could be heard throughout the house. His brothers were too stunned to speak. Joseph, quieted now, speaks again: (My own version) "I am Joseph. I am the one you threw into the pit, but don't worry about it. I am not holding this against you anymore, for I have seen God's hand in all of this."

Now, if it were not for the incident in the 50th chapter of Genesis (verses 15-21), we might think that full reconciliation between the brothers took place at this time. Certainly Joseph was ready for reconciliation. He tried to make it clear to his brothers that he did not want to avenge himself.

He told his brothers to go back to Canaan and bring Jacob and his family to live in Egypt during the remaining years of the famine; he threw his arms around Benjamin, crying tears of joy; he kissed all the other brothers and wept over them. But the response from the brothers, except Benjamin, was very reserved. The Scripture says: "afterwards" (i.e., after all of Joseph's crying and kissing) "his brothers talked to him." That was something, but not much.

What this says is clear: it takes two parties to make a reconciliation. Joseph was ready but the brothers were not quite ready. They were not ready to receive Joseph's forgiveness, as much as they wanted it, because they had not yet come to trust him. I suppose they just couldn't believe that Joseph would let by-gones be by-gones.

When I think of the reconciliations needed in our world today, I must not forget the lesson: it takes two

to make things right. One person can initiate the process of reconciliation, but unless there is a response from the second person, reconciliation is not achieved.

Christians have the responsibility to initiate the reconciling process, but they are not responsible for the ultimate outcome. Christians must love, but this does not guarantee that they will be loved in return.

"... it was God . . ."

Joseph seemed to believe that God used his brothers to begin a series of events which led him to a position in Pharaoh's government where he could eventually save the lives of his brothers, his father, and their families. I do not believe God brings evil upon a person in order that some divine scheme for that person might be worked out.

I do believe that God permits evil, works in the midst of evil, and that he accomplishes much in spite of evil, but I do not believe God visits affliction upon us in order to work out some grand design for our lives.

It may be that such a fine line distinction as I have given was unimportant to Joseph. What he saw was God's hand in the whole affair, and that softened his attitude toward the actions of his brothers against him that day long ago. God was the significant factor in Joseph's initiation of the reconciling process.

And so he always is. It is his Spirit that prompts us to move toward our fellows with the reconciling spirit. It is his Spirit that directs us in our conciliatory efforts, his Spirit that goes before us and prepares the hearts of those whom we would touch with healing. We do not know how much depends upon our own efforts, but we do know that no real reconciliation is possible without God.

"... when he saw the wagons . . ."

This Scripture bit has little to do with "becoming reconciled," but it is so very interesting that I could not refrain from throwing it in as an aside. Pharaoh told the brothers to take wagons back to Canaan to move their father, their families, and their possessions to Egypt. Food was given the brothers for the journey, and clothing — one change each, except Benjamin who got five changes. Gifts were sent to Jacob: "ten asses carrying the best that there was in Egypt and ten she-asses loaded with grain, bread, and provisions . . ."

As the caravan came near Jacob's house, I imagine that the brothers rushed ahead of the wagons to tell Jacob that Joseph was alive and was ruler of all Egypt. See them in your mind's eye running as fast as they can and shouting as they ran. "He's alive! Joseph is alive." Jacob could not believe it. They told them everything Joseph had said, but he couldn't believe it. They showed him the gifts which had been sent — the she-asses and the he-asses, and he still could not believe it. Then the Scripture says, (NEB) "When he saw the wagons . . . his spirit revived." Jacob said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive."

Why did the wagons convince him? Because he could think of no reason why the wagons would be sent except for the reason given, i.e., to take him back to Egypt. It was the migration of Jacob's entire family (70 persons in all) that paved the way to the final reconciliation of Joseph and his brothers.

"... he set their minds at rest . . ."

Jacob died in Egypt, and his embalmed body was taken by his sons back to the family burial plot in Canaan and buried with Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, Rebecca, and Leah. Then everyone who made the burial march to Canaan returned to Egypt.

It was then that the old fears of the brothers of Joseph revived. They said, "What if Joseph decides to get even with us, now that our father Jacob is dead?" (My own version) So they cooked up a story about how

Jacob had sent Joseph a deathbed message telling Joseph to forgive his brothers. And the brothers then confessed for the first time their crime against Joseph and asked for forgiveness. The lie was not necessary, but through it they revealed a genuine repentance.

It was crying time again. Joseph wept and the brothers wept. They prostrated themselves before him. It may be that they remembered the dream which had angered them so long ago — their sheaves bowing down to Joseph's sheaf, but they never mentioned it. Nor did Joseph mention it, although most of us, if we had been there, would have been sorely tempted to say, "I told you how it would be." Instead, Joseph said to them: (my own paraphrase) "Don't be afraid. I'm not God. You intended to do me harm, it's true, but God has brought something good out of all this. Don't be afraid. I am not going to punish you; I am going to provide for you and your families." And then the Bible says of Joseph, (NEB) "He comforted them and set their minds at rest." At long last they had reached the point of trusting Joseph and reconciliation became a fact accomplished.

There is an art to this business of "setting minds at rest." Some people seem to have it naturally. Jesus was such a person. There was just something about his bearing, the way he walked and talked, that somehow enabled people to trust him. He set their minds at rest; he was a natural reconciler. But most of us have to work at the job very hard to accomplish anything. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

If you ask why, the answer is twofold: (1) Peacemakers are happy because some of the time they achieve peace and at no time are their efforts completely in vain; (2) Peacemakers are happy in the satisfaction that they are doing what God in Christ Jesus wants them to do. Have you made any peace lately? That is one of the primary responsibilities of Christians.

Another way to talk about reconciliation is this: we Christians are called to be bridge builders. There is so much that separates people, so many chasms. Our Christian task is to build bridges over those chasms, those "troubled waters," which keep people reconciled.

"... I am dying . . ."

The ultimate reconciliation is that which takes place between a person and God. I am impressed by the way Joseph approaches his death. Undoubtedly, he had made his peace with God. Joseph had lived a long life, long enough to see his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Joseph calls his brothers around him and in full acceptance and utter simplicity says, "I am dying."

I am sure Joseph did not welcome death, but he didn't fight it either. He accepted it as a fact of life. When we realize that the concept of personal immortality was not fully developed until much later in Hebrew history, then we must have even greater respect for Joseph's courageous facing of death.

It should be easier for us to face death because we live on the A.D. side of Jesus. The Scriptures put it succinctly, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself." And it has become a part of our faith that reconciliation with God means eternal life in his presence. These are the hopes which sustain us now and "in the hour of our death."

Postlude

Genesis is a book of beginnings. We have studied its marvelous stories which tell of the beginnings of the world, of man, of sin, doubt, pride, jealousy, of obedience, of unselfishness, of reconciliation — man with man and man with God. It is a good beginning! Now the Biblical student is ready for the Exodus when God leads his people out of Egypt into the Promised Land.

'New images' for patriotism needed, Yale chaplain says

BANGOR, Pa. (RNS) — Yale University Chaplain William Sloane Coffin Jr. urged here that Americans should find new images for patriotism rather than rejecting the concept entirely.

He took part in the dialogue on "responsible patriotism" with Rev. John B. Anderson (R-Ill) at the Kirkridge Retreat/Study Center, an interdenominational Christian agency.

"Maybe we need to have funeral services for our illusions," Mr. Coffin said. "We need to grieve and celebrate them and thus put them away. You don't throw out the word 'patriotism' because

of all its old images; it is too good a word. We must find new images. You don't burn the flag."

Mr. Anderson warned against "short, simple answers and short, frenzied bursts of emotion." He declared that Americans need a "renewed emphasis on reestablishing common core values. We must be concerned about private affluence at the expense of the public sector. We need reallocation rather than a 'no growth' philosophy."

The Illinois Congressman described the present time as "a period of transition with difficult rites of passage,

where we have rejected some of the old mythology but have not landed on the new." He described what he called a "curious dichotomy" in which "Americans seem to be satisfied with their personal lives but feel there is something very bleak about the nation's future."

Mr. Coffin affirmed the concept of interdependence as an idea for planning the future. "The survival unit in our time is not the individual," he said, "it is the entire human race plus its environment. A just and global future is our only hope."

The chaplain and Congressman of-

ferred different perspectives on the possibilities for change. Mr. Anderson said he feels some optimism about increasing consciousness about problems like world hunger on the part of most people. Mr. Coffin said he is "deeply pessimistic about the world," but added that he is not cynical because he still has some hope.

"We probably won't succeed, but we must try," he commented. "We must not lose our passion for the possible."

From Our Readers

DEPLORES

To the Editor:

I deplore the recent trend of the Methodist Church to overemphasize the use of gender, as exemplified not only by your editorial in the Nov. 6 issue, but by all references to "chairperson," "spokesperson," etc.

Do you read the Readers' Digest? The November issue presents an article on page 123, entitled, "Was Paul Revere a Minuteperson?" This gives a much more wholesome approach to the subject than does the Methodist Church.

E. M. McIlroy
Ravendon Springs, Ark.

ENJOYS

To the Editor:

I enjoy receiving the First Church, Little Rock edition of "Arkansas Methodist."

I especially appreciated your use of sexually inclusive language in reference to the deity in your Nov. 6 editor's page material. Even more helpful was your explanation why you did so. That sort of exposure alone can help us all bend our sensitivities so that we can all learn to get in touch with dimensions of God and ourselves that have been neglected for too long.

George Butcher (the Rev.)
First U.M.C.
San Benito, Tex. 78586

'THE WAY IT WAS'

To the Editor:

The Rev. John C. Parker, a native of Tennessee was born in the year 1817. At the early age of 15, on June 9, 1832, he was licensed by the Methodist Church to preach the gospel, having accepted Christ. He was ordained a deacon by Bishop James O. Andrew of the Methodist Church in Tennessee on Nov. 1834; ordained elder by Bishop Henry C. Morrison at Columbia, Tenn., on Oct. 9, 1836, and was at once transferred to Arkansas, where he was appointed a presiding elder.

The Arkansas Conference met in the fall of 1843 at Clarksville, Ark. Bishop James O. Andrew, who was to hold the session of the Conference, not having arrived, Rev. John C. Parker was elected president. After two days, the Bishop arrived on the scene and took charge.

At this 8th Session of the New Arkansas Conference, Rev. John C. Parker, William P. Ratcliffe, and Andrew Hunter were elected delegates to the General Conference in 1844. This was a memorable meeting, because the plan was proposed which divided the Church between the North and the South, the issue being the question of slavery.

Later, Rev. John C. Parker was chairman of the Committee on Education at the memorable conference, which met in Louisville, Ky. on May 1, 1845, which organized the new Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The above mentioned minister probably never lived to see the Church Reunion, which took place in 1844 (?) at Kansas City, Mo.

Mae D. Patterson
(A reader of Ark. Methodist)
Historian, Yellville Ct.
P.O. Box 282
Yellville, Ark. 72687

'NOW IS THE TIME'

To the Editor:

... The Christian finds his comfort in the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. Also, as the Word of God refers to the Holy Spirit in this verse (John 14:26) as "he," we conclude with the reason and with faith that the Holy Spirit is to be referred to by that term. "He," the Holy Spirit. When you remember that Mary was the woman-virgin and was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, and God produced in Mary His Son, then there is every cause to always with assurance refer to the Spirit of truth as "He, the Holy Spirit ..."

... Many make the mistake of using "she," or "it," in regard to the Holy Spirit. Always firmly speak of the Holy Spirit in the same way as Christ and the Father.

... The Rapture of the Church, his Second Coming to rule as Lord and King of Israel is rapidly being fulfilled at the close of the Church Age, and the coming great world tribulation under direct rule of the son of perdition, who is the manifestation of Satan in a world dictator, who will come with the deceiving words of peace, but will bring world destruction. Jesus Christ will come ... and make short work in the judgment of the nations, overcome the Anti-Christ, and establish peace on earth for a thousand years ...

Now is the time for the Methodist churches to turn to greater direct Bible study and seek the spiritual gifts ... The Methodists are too lax in this ... Many or most have never in the love of Jesus Christ ever read the Bible entirely through for themselves. This gives great opportunities for false teachers, false literature to creep in, as it has done.

One of the false teachings is to believe that God is the Father of all human beings. He becomes the Father, only through the new spiritual birth, by the Son of God, Jesus Christ ... Christ is calling out the people of God ... into family members of the Lord God ...

Mrs. Beverly Rammel
5144 Cantrell Rd.
Little Rock, Ark. 72207

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Church colleges seek more support

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (UMC) — United Methodists will be asked to give an additional \$4 million annually to higher education causes if the General Conference approves recommendations made here Oct. 29-31 by the denomination's Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

The 100-member Board, chaired by Bishop Ernest T. Dixon of Topeka, Kans., is recommending \$2 million from World Service apportionments for a "Fund for Critical Institutional Change" and another \$2 million for a United Methodist ministry in Higher Education among Hispanic, Asian, and Native Americans.

The Board also recommended the continuation of a Black College Fund with an annual goal of \$6 million for the denomination's 12 black colleges, and \$10 million for Ministerial Education Fund, most of which goes to the 13 United Methodist seminaries.

The Fund for Critical Institutional Change (FCIC) is designed to help colleges and universities facing difficulties considered "temporary." A "Holding Corporation" was approved which will initially use some of the FCIC to help institutions confronting bankruptcy.

While no United Methodist school is facing immediate bankruptcy, Dr. Fred E. Harris, Nashville, Tenn., head of the Board's Division of Higher Education, said seven colleges are now "running at high levels of risk."

The Hispanic, Asian and Native American fund will support a new Commission on Higher Education for the three minority groups, create liaison relationships with agencies working in the area, study the higher education requirements identified by the three ethnic minorities, and establish guidelines for the support of projects and programs.

'Value-centered Education Is Central'

At a dinner meeting jointly sponsored by the board and the National Association of Schools and Colleges of The United Methodist Church, Drew University President Paul Hardin said that value-centered education is central, not optional, for United Methodist-related colleges and universities which stand in the Christian tradition and take a whole view of humankind. Hardin is president of the Association.

While not espousing indoctrination in a particular ethical system, Dr. Hardin

applauded teachers who express their own opinions on value questions and insist that rigorous discussion take place so that students will be forced to form and defend their own judgments.

Stressing there is more to church-relatedness than convenience or prestige, Dr. Hardin said, "United Methodism must nurture institutions which can enrich the intellectual life of the church, institutions which take custody of Christian thought and enhance it with passing years, and constantly seek to relate it to the missional life of the church."

Dr. Hardin, speaking on behalf of the college presidents in the Association, called for greater support from the church. "If we want intellectual support from our institutions to the church, we must invest spiritual and financial support to make that reciprocal service possible."

"We believe deeply in what we are doing in our small corner of the mission of a great church," he said. "We plead for a new era of active United Methodist participation in our institutions, not so much for the sake of the survival of the colleges, but for the sake of the survival of United Methodism's credible and vital

participation in higher education."

He praised the church for offering diversity in higher education in the United States. "The fact is that the churches of America have been the only non-governmental group both willing and able to sponsor education on any appreciable scale," he said.

"We United Methodists, representing one-fourth of the Protestant contribution to higher education in America, cannot say, 'Let George do it.' Our schools provide, by competition with the public sector, important guarantees of the freedom and excellence which we all want to see in higher education."

The Board of Higher Education and Ministry, headed by Bishop Ernest T. Dixon, Topeka, Kans., met October 29-31 on the campus of Oklahoma City University, a United Methodist-related school. The Board is related to more than 100 colleges, seven universities, 12 black colleges, 13 seminaries, three professional schools, and 145 Wesley Foundations. Top staff executive of the Board, which has offices in Nashville, Tenn., is Dr. F. Thomas Trotter.

†

UMM to resume 'men only' meet

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — A national Congress of United Methodist Men has been scheduled for Purdue University, W. Lafayette, Indiana, July 15-17, 1977; it has been announced by Dr. Melvin G. Talbert, general secretary of the Board of Discipleship, and Dr. David W. Self, associate general secretary of the Board's Division of Lay Life and Work.

The 1977 meeting will be the seventh quadrennial convocation and returns to the practice of attendance by men only which was the custom before 1973. Attendance has ranged from 3,000 to 4,700. Purdue can house up to 5,000 persons and the auditorium seats 6,000.

Dr. Self said the 1977 Congress is being planned to give specific attention to leadership development among men and to the continued revival of local church men's organization.

"Other persons in the Church have many opportunities for education, information, inspiration and leadership development," Dr. Self observed. "We want men to have comparable experiences at the national level. Our conference presidents of United Methodist Men are asking for such opportunities."

A general steering committee, made up of members from all parts of the country, has been named to plan the 1977 event. The Congress is being coordinated through the unit on United Methodist Men of the Division of Lay Life and Work.

†

Religious groups encouraged to use educational TV

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — There is good reason to believe that the greatest untapped opportunity for Christian education in the next 25 years lies in the use of educational television for the educational purposes of the church, according to Dr. James E. Alexander, head of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship's Section on New Approaches, Media and Technology.

In a report recently presented to the elected members of the Board's Division of Education, Dr. Alexander warned that the doors of opportunity will not remain open long and that if the church does not muster resources to fill available channels with programs of substance and quality, other secular groups will.

Dr. Alexander reported that there are signs of openness on the part of educational, broadcasting, and public agencies toward the objective teaching of religion on educational television, provided that such teaching is in the public interest and is non-sectarian.

He also gave statistics from a national survey conducted by the Commission on Non-Traditional Study indicating that 15.4 per cent of adults in America who are not already engaged in full-time study want to learn more about religion.

"The religious community needs to articulate an understanding of its public responsibility to educate the general public in matters of morals and religion in American life and culture," Dr. Alexander writes.

While public policy cannot produce religious vitality, Dr. Alexander says, "The vitality of religion in America is dependent in large measure on a religiously informed society."

For religious educators to develop television materials, Dr. Alexander says they must: "be comparable in quality to the best on public television; serve the public interest; be ecumenical and non-sectarian; be capable of multi-level audience utilization; make appropriate use of the public broadcasting medium; and have the potential for repeat utilization."

"If we fail to act soon, we shall have a

regression that closes the doors of opportunity to millions and that points us squarely in the direction of traditionalism," he concludes. "Failure will

most certainly bring about a further weakening of the church's influence in the morals and values of America."

†

Seminary professor says —

Biblical preaching needed to overcome 'disarray of worship'

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UMC) — If worship is the primary contact most people have with the church, the loss of membership may be no mystery, a seminary professor recently told a group of United Methodist agency, seminary, and Council of Bishops representatives.

Dr. Leander E. Keck, professor of New Testament at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga., said, "The amazing thing is not that membership has begun to decline, but that people have not boycotted the whole affair long ago."

Acknowledging the danger of generalization, Dr. Keck declared, "Nevertheless, it is not unfair to say that on the whole Protestant worship is in shambles."

Receiving darts were:

- the sermons: "often as coherent as a paragraph from Casey Stengel."
- the prayers: "Instead of lifting the spirit, they slither to the floor where they lie inert like wet noodles."
- the service: "sometimes as stiff and artificial as an oriental court and sometimes so cluttered with folksiness as to assault the would-be worshipper with contrived friendliness."
- the hymns: "the banality of 'In the Garden' has been replaced by the vanity of 'They'll know we are Christians by our Love.'"
- the scripture: "The way it is read can scarcely be distinguished

from the specifications for a refrigerator."

Instead of the human situation becoming real to persons in the church, Dr. Keck said it becomes less real in the 60-minute gathering in "never-never land."

Dr. Keck said the disarray of Christian worship is "a symptom of the loss of the gospel, the demise of Christian theology, and failure of nerve."

One of the remedies prescribed by Dr. Keck to add vitality to worship is a renewal of Biblical preaching. "That will not come unless there is a genuine concern for the truth of the gospel," he said. "No seminary curriculum revision will assure this result, though it may help remove barriers. Rather, insofar as we have anything at all to do toward this end, we face a shared responsibility because congregations make the preachers at least as much as the preachers make the congregations."

Dr. Keck spoke Oct. 1 in Kansas City at a joint meeting of the Association of United Methodist Theological Seminaries with the Council of Bishops' Subcommittee on Theological Education and Board General Secretaries. The full text of Dr. Keck's remarks were included in the Oct. 25 issue of *Occasional Papers*, published by the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

†

A Christmas gift suggestion

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Arkansas Methodist

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North Arkansas Coaching Conference



Curriculum Resource Leaders

Left to right, the Rev. Arvill Brannon of North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries; the Rev. Earl B. Carter, pastor of First Church, North Little Rock; Mrs. Walter Lindley, specialist in children's work; the Rev. Richard H. Rice, executive editor of Youth Publications, Board of Discipleship. The conference, held at Hendrix College, Nov. 7-8, dealt with the Use of the Bible in Teaching. Those attending will provide leadership for training events on the district level.

Adult Section

The Rev. Earl Carter (seated, second from left) leads adult group.



Youth Section

The Rev. Richard H. Rice stresses a point as he leads workers with youth.

Children's Section

Mrs. Walter Lindley (seated at head of table) wrote the Leader's Guide for the course on "Using The Bible With Children." The guide so impressed curriculum personnel in Nashville, it is being recommended for use by children's workers nationally.



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A New Sign

Stan Parks of West Memphis stands beside handsome sign he crafted for the Wesley Foundation at Arkadelphia. Stan, a Sophomore and active Wesleyan, does part time carpenter work to help with his schooling. The black lettering on stained wood is repeated on the reverse side of the sign.

†

Poetry Panorama

By BARBARA MULKEY

The subject of prayer is near to the poet's heart . . . and rightly so, for all of us need the reminder which Matthew Henry provided . . . "It is good to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice."

.....

Help Me, Lord

Help me to hear, Lord
What is good and true
Things that would bring me,
Lord, closer to you.
Help me to hear, Lord,
Through trouble and strife
Thy words so precious,
So needed for life.

Help me to see, Lord,
The beautiful and pure.
To see that thy holy
Words ever endure.
Help me to see Jesus
In people along the way,
To see Thy love for me, Lord,
And praise Thee each day.

Help me to be, Lord,
What you'd have me be.
Always in step, Lord,
Only with Thee.
Help me to guard my tongue
So it will always say
Lovely things to others,
Lord, I meet each day.

I may be the Bible, Lord,
That some folks read,
Help me to say words, Lord,
On which they can feed.
Let them read the way, Lord,
That points up to you.
Help me keep your road signs
Plainly in their view.

Help me to hear, Lord,
What you'd have me hear.
Help me to live, Lord,
And never have a fear.
Help me to see, Lord,
What you'd have me see.
Please create a new heart,
Oh Lord, in me.

—by Tomie Wood
Oppelo, Ark.

†

Oaklawn Youth Choir To Perform At Rally

The choir at right will present the musical "Life" for the Arkadelphia Youth District Rally at Oaklawn Church in Hot Springs, this Saturday, Nov. 22. The Rev. Norris Steele, pastor of Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs, will be the keynote speaker for the afternoon session. Registration is scheduled for 9:45 to 10:15 a.m., and will be followed by singing, announcements, the choir performance, and a one-hour lunch break.

†



Bells Ring At El Dorado First Church

An additional octave of Schulmerich English handbells were presented to the Music Department in a recent ceremony at First Church, El Dorado, by the family of the late Mr. H. C. McKinney Sr. In November, 1968, the McKinney family presented the first three octave set, known as "The McKinney Bells," as a memorial to Mr. McKinney. Later another octave named "The Memorial Bells" was given by individual donors. The pastor, Dr. Roy Bagley, presiding over the recent ceremony, spoke of the important role music has played in man's unending reach for God.

†

Who Is Behind Those Masks?

Prizes were presented for the ugliest, prettiest, and most creative masks worn by the youth who attended the recent Paragould District Youth Rally at Walnut Ridge. The masks were then donated to the local Day Care Center. One hundred and six persons were present for the event which included, in addition to the presentation concerning the Youth Service Fund by District Coordinator David Moose, such fun activities as pie-eating, apple-bobbing and bubble-blowing contests.

†



'Promises, Promises, Promises,' theme of Forrest City District Rally



Registration was a big job with 140 youth attending.



Old-Fashioned Sing-along

Forrest City District youth met at First Church, West Helena, Oct. 25-26 for their annual Fall Rally/Workshop. Here they have gathered to sing after an "inside cookout" (held inside because of rain). Some 140 youth from across the district engaged in group discussions, sharing promises found in the Bible. Ann Roskopf of Helena, district president, addressed the group. Saturday evening activities featured the Helena band, Five or More. The youth were served a farewell lunch following Sunday morning worship. Jim Daugherty of Augusta is district youth coordinator.