

Overview of 18-day World Council Assembly in Nairobi

United Methodism represented by more than 40 delegates, and others

NAIROBI, Kenya (UMC) — Christian unity is challenging, dangerous and promising, a prominent United Methodist theologian told the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches here Nov. 27.

"Unity challenges 'cheap ecumenism' which will give fellowship, delegates, cooperation, even money, but not visible local change," Prof. John Deschner said during a presentation on the theme "That all may be one . . ." to the more than 2,500 persons attending Assembly sessions here Dec. 10. Dr. Deschner is professor of theology at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Tex.

The theologian said the danger comes in being tempted to "think that what needs to become visible is merely the merger of church organizations, when what really is needed is 'a witness which embodies among Christians and Christian churches a believable sign of the liberating unity-in-controversy which God has promised to all humankind.' The promise is a goal 'whose outlines we only begin to see.'"

Several conditions were listed by Dr. Deschner as necessary for a genuine expression of unity in a conciliar setting, including:

- "Local churches committed to a common striving to receive, reappropriate and express afresh the faith delivered to the church through the apostles and handed down through the centuries;

- "A clear recognition in all the local churches of the

need for a council meeting as an occasion to reach out to each other, to clarify the mind of the church, and to speak the common word of witness; and an expression of this need in a call which is recognized as authoritative in the local church.

"A genuinely mutual recognition and welcoming of each delegation by all as the representatives of each church, and of the whole church;

- "A readiness on the part of all to participate in the common eucharistic act of worship, offering up to God the concern of the council and asking His word about its resolution;

- "A common word and action of witness, arising from free, inclusive debate under the commonly acknowledged authority of the Word of God, clarifying right and wrong in the church's present witness, fellowship and mission — a witness which nevertheless embodies the necessary diversity of the church's life and mission;

- "A welcoming of this witness in each local church as indeed the expression of the spirit and mind and will of the whole church, and therefore as authoritative guidance in its own free enactment of its mission."

Dr. Deschner was the major United Methodist speaker in the sessions which opened Nov. 23 to the pulsating beat of African drums.

Some 40 United Methodist delegates and others of the denomination were among the Christian leaders and

visitors from all parts of the world, and guests from other faiths, who gathered in the fountain-and-flower filled plaza of the Kenyatta Conference Center for the late afternoon festival. Rain had fallen much of the day, and skies remained threatening.

Just as the striking conference center blends in a unique way traditional African and contemporary design, the Assembly participants gathered in the plaza represented a composite of belief. An automobile dealer from Memphis shared the liturgy with an Orthodox Metropolitan, as did an Australian University professor with a liberation leader from Africa, a Pentecostal from Latin America with a Roman Catholic observer, and a European college student with an Asian theologian.

African tribal dress, ecclesiastical garb in crimson, purple, black and white, and western business and casual attire blended in a colorful array as African Israel Church members sang traditional melodies in tribal languages, a group of Maasai women sang and danced, and news media representatives scurried about.

WCC General Secretary Philip Potter, a Methodist from the Caribbean, spoke the prayer that constituted the formal opening of the Assembly, and a minister of the Evangelical Church of Togo gave the homily in French.

Then a blind drummer from Tanzania began again the rhythms with which the celebration had opened, the

(Continued on page three)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, December 11, 1975



94th Year, No. 49

'Youth Film Festival' in LR Conference

A Youth Film Festival, for junior and senior high youth of the Little Rock Conference, will be held Jan. 16-17 at Aldersgate, Inc., Little Rock. Sponsored by the Little Rock Conference Council on Youth Ministries, the event will feature three full-length movies, each to be followed by an analysis and discussion.

Films to be featured are "The Shoes of the Fisherman," showing the Church's relationship to a world of hunger and poverty; "All the King's men," a film concerning political corruption, and "Celebration in Fresh Powder," a film discussing issues relating to abortion and sexual responsibility.

The Rev. Fred Haustein, conference coordinator of Youth Ministries, reports that qualified group leaders will lead the film evaluation sessions. In addition to the three main features, a "Late Night Horror Special" and a "Cartoon Fun Time" will be held on Friday evening. Miss Michelle Campbell of Camden, a member of that city's First United Methodist Church, is the current president of the Conference Council on Youth Ministries.

The two-day event will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 16 and adjourn at 2:30 p.m. Saturday. The cost of \$12.50 per person includes three meals and insurance. Mr. Haustein states that once the camp capacity of 74 persons is reached, additional registrants will be bedded in

(Continued on page two)

'All based on faith' A message from the Board of Managers of the Arkansas Methodist

We near the end of our first year as an "apportioned item" with a great number of blessings for which to be thankful. This new venture has been accepted in a marvelous way by both Annual Conferences, and our circulation has increased, in just one year, by more than 13,500 to the present figure of approximately 31,000 issues each week. This circulation increase of more than 76 per cent was accomplished with an accompanying budget increase of just seven per cent more than the expenditures of the previous year.

Our goal has been to get the **Arkansas Methodist** in the hands of as many United Methodists in our two Annual Conferences as possible. Briefly stated, any United Methodist who is a member of a local church in this state may now have, simply by requesting it, the **Arkansas Methodist** newspaper mailed to them.

We at the **Arkansas Methodist** have been faithful in this proposal. We have never questioned, when we received the mailing list from a local church, whether or not that particular church has paid its **Arkansas Methodist** apportionment. A paper has been sent to every address on that list.

Certainly this has been a year of "launching out on faith." We budgeted and managed our resources and met the challenge of increased costs in almost every facet of our operation — all based on faith in the United Methodists of Arkansas.

It now appears, based on the reports of the Conference Treasurer through Dec. 5, 1975, that we are not going to receive enough of our total apportionment (\$45,000 from each Annual Conference) to meet our December financial requirements. We of the Board of Managers are facing the necessity of having to borrow against next year's receipts to pay this year's bills. This, of course, is not good management and it is a step we take only as a last resort. Our bills are "hard bills" due to commercial creditors and they must be paid monthly.

If the local churches of our two Conferences pay their apportionments, we will be able to meet all our obligations to our creditors. We earnestly request the cooperation of each local church in helping your Annual Conference newspaper meet its commitment to you. To do so we will need to receive your apportionment payments as soon as possible.

The Board of Managers
The **Arkansas Methodist**

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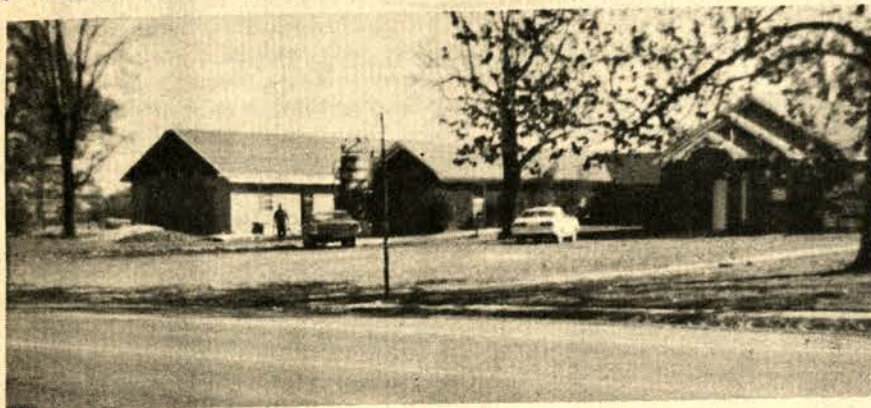
Children's Home annual emphasis Dec. 14-21

Two Sundays — Dec. 14 or 21 — have been designated as days for the annual Methodist Children's Home offering to be received in local churches of the Arkansas Area. The Rev. J. Edwin Keith, superintendent of the Home, called the offering "the life blood" of the institution, adding that "without it the Home could not exist." He said that last year's offering of \$271,809.70 was one of the best in the agency's history.

The Home, which has its central facility of 11 cottages and other support buildings in Little Rock, operates four extension homes, one each at Fort Smith, Marked Tree, Magnolia and Searcy. It opened a modern and professionally operated Child Care Center on its Little Rock campus this year. The agency cares for an average of 160 to 200 children a year, primarily from broken or problem homes.

Mr. Keith said that because of the rising cost of operating the Home, the need for contributions grows more acute each year. The agency is able to provide care for the children at the cost of approximately \$7 per day or \$196 a month.

Mr. Keith said that promotional materials have been mailed to all members of local churches whose names were submitted by pastors. He said that in addition, the Home has asked pastors to select a lay person to assist in promoting the cause of the Home in their churches.



Volunteer Construction at Vilonia

In top photo volunteer workers are shown at Vilonia United Methodist Church, 14 miles east of Conway on U.S. Highway 64, laying foundation for new Education-Fellowship Hall addition. Lower photo shows progress as of Nov. 30th. Most of the project, which began during late summer, has been accomplished by volunteer labor, and completion is anticipated within a year. The Rev. Britt Cordell is pastor.

†

THE REV. LON BREWER

Paragould pastor dies following brief illness

The Rev. Lon Brewer, pastor of Griffin Memorial United Methodist Church in Paragould, died Saturday, Dec. 7, at a Paragould hospital. He had been hospitalized after suffering a heart attack six days previously. He was 61.

In his seventh month as pastor of the Paragould church, Mr. Brewer had come

Film Festival

(Continued from page one)

churches in the Little Rock area. All persons should bring their own sleeping bag or bedding. Registrations will be received on a first-come, first-served basis. Interested persons may use the registration form below.

REGISTRATION BLANK

Yes, I want to attend the Youth Film Festival at Aldersgate, Jan. 16-17. You will find my \$12.50 registration fee enclosed. (Make check payable to: Little Rock Conference UMY. Mail form and fee to: The Rev. Fred Haustein, 4600 Baseline Road, Little Rock, Ark. 72209).

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Church _____
Check: _____ Male _____ Female _____
_____ Parent _____ Youth _____
_____ Youth Worker _____ Pastor _____

to that appointment after seven years as pastor of First United Methodist Church in McCrory. Prior to that he had served Fisher Street United Methodist Church in Jonesboro for three years and was pastor for six years at the Cherry Valley United Methodist Church. He was widely known and loved as a faithful pastor and able Christian minister.

A graduate of Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Mr. Brewer was admitted to the North Arkansas Conference in 1960 and entered into the Full Connection relationship in 1965. He had served previously as a minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was a graduate of Cumberland Presbyterian Seminary at McKenzie, Tenn.

He was serving as vice chairperson of the Conference Commission on Enlistment for Church Occupations, and would have begun a three-year term in January as a Trustee of the North Arkansas Annual Conference. He had served for many years as District Coordinator for the Arkansas Methodist during pastorates in the Forrest City District.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marie Pounders Brewer; a daughter, Mrs. Brenda Barber of McCaskill, Ark.; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. Brewer Sr. of Sidney, Ark.; two brothers, O. J. Brewer Jr. and Johnny Brewer, both of Sidney, and three sisters, Mrs. E. H. Cole, Mrs. L. E. Fore, both of Sidney, and Mrs. George Montgomery of Indianapolis, Ind.

A family graveside service was held Dec. 8 at Sidney Cemetery and a memorial service was held Dec. 10 at Griffin Memorial United Methodist Church in Paragould, with the Rev. Ben F. Jordan, Superintendent of the Paragould District, officiating. Memorials may be made to the Methodist Children's Home in care of Griffin Memorial United Methodist Church.

APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Bishop Eugene Frank announces the following appointments in the Little Rock Conference:

Mena Charge — R. T. Jarrell.

St. Andrew, Arkadelphia — Harold Hansford.

The appointments become effective Jan. 1, 1976.

†

THE REV. FAY NORMAN

Former Southwest Conference pastor dies

The Rev. Fay Norman of Wewoka, Okla., retired United Methodist minister and District Superintendent in the former Southwest Conference, died Dec. 2. He was 72.

Mr. Norman had served as superintendent of the Pine Bluff District and the Oklahoma District and as pastor of churches in Bentonville, Altheimer, Little Rock, Fort Smith, and Muskogee and Wewoka, Okla. Due to illness he was forced to take disability leave before retirement.

He is survived by his wife; four sons, Joe Norman of Winston-Salem, N.C., Edward Norman of Forrest City, Fay Norman Jr. of Oklahoma City and the Rev. Varnell Norman of Little Rock, pastor of White Memorial United Methodist Church, and by 21 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was Dec. 8 at Wewoka, with the Rev. Amos S.

†

Pulaski Heights Choir to present Christmas and Advent Concert

The Sanctuary Choir of Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock will present its annual concert of Christmas and Advent sacred music on Sunday evening, Dec. 14th at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church.

The 45-voice choir, directed by Richard Hunter, minister of Music, and accompanied by Ronald Ballard, music associate and organist, will sing a varied program including works by: Richard Purvis, Felix Mendelssohn, Philip Dieterich, Richard Butler and Paul O. Manz.

Included in the program of Advent lessons and carols will be the Women's Ensemble singing Three Moravian Carols arranged by Phyllis Tate, and the Men's Ensemble singing "Of the Father's Love Begotten," an ancient 13th century plainsong.

The congregation will join the choir in the singing of several Advent carols. The sanctuary will be decorated for the season and the service will be sung by candlelight. The public is invited to attend.

The Pulaski Heights choir has sung for annual conference sessions and will sing for the annual lighting service at the state capitol on Thursday, Dec. 18th at 7 p.m.

†

Wamble, associate director of the Oklahoma Conference Council on Ministries, officiating. Burial was in Wewoka Cemetery.

†

Love came down at Christmas,

Love so amazing, so divine.

As Christians we are called to share that love not only at Christmas but every day.

Through the United Methodist Child Support Program our church demonstrates the love that came at Christmas by providing care and concern, food and clothing for more than a million children 365 days a year.

If Christmas, or any other day, is to have meaning the orphaned, displaced, impoverished and lonely children of this world need to know this love divine.

Make love come alive in some child's life. Clip this coupon and mail with 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:

UMCOR

☐ provide more food and better diets for children through the Negrito Project, San Marcelino, Luzon, the Philippines. 240565-3

NATIONAL DIVISION

☐ provide scholarships for children from broken homes, often wards of the court, at the Sager-Brown School, Baldwin, La. 550760-1

WORLD DIVISION

☐ provide assistance for destitute children at Caixa, D'Agua and Torre Community Centers in Brazil. 006021-8-RB

Please send me further information about _____

Name _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____ Annual Conference _____

Nairobi

Continued from page one

delegates and others filed out into the gathering African dusk to await the discussions, reflections and decisions that would fill the next 17 days.

And with the major issues before the delegates under the central theme of "Jesus Christ Frees and Unites," there could be little doubt much of the debate would be intense — confessing Christ in today's world; relating to liberation movements in all parts of the world; working for a more equitable economic structure; educating children and adults for liberation and community; trying to determine what Christian unity means today; and future directions of the World Council itself, particularly in light of its budget crunch.

The opening liturgy in the plaza was interrupted briefly by three men who sought to grab the microphone amid shouted accusations that the World Council is "anti-Christ" and supportive of Communists. The men, one of whom was identified as Pastor Jack Glass of Scotland, chairman of the Twentieth Century Reformation Movement, were quickly escorted from the scene by stewards and police.

At the first business session Nov. 24, several United

Methodists were named to the various working units of the assembly, including:

The Rev. Jeanne Audrey Powers, New York, a vice-moderator of the section dealing with "What Unity Requires"; Dr. Emerito Nacpil of the Philippines, secretary of one of four hearings reviewing WCC program units; Jan Love, an Ohio State University graduate student from Crestview, Fla., and one of some 75 assembly delegates under age 30, secretary of the workshop on youth, and joining Prof. Deschner, Dr. Lois Miller and Dr. Nacpil on the program guidelines committee; Theresa Hoover, New York, moderator of the committee dealing with constitutional matters; U.S. Rep. John Brademas, South Bend, Ind., a member of the committee which will prepare statements on public affairs; Bishop Ralph T. Alton, Indianapolis, Ind., and the Rev. Tracey K. Jones Jr., New York, members of the Finance Committee; and the Rev. Paul F. McCleary, New York, an advisor to that committee.

These, and other leaders and members of the Assembly working units, were accepted without discussion, although a widely-circulated news report

erroneously said that there had been a major black-white confrontation and white European and North Americans has joined forces to defeat an attempt to place more Africans in leadership positions.

Bishop Charles F. Golden, Los Angeles, Calif., was named to the delegation replacing Bishop Paul A. Washburn of Chicago, Ill., who is recovering from surgery. Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa of Rhodesia was expected to attend at least part of the sessions.

The United Methodist participants met together on Nov. 27 for a "family Thanksgiving dinner" in a hotel here.

In his report as General Secretary, Dr. Potter told the 750 voting delegates that the Assembly will be "a total failure if we have not advanced to a new covenant relationship between the member churches at all levels of their life and the World Council at all levels of its activities." The WCC executive challenged the delegates to stop talking about the credibility of the ecumenical movement being dependent on the active engagement of the churches "and do something about it."

The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

'The Sun Also Sets' — an American tragedy

Reflections on the FBI and Martin Luther King and other sad things

There is no such thing as a limited liability for a wrong act. That fact should come as no surprise to us — though it always seems to. Our sins will find us out. Our ethical and moral chickens will come home to roost. We do not break the laws of morality; we break ourselves upon them.

These truths, along with their attendant patterns of grief, are as old as humanity. There is a law of morality woven through the fabric of history, and whenever that law is breached there will be an accounting. That's simply the way it is.

It has been our painful experience as a nation, during these Bicentennial prelude years, that while we are recalling our forefathers at their idealized best we are seeing ourselves revealed at our actualized worst — at least in certain arenas. And of special current note, this revelation is apparent in some of our official arenas, where we could be — or should be — expected to maintain the highest of integrity.

To wit: the recent revelations that highest officials in the FBI tried time and again, often utilizing illegal means, to discredit civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, perhaps even instigating "set ups" to discredit him morally, and then sending a note highly suggestive that he take his own life. Such deeds, plus revelations that the CIA was linked to assassination plots against as many as five foreign leaders, makes difficult reading for Americans who, naively though it now seems, had thought we were above such things.

Some might try to excuse such activities by claiming that the intelligence business, by its very nature, is a dirty game. Admittedly, it's not your ordinary Sunday School picnic type of activity. But, though again it may be totally naive to say so, we had hoped that our side played that game a little cleaner than the other side.

There was a time, especially before our napalm and My Lai days, when we liked to believe that America fought its wars clean and played its intelligence games in

a way that reflected the kind of society we were seeking to preserve. It now appears that our dirty tricks — that innocuous phrase by which we try to white-wash blatantly lawless and totally reprehensible deeds — are the very kind of deeds for which we have historically assailed our enemies.

We had hoped it would be different in America. Perhaps we shouldn't have, but we did. That it hasn't been different — even though in these "few small instances" — should not only offend and hurt us deeply; it should give rise to an indignation that will not be relieved until changes are made, until our highest police agencies have to abide by all the laws they are charged with protecting and preserving.

But why so much noise? Some would say "That's the way it is and that's the way it has to be in the intelligence business." We cannot accept that. If we settle for the attitude that that's the way it has to be in America, we may as well write off the whole noble experiment right now. We can forget our Bicentennial tributes to the high ideals of human rights and freedoms. And we may as well save all our defense money and join the opposition. For we will have done to ourselves what our enemies have not been able to do to us.

What are the particular "morality lessons" in all of this for our country?

- Surely one must be to remind us of the absolute necessity for a national sense of moral accountability.

- Another must be to alert us to the need to resist, more than ever, the insistence that "politics be left to the politicians" and government matters to the "experts" — just as we must resist any inferences that "religion be left to the 'professionally religious'."

- And another lesson must be that the Church must make a renewed commitment to sharing responsibility for the moral image our nation reflects to the world.

The Church is not the author of morality, nor even its sole custodian. It is, rather, a witness to the fact of morality. As a people chosen to experience and demonstrate — to be a "pilot project" of — the redemptive judgments of God, the Church is given the heavy responsibility of living out, in the world, the fruits of the redeemed life.

It is for the Church to boldly say that a nation cannot be "under God" while at the same time tolerating official lawlessness and inhumanity. If the Church does not speak forth on such evils, it defaults on its own moral responsibility and cheats the people and the nation within whose boundaries it happens to reside.

Off the Top of the Head

Your 'Price Patrol' reports in

On a couple of afternoons last week I took my M&M's business down to Sterlings on the corner of Capitol Avenue and Center Street. And I am ecstatic to report to you that on my very first purchase I came up with an all-time record: 50 (fifty!) M&M's (Plain) in one sack! Unbelievable!

If Osco expects to keep my business, they're going to have to get with it.

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I am really nobody

. until somebody cares



"I Am Really Nobody Until Somebody Really Cares" is the plea of over 146 boys and girls at the Methodist Children's Home. Your help and concern is what "Caring" is all about.

So at this season of the year, as our minds are turned toward the Christ Child who came to earth nearly 2,000 years ago to care for us, let us also turn our minds toward children of the Methodist Children's Home, and bless them with our Caring and Sharing.

The need for contributions grows more acute each year as the cost of operation increases with the rising cost of living and as the program of child care is upgraded and expanded to adequately meet the needs of the children.

To provide care — to really make a home for these children costs approximately \$7.00 per day per child or \$49.00 per week or \$196.00 per month — expensive maybe — but not when compared to the \$11.34 per day it costs to maintain a person in prison.

AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME, we provide all the love and care possible, through devoted and consecrated housemothers in each home; through professionally trained caseworkers who counsel the children in making necessary adjustments and working out emotional problems; and through your individual support.

WE DO NOT KNOW if this is enough. Nor will we know until each of these children becomes a mature citizen. But we are giving them something they have not had before . . . love. We have faith in them, and they have faith in us.

†

Your help is needed and will be greatly appreciated

December 14 or 21, 1975



William B. Walton, vice-chairman of the board of Holiday Inns, Inc., told a national layman's conference at Scottsdale, Ariz., that "Respect for business is at an all-time low, and the fault lies with business leaders themselves. We insist so much on church-state separation, but I think there's too much separation between God and business." Focusing on the responsibility of the individual in promoting corporate ethics, Walton, said, "Gulf Oil Corporation didn't pass out the bribes. An individual within Gulf Oil Corporation did it."

†

Arch N. Booth, immediate past-president of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., told 350 persons attending the Layman's Leadership Institute at Scottsdale, that the survival of a free society will depend more on what American business does with ethics than with what it does with the economy. The United Methodist layman said, "In ethics the greatest sin is standing still." He declared that business and government leaders who stood still and said nothing about declining ethics in the past three years "were committing the most damnable sin."

†

Dr. Robert McAfee Brown, a professor of theology at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif., told the Fifth Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in Nairobi that Jesus as liberator frees us negatively "from the false securities by which we try to make our lives secure," and positively "for the possibility of seeing the world through eyes other than our own." But it is not enough to "see," said Dr. Brown, we must also act because Jesus also frees us for struggle with and on behalf of those "others" who are poor and dispossessed.

†

Some 400 official participants from the U.S. and abroad are expected to attend the Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty to be held at the Friends Meeting House in Philadelphia, April 25-30, 1976. The interreligious conference is co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Christian Council representing Protestant and Orthodox Churches, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Board of Rabbis of the area. The major work of the conference will be carried out in 18 seminars for small groups. A wide range of nationally and internationally known speakers will be featured.

†

The 42-member Administrative Committee of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), includes 21 new members — ten of whom are homemakers, and four, college students. Committee members are elected for two-year terms.

†

Council Directors to Local Churches

The Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences maintain Audiovisual Libraries for use by local churches, districts, and agencies of the conferences. The facilities are located at the Council on Ministries Offices of each conference. Staff persons of the councils are responsible for the circulation of films, filmstrips, slides, tapes, recordings, et cetera. A great many are used by various leaders of our Church across the state.

Our Audiovisual Libraries may contain resources useful to church school teachers in the local church. Listed below are a few recommended resources for use with the current curriculum:

A filmstrip, "Christmas Around The World," may be used well with many children's groups and become a vital



Scriptures in Sign Language for Deaf Children

Now available from the American Bible Society is a new Scripture Selection specially designed for the religious education of deaf children between ages 8 and 12. Shown here is a reproduction of a page illustrating sign language a deaf child understands. The new publication may be purchased at \$.35 per copy. (ABS Photo)

†

Prince Saddrudin Aga Khan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, told the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee that the growing interdependence of nations should be reflected in their treatment of refugees and displaced persons. The High Commissioner said that "the refugee is the product of errors and his predicament is an indictment of the conduct of peoples and nations. Urging much greater accommodation on a regional basis to resolve the refugee problem, he called also for a far greater swiftness to open doors to refugees — universally."

†

John H. Haugh, speaking before the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee, noted that during the past year there had been many instances of forcible repatriation of refugees. He said that the U.S. pledged its continuing support of the 1951 Convention on Refugees, which prohibits their return to territories where their life or freedom would be threatened. Mr. Haugh observed that of \$26 million received last year for the refugee operation in Cyprus, \$20.7 million was contributed by the U.S. Urging the international community to aid in resettlement efforts for 70,000 homeless refugees in Thailand, he added that the U.S. has contributed \$8.6 million toward such efforts, and has accepted for permanent resettlement in the U.S. over 10,000 refugees from Thailand.

†

Dr. Lowell Hardin, an executive of the Ford Foundation, told a church-sponsored conference on world hunger meeting at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City: "Technically and physically food production can be substantially increased, and increased in those countries where needs are greatest." "Whether in fact this potential will be realized is another matter . . . I am cautiously optimistic." He said "most of the world's farmers would like nothing better than to get on with the job, given incentives, inputs and the opportunity." "Means do exist," said Dr. Hardin, "whereby a more adequate and secure food supply can be produced in and earned by the developing countries, with the right kinds of help. This plus companion measures could in time help stabilize population growth."

†

Former Arkansas Congressman Brooks Hays, received the Charles Evans Hughes Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews during its annual trustees' meeting in New York City. Mr. Hays, a past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was cited for his accomplishments as a Congressman and chairman of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, for developing plans to extend civil rights to minority groups, and for promoting educational and economic opportunities and ecumenical exchange and fellowship.

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Audiovisual aids for Church School teachers

part of the teaching process.

"It's Up To You" is a 16mm film especially good for parents and teachers but may be used with teenagers.

A filmstrip, "The Four Fishermen" has been prepared for use with the unit "We Knew Jesus" for younger elementary boys and girls and presents the story of four fishermen who became disciples of Jesus, Andrew, Peter, James and John.

"Not So Different" is a 35mm filmstrip that may be used with the unit for older elementary children studying the unit, "Let All The People Praise Thee."

A great many other resources are available, listed in our Audiovisual

Resource Catalogue, a copy of which should be in each local church. Leaders are encouraged to make their selections early, use the material on the date for which it is scheduled, and return it immediately. The only cost is the return postage.

Teachers of adults may be interested in a set of materials for use in the training of leaders. The following set has been produced for that purpose and contains a cassette tape with worksheets and referred to as "Skill Training Packets":

"Questions And Questioning — Using Questions in Teaching Adults"
"How To Lead A Discussion"
"Learn To Teach Adults"
"Teaching The Bible To Adults"
"How Do I Rate As A Teacher?"

"Preparing A Teaching Plan"

One resource available in the Conference Libraries, for use with blind or visually handicapped persons, is a set of cassette tapes — recordings of the series for adult study under the title, "Our Living Bible Series." Two units are available at present: "Believe The Good News" and "Teacher, Saviour, And Lord." These are available on the same basis as other materials.

Persons desiring to use materials from the Audiovisual Libraries should contact the Council On Ministries Office of their Annual Conference. Both libraries are located at 715 Center Street, Little Rock 72201. Requests can be filled more rapidly if directed to "The Film Library" and marked for "Little Rock Conference" or "North Arkansas Conference."

In Search of the King

By LARRY D. POWELL

Pastor, Markham United Methodist Church, Little Rock



Lesson for December 21

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-2:23.

Orientation: It is significant that at the time of our Lord's birth, there existed a widespread sense of expectation among both Jews and Gentiles. Suetonius, the Roman historian, later described this phenomenon; "There had spread over all the Orient an old established belief, that it was fated at that time for a man coming from Judaea to rule the world."¹

Tacitus wrote that, "There was a firm persuasion . . . that at this very time the East was to grow powerful, and rulers coming from Judea were to acquire universal empire."² The prophecies of the Old Testament do not restrict the mission of the Messiah to the Jews alone; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6 announce that he was to be a "light to the nations." Again, Matthew understands the events surrounding the birth of Jesus as fulfilling Old Testament prophecies with striking exactness.

Adoration of the Magi: Mt. 2:1-12

In the minds of ancient peoples, it was inconceivable that the birth of an important person should go unattended by an especially brilliant star. The Anchor Bible relates that such a star is reported to have appeared at the birth of Mithridates (131 B.C.).³ Jewish legend also includes an unusually bright star having appeared at the birth of Abraham. Too, Balaam had uttered a prophetic oracle (Numbers 24:17) promising that a star would "come from Jacob." The Messiah's appearance then, MUST be hailed by a star.

Matthew is the only Gospel which mentions either the star or the "Wise Men." The first account of the Gospel, written by Mark, includes no infancy narrative whatsoever. The latest account, John, omits any mention of Jesus' birth. Luke's record tells us that a host of angels appeared to shepherds by night and sang a song of peace. Only Matthew recounts the episodes of the star and Wise Men. Neither is mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament or in other early Christian writings.

An early Christian tradition claimed that there were twelve Wise Men. However, it is now generally understood that there were only three. Matthew does not relate how many there actually were, but it is assumed that the number three is implied by the three gifts presented the Christ child. Later, these obscure figures are further identified as royalty.

Legend, not content with Matthew's general reference, provided specifics by referring to the "three kings." Still later legend ascribed names to the night visitors: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Actually, the word employed to describe these men is, in the original rendering, "Magi." Initially, the Magi composed a tribe in Persia and, according to Barclay, ". . . were skilled in philosophy, medicine, and natural science. They were soothsayers and interpreters of dreams. In ancient days, all men believed in astrology. They believed that they could foretell the future from the stars, and that a man's destiny was settled by the star under

which he was born."⁴

Again, the Old Testament prophecies did not restrict the mission of the Messiah to the Jewish people alone. Matthew then, sees significance in the visitation of the Magi as it seemed to underscore the universal character of the Messianic mission.

I recall hearing a retired minister relate a notoriously uncomplicated story about some ants. He told of standing for a long while, observing the ants as they busily transported their tiny burdens a distance of several yards to the anthill. He curiously watched them hurry along a meandering, obstacle-laden route. From his vantage point, the ants were clearly taking the long way around, seemingly unaware of a simpler, less cluttered route.

He said that as he stood there watching them scurrying, struggling with the hindrances, he found himself wanting to do something to help them. However, it occurred to him that he would have to BECOME an ant in order to do it. It was in that simple moment of observation that he claims to have received his most profound comprehension of the Incarnation. For him, the analogy satisfactorily interpreted the passage "the Word became flesh" in terms he could understand.

No, such an analysis has not won accolades from the sophisticated theological journals and he has not been invited to appear before distinguished academic assemblies; but then, neither was the teacher who spoke of mustard seed, leaven, lost coins, lilies, birds, and sheep. There is such about the common touch that seems to make the Christ even more genuinely universal.

Matthew declares this throughout this account of the Gospel and even the nativity is not without overtones; the parents of humble vocation, the lowly setting and simple properties of the stable, the angel's appearance to the shepherds, . . . all identify the Messiah with the common folk. "Infant holy," yes; but also . . . "Infant lowly." The visitation of the Magi, learned wise men from the East, provided further proof for Matthew that what was happening in Bethlehem was happening for all mankind.

Born in Bethlehem: Mt. 2:5-6

Centuries before, the prophet Micah had written, "O Bethlehem of Judah, you are but a small Judean village, yet you will be the birthplace of my King who is alive from everlasting ages past (Micah 5:2)." Bethlehem of Judah is designated because there was another Bethlehem in Zebulun (see Joshua 19:15-16).

Bethlehem means "The House of Bread." It was in this city that Jacob had buried Rachel and set a pillar by her grave (Gen. 48:7; 35:20); Ruth had lived here when she married Boaz (Ruth 2:1); it was the hometown and city of King David (I Sam. 16:1). It was from this city that God's anointed one would come. Matthew then, assures the reader that everything is taking place as had been anticipated. Addressing himself to the Jews, he substantiates the matter by quoting Micah.

In the Days of Herod the King: Mt. 2:1

King Herod was half Jew and half Idumaeon. In 47 B.C. he was appointed governor and six years later received the title of king. His reign extended to about 4 B.C. To say that the Jews viewed him suspiciously would be an understatement. Besides the fact that there was Edomite blood in his veins, he had received his position as outright reward for befriending the Romans. The Jews resented his constant efforts at aggrandizement and his interest in things Greek which resulted in vast building enterprises, including the Temple at Jerusalem. Large sums of money were required for construction, which meant that huge taxes were levied upon the Jews to finance Herod's interests.

Dr. Charles Laymon refers to Herod's determination to possess absolute authority; "Herod did not hesitate to put to death those whom he regarded as a threat to his rule of nation. Among those whom he killed were Aristobulus III, his brother-in-law; Joseph, who had married Herod's sister Salome; Hycanus II, who had once saved him from death; his wife Marianne; and his own mother, Alexandra. Even his sons, Alexander and Aristobulus were strangled at his order, and five days before his death, he commanded that his son Antipater should be killed."⁵ Augustus, the Roman Emperor, had said bitterly that it was safer to be Herod's pig than his son. It is little wonder that Herod should become alarmed at the news of a new king, child or no, who reputedly would rule the world.

They Offered Gifts: Mt. 2:11

Customarily, the ancients came into a king's presence bearing gifts. The most appropriate gift for a king was gold; crowns and scepters were made of gold. The king of metals was a fitting gift for the King of men.

Another Magi came bearing frankincense, a costly white gum used by the priests as a fragrant perfume in Temple worship and sacrifice. Some commentators claim that this gift symbolized the deity of Christ.

The third was myrrh. It was an ingredient of Israel's holy anointing oil (Ex. 30:23-33). However, myrrh was also used in embalming.

Barclay characterizes the gifts as: gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, and myrrh for one who was to die. "Even at the cradle of Christ, they foretold that he was to be the true King, the perfect High Priest, and in the end, the supreme Saviour of men."⁶

†

¹ Suetonius. *Life of Vespasian*, 4:5.

² Tacitus. *Historiae*, 5:13.

³ The Anchor Bible; Matthew, page 14.

⁴ The Daily Study Bible; The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. 1; page 17.

⁵ The Life and Teachings of Jesus, page 18.

⁶ The Daily Study Bible, page 24.

ASSIGNMENT: Please read chapters 3 and 4 in Matthew, in preparation for next week's lesson: "Wrestling with Temptation."

News from the Churches

First Church, Conway Serves Thanksgiving Dinners

Ninety persons attended a Thanksgiving dinner at First Church, Conway, in response to an invitation which said "anyone who wants to come," and hot dinners were delivered to 50 persons confined to their homes.

The celebration in McHenry Fellowship Hall began with the singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" and ended with "Blessed Be The Tie That Binds." The menu included turkey, ham, cranberry sauce, cornbread dressing, scalloped potatoes, green beans, a variety of salads, and apple and pecan pies.

The first-time dinner was financed by members of the church, with Mrs. Bill Thomas, assisted by several members, in charge of arrangements and serving. According to Mrs. Thomas, there were enough contributions left over to finance a similar occasion next year.

THE REV. WILLIAM ROBINSON, pastor of St. Paul Church, Maumelle, was the revival speaker for a recent three-night series at Valley Grove Church, Murfreesboro. Mr. Robinson also supervises the St. Paul Community Center and Day Care facility. His messages were based on the themes: Where is your faith?, What kind is your faith?, and Is anything too hard for God?

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Duncan Church, Little Rock, report the following series of monthly programs for the Fall and Winter season: A workshop for officers of the unit was led by Mrs. Grace Robinson; Supportive Community with Mrs. Horace Blake as guest speaker; Global Concerns led by guest speaker Ruby Wilkerson, district coordinator; Christian Personhood led by Mrs. Elsie Coley, district coordinator, will be presented Dec. 21; a Bible study led by the Rev. J. W. Lofton, pastor, for January meeting, and a program on Christian Social Involvement will be chaired by Ms. James Porter in February.

BAZAAR AT REDFIELD

United Methodist Women of the church at Redfield are sponsoring a Bazaar to be held at Redfield City Hall Saturday, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will be used to benefit the church's Building Fund. The public is invited.

BENTONVILLE CHURCH HOLDS MISSION STUDY SERIES

The Bentonville and Bella Vista United Methodist Churches featured a Mission Study Time on the first three Sunday evenings in November from 7:45 to 8:45 o'clock. The Bible study, Decision for Destiny, was followed by a 15-minute break, after which the Bicentennial study, A Nation Under God, was presented.

Four groups met each Sunday evening — two in Bentonville homes and two in Bella Vista homes, with 74 adults participating. Leaders in Bentonville were: Mrs. Sam Teague, Mrs. Charles Bruce, Mrs. Lee Sherman, and Mrs. John Douglas. Leading the Bella Vista classes were Mrs. Vernon Becker, Mrs. Willina Brown, Tim Caldwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Murphy.

THE CHANCEL CHOIR of First United Methodist Church, Searcy, will present Handel's "Messiah" on Sunday, Dec. 14th, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. The program will feature ten soloists and the Annie Cowen Handbell Choir. Monty R. Bell is director of music at First Church. The public is cordially invited to attend.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The First United Methodist Church, Third and South Denver, Russellville, Arkansas 72801, is seeking a lay assistant to the pastor. Job specifications will be furnished upon request.

Interested persons should apply in writing to the church including with his or her application a transcript of college courses and the names of three persons to be contacted as references.

Personalia

CHAPLAIN Thomas M. Babington, a member of the Louisiana Conference, has been appointed to the position of Chief of the Chaplain Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Nashville, Tenn. In 1974 Chaplain Babington was appointed acting chief of the service and adjunct professor at the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University. He is married to the former Sybil Blankinship of Warren, Ark., a graduate of Hendrix College.

Thanksgiving Union Service In Bull Shoals

Participants in this year's traditional Thanksgiving Union service at Bull Shoals Presbyterian Church. Left to right, United Methodist Pastor, the Rev. Charles E. Watt, presented the message; Dr. William Little, Lutheran layman, read the scripture, and the Rev. Stephen Fazekas, host pastor. The service was sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance.



Give a Living Gift



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• One dairy heifer and its offspring in 10 years produce a million cups of milk. A beef heifer and its progeny in the same time make 25 tons of steaks and hamburgers.

• One female pig produces 20 baby pigs a year, which yield 4,000 pounds of pork. In many countries the gift of a single Heifer Project pig doubles the annual income of the recipient family.

• One baby chick grows up and lays 400 eggs. That's 33 dozen eggs for the table if they are eaten, and a population explosion in the hen



Shiloh Celebrates With Old Fashioned Day

Turn-of-the-century attire, the use of lanterns, an afternoon program of music by The Harvesters Quartet of Jonesboro, and a morning sermon — a condensation of John Wesley's "Salvation By Faith," were all features of the third annual Old Fashioned Day at Shiloh Church in Paragould District. At right, Superintendent of Study Ransom Walker opens the day's activities. Pastor David Moose withheld comment on the halo surrounding Mr. Walker.



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.

Dec. 14—Sunday Isa. 9:1-7
Dec. 15 Isa. 11:1-10
Dec. 16 Isa. 61:1-11
Dec. 17 Micah 4:1-7
Dec. 18 Micah 5:2-4
Dec. 19 Jer. 33:14-21
Dec. 20 Mal. 3:1-5
Dec. 21—Sunday John 1:1-14

TWENTY used church pews with loose cushions available about March 1. Terms cash. 25 per cent advance payment desirable. Call 889-2612, or write Box 2, Perryville, Ark.

For **COLDS** take 666



A/C 214 657-6524 Box 931 Henderson, Texas 75652

Fayetteville District UMW Annual Meeting

The Executive Committee of Fayetteville District United Methodist Women "planned for 150, hoped for 100, expected 75 to 100," and were pleasantly surprised when 207 attended the third annual district meeting on Saturday, Nov. 8 at Siloam Springs First Church, according to Mrs. Bob Hanna, recording secretary. Twenty-seven units and several churches without organized UMW units were represented at the all-day meeting.

A Bicentennial theme, "A Community of Women — we were, we are, we could become," was effectively conveyed against an appropriate red, white, and blue stage backdrop incorporating historic dates, places and happenings of the Methodist Church, designed and crafted by the Rogers unit.

The morning session opened with an old fashioned sing-along. The Challenge was sung by Mrs. Joallen Moose of Siloam Springs to her own auto-harp accompaniment. The Purpose was read by Mrs. Doris McConnell, district vice president, assisted by the Eureka Springs unit. As each phase was read an appropriately gowned representative appeared on stage. Dr. Earl Hughes, pastor of the host church, presented the opening prayer, and Mrs. Don Handley, president of the church's UMW, welcomed the group.

The major emphasis for the morning centered on eight Interest Groups. These included the following topics and leaders:

Mission Studies, led by Mrs. Ruth Lanier; The Talent Bank (Leadership and Nominations), Mrs. Nancy Randall; Who Are We? (Membership), Mrs. Norma Faye Wilson, Mrs. Thelma Hart-ronft; Programming, Mrs. Karen Chambers and Mrs. Doris McConnell; Child Advocacy, a SCAN worker from Fayetteville and Mrs. Jeanette Weaver; Dimensions of Hunger, Mrs. Lynne Hughes; Our Voting Heritage, Mrs. Georgia Elrod of the League of Women Voters and Mrs. Ruth Rich; Our Women's Mite (Treasurers), Mrs. Ora Couch and Mrs. Minerva Morgan.

The Bicentennial atmosphere prevailed through the "brown bag" lunch hour with "The Wanderin' Parsons," District Superintendent Harold Spence and the Rev. John McCormack, pastor of First Church, Harrison, performing on guitar and fiddle with songs from the "olden days." Ladies of First Church, Springdale, presented a style show narrated by Mrs. Betty Hinshaw, depicting the history of the Methodist Church in costume. The lunch hour concluded with the film, "An American Time Capsule."

District UMW President, Mrs. Robert Chambers, presided over the afternoon business session and worship period. The women were reminded of the

request by Conference officers that each district increase their 1975 pledge by \$1,500 in order to meet the year's budget.

Dates to Remember

A Training Conference will be held at Central Church, Fayetteville, on Feb. 7, under the leadership of North Arkansas Conference officers. The Annual Meeting will be held April 10 at Hendrix College with Fayetteville District Women serving as the hostess group.

Discussion included the Helping Hands project, which enables women in churches without an active UMW unit to participate in an active unit. Also discussed were the annual Aldersgate Fair, the cooperative School of Christian Mission, and the district visitation project initiated this year by district officers.

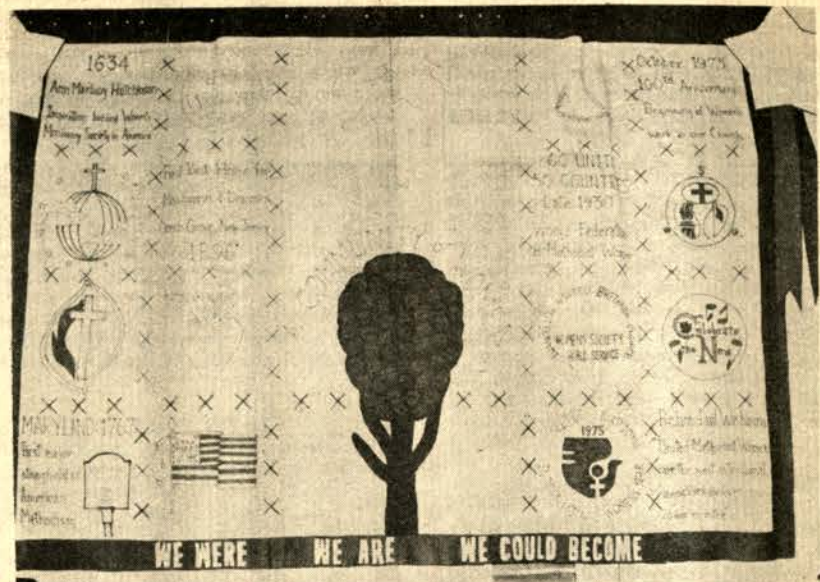
The election and dedication of officers for 1976 was directed by Mrs. Nancy Randall, district chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, and Mrs. Karen Chambers.

Elected were: President, Mrs. Robert Chambers; Vice President, Mrs. Lloyd McConnell; Recording Secretary, Mrs. George Fordyce; Associate Secretary, Mrs. Bob Hanna; Treasurer, Mrs. Ora Couch; Associate Treasurer, Mrs. Sherman Morgan; Coordinator for Christian Personhood, Mrs. Allison Westphal; Supportive Community, Mrs. Bill Tucker; Christian Global Concerns, Mrs. Maurice Lanier; Program Resources, Mrs. Gary Frickle; Christian Social Involvement, Mrs. Donald Weaver; Membership Chairperson, Mrs. Kenneth Willsey; and Committee on Nominations chairperson, Mrs. Claud Woods.

An offering was received which will be equally divided between Mallalieu Community Center at Fort Smith, and the Women in Rural Development: Land, Labor and Water project. Mrs. Ora Couch, district treasurer, conducted the pledge service, with pledges to date, for 1976, exceeding \$16,000. "The Accents," singing group from Bentonville, presented offertory music, and the Green Forest unit served as ushers.

Other business included the presentation of a Special Membership to Mrs. Maxine Smith in recognition of her service to the district. The treasurer reported district receipts in excess of \$17,000 for the first three quarters of 1975, including 45 Special Memberships, with 12 of these credited to the Bentonville unit.

Mrs. Edra Wear of Rogers conducted a service memorializing 32 women of the district.



STAGE BACKDROP in red, white and blue, created by the Rogers UMW for morning session pinpoints historic events in United Methodism, noting the 1634 organization of the Women's Missionary Society in America under the inspiration of Ann Marley Hutchinson, through the Oct. 1975 100th Anniversary of the beginning of women's work in the Methodist Church.



MRS. NANCY RANDALL, on the left, and Mrs. Lynne Hughes, host pastor's wife, inside door, welcome their guests for the day.



DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Harold Spence visits with some of the ladies as registration gets underway.



EUREKA SPRINGS ladies in costume represent the four phases of the Purpose of United Methodist Women.



LEADING ladies to the "Who Are We?" (Membership) Interest Group, participant wears sign labeled "Follow Me."



ONE of eight Interest Groups.



"THE Wanderin' Parsons."



LADIES in morning session.



MRS. DARLENE HINSHAW models deaconess robe and hat worn by Mrs. Minnie Hook during the '20s. Accompanying her is the Rev. Maurice Webb of Springdale First Church attired in a frock suit worn by Dr. A. W. Martin in the early '30s in the pulpit, for weddings and other special occasions.



THE BANNER used for the afternoon assembly declared "Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). It was fashioned by the Prairie Grove unit.

—Photos by Dr. Ethan Dodgen