

Special call for Guatemala relief offering

Bishop Eugene M. Frank and the district superintendents of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences have issued a call for a special Guatemala earthquake relief offering on or before March 7.

In a letter to all pastors, Bishop Frank said "we urge every congregation to make some response as soon as possible to this tragedy." He stated that all gifts should be sent to the Area Treasurer, marked "UMCOR — GUATEMALA RELIEF."

Bishop Frank noted that Church World Service, an agency of the National Council of Churches with which The United Methodist Church cooperates, had issued an appeal for blankets and clothing. Such items should be mailed to Church World Service, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776.

†

CCF announces annual meeting

Dr. Charles H. Ashcraft, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., on March 15. In keeping with the Bicentennial theme, Dr. Ashcraft will speak in answer to the question, "What moral foundations will America need, if we are to survive during the next two hundred years?" at the 12:30 luncheon meeting, at Second Baptist Church, Eighth and Cumberland, Little Rock.

Dr. Ashcraft is a member of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee of the Christian Civic Foundation. The Rev. Edward W. Harris, executive director, said: "We sincerely appreciate the contribution that Dr. Ashcraft has



Dr. Charles H. Ashcraft

made to the cause of civic righteousness in Arkansas, and we feel fortunate to

(Continued on page two)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, March 4, 1976



95th Year, No. 10

Pastoral appointments

How does the system work?

Part II of a two-part interview

In last week's issue the Arkansas Methodist carried the first of a two-part interview with Bishop Eugene M. Frank and the chairmen of the cabinets of the two Annual Conferences of the Arkansas Area on the subject of how pastoral appointments are made. Part two of that interview appears below.

In addition to Bishop Frank, interviewed were the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr., superintendent of the Batesville District and chairman of the cabinet of the North Arkansas Conference, and the Rev. Everett M. Vinson, superintendent of the Monticello District and chairman of the cabinet of the Little Rock Conference. The interview was conducted Feb. 18 in Little Rock.

Arkansas Methodist: How does the cabinet go about its work of making pastoral appointments?

The Rev. Everett M. Vinson: Sometimes the process begins a year ahead of time. It's in the mill very slowly. Ordinarily, however, around the turn of the new year the cabinet enters into a dialogue. This is where we are now — we're in the talking stage. And we talk and talk for many months before we ever write anything down. Because we want to talk this thing out; we want to see as many angles as we possibly can.

After a while we go to work with the "worksheets." A worksheet will have on it the pastor's name, the church, the minister's status — whether Elder, Deacon, and so on — and the number of years he has served in that appointment.

And it will also have a recommendation. If he can either move or go back, we will put an "E" by his name. If he and/or his church is asking for a move, we usually put an "M" by that name. If there is no doubt in our mind about his returning we usually put an "R" by his name.

The worksheet also indicates the number of preaching places on the charge and the number of rooms in the parsonage. And then it gives the income scale. After we've done quite a bit of talking, we will go over these worksheets and will make notes of men in certain income brackets — we will try to group them in income brackets — who are recommended for "E" or a move. And then we talk some more. We're getting a little closer to specifics.

Arkansas Methodist: What time of the year does the actual worksheet process begin?

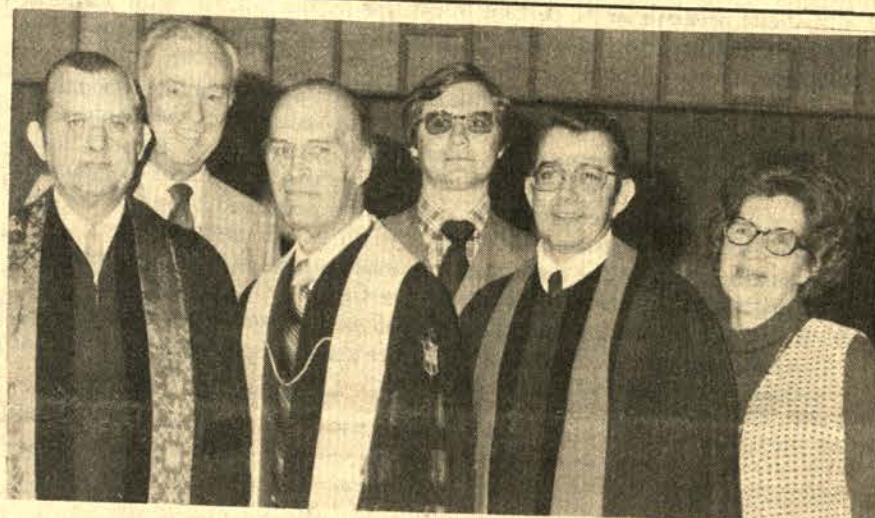
Bishop Eugene M. Frank: Generally it's in January.

Arkansas Methodist: What is the major function of the district superintendent in making appointments?

The Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr.: Of course, the bishop is the man who makes the appointments, officially. I like to think of him as being the coach. He sets the style and more or less plans the strategy. And there are times when the bishop necessarily must call the play.

And I think of the district superintendents as assistant coaches, working to help him further carry out the style and strategy and develop the work — appointments or whatever. And of course Bishop Frank's style of leadership, consultation and working together are certainly appreciated.

(Continued on page two)



Mabelvale Church Dedicated

Participants in Feb. 8 Service of Dedication at Mabelvale United Methodist Church, Little Rock. Left to right, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent; Mr. W. M. (Bill) Shepherd, long-time leader in the congregation and currently Little Rock Conference lay leader; Bishop Eugene M. Frank, preached the dedication sermon and officiated at ceremonies; Mr. Oscar Hirby, Administrative Board chairman; the Rev. Gerald K. Fincher, pastor, and Mrs. Mary Scoville, Board of Trustees chairman, presented papers signifying payment of mortgage.



EXTERIOR of Mabelvale church, first occupied in 1965 during pastorate of the Rev. Woodrow Smith. The church had its beginning in 1846 when a non-denominational Sunday school was organized at a location called Hopewell Springs — about one-fourth mile from its present site. The following year it became a Methodist Sunday school, and in 1849 relocated in the village of Mabelvale. Two houses of worship preceded the present structure.

Pastors' School speakers announced

Dr. Lindsey Pherigo of St. Paul School of Theology at Kansas City, Mo. and Dr. Rolf P. Knierim of Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, Calif., will be the featured lecturers at this year's Arkansas Pastors' School, according to an announcement by the Rev. Robert O. Beck, dean of the school.

The annual event is again scheduled to be held at Hendrix College, from Sept. 13-16. The preacher for the school will be the new bishop for the Arkansas Area. His appointment will be made during the July 12-15 Jurisdictional Conference, upon the retirement of Bishop Eugene M. Frank.

Dr. Pherigo, who has made frequent appearances in Arkansas and is widely recognized as a New Testament scholar, will present an exegetical treatment of that segment of the scriptures, and Dr. Knierim, Old Testament scholar who lectured at the 1974 school, will present an analytical study of the Old Testament. The format for the sessions will be the same as last year, providing those attending the school an opportunity to hear both men each day.

Council of Bishops' suggested appointment-making procedures

The following are suggestions which grew out of a meeting Jan. 12-14 of the active United Methodist bishops in the United States. The session, called a consultation on ministerial appointment procedures, was initiated by the Council on Bishops' Pastoral Concerns Committee, chaired by Bishop Jesse R. DeWitt of Wisconsin. Forty-three of the 45 active bishops in the U.S. attended.

In the ten suggested procedures listed below, the items in parentheses were not a part of the original document. They are comments by Bishop Eugene M. Frank, which are included with his permission.

SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT-MAKING

1. Identify churches and ministers where moves are likely. Every church or minister shall indicate to the superintendent the desire to remain or move. Such a request may be in writing if the superintendent requires it.

(This step should be the result of a continuing district pastoral relationship, not a sudden question. Constant pastoral consultation through the year over both pastors, families, and lay people.)

2. The superintendent should secure from the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee an appraisal of the church and of the ministry needed. This may be in writing if the superintendent requires it.

(This should not come as a shock to a committee, but as the result of continuing district, pastoral care and training in committee responsibility.)

3. The superintendent should secure from the pastor and his family a description of skills, needs, anticipation, aspirations.

(This should develop out of continuing pastoral care.)

4. Cabinet seeks to match persons to charges on the basis of known criteria.

5. The superintendent consults with pastors to determine attitude toward an appointment.

6. The superintendent consults with the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee to present the recommendation or proposed appointee from the Cabinet.

7. If the Cabinet recommends it, the superintendent shall arrange for a meeting between the appointee and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee.

(This is basically for acquaintance, sharing the goals and hopes of the congregation with the purpose of helping to begin an effective ministry.)

8. It is assumed that the appointment is made at this point unless there is a reasonable cause for reconsideration by the Cabinet.

9. Before public announcement is made, all parties involved will be advised.

10. Appointments should be finalized before Annual Conference and fixed at the session of the Annual Conference.

†

Four bishops to be elected in South Central Jurisdiction

LINCOLN, Nebr. (UMC) — Four of the seven new bishops to be elected by The United Methodist Church this summer will be elected here during sessions of the South Central Jurisdiction Conference.

The conference will be held July 12-15, simultaneously with conferences of the other four jurisdictions in the U.S.

More than 360 delegates will be attending the conference, representing 16 annual (regional) conferences in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Bishops will be elected to fill the vacancy left by the late Bishop Kenneth W. Copeland who served the Houston Area until his death Aug. 7, 1973, and vacancies left by the retirements of Bishop Eugene M. Frank, Little Rock, Ark.; Bishop Don W. Holter, Lincoln, Nebr., and Bishop O. Eugene Slater, San Antonio, Tex. Bishop Paul V. Galloway was called out of retirement to fill out the term of Bishop Copeland.

Jurisdictional conferences meet every four years to elect and assign bishops to episcopal areas which include one or more annual conferences. Bishops, elected for life, can serve in one episcopal area for no more than three, four-year terms.

Bishops in the South Central Jurisdiction who can either remain in their area or be assigned to another area are: Bishop Finis Crutchfield, New Orleans, La.; Bishop Robert E. Goodrich Jr., St.

Louis, Mo.; Bishop Alsie H. Carleton, Albuquerque, N.M.; Bishop Ernest T. Dixon, Topeka, Kans.; Bishop Paul W. Milhouse, Oklahoma City; and Bishop W. McFerrin Stowe, Dallas, Tex.

The Conference will open in Lincoln Monday night, July 12 with a service of holy communion and commemoration at St. Paul United Methodist Church. Bishop Galloway will preside and Bishop Milhouse will give the commemoration address.

The Conference will close with the consecration of new bishops at 11 a.m., Thursday, July 15. Bishop Goodrich will preside and Bishop Stowe will preach.

All other sessions of the Conference will be held at Lincoln's Pershing Auditorium.

Delegates to the jurisdictional conferences represent an equal number of ministers and lay persons based on the church membership of each respective annual conference from which they are elected.

Among the program items to be considered at the Lincoln conference will be an emphasis on church membership recruitment and training for church membership, a program on response to world hunger, and the jurisdictional program of cooperative leadership training.

A drama celebrating the nation's Bicentennial will be presented July 13.

Executive director of the Jurisdictional Program Council which has offices in Oklahoma City is Dr. S. Duane Bruce. Secretary of the Conference is Dr. T.

Interview on 'Pastoral Appointments'

(Continued from page one)

The superintendents know the churches and the ministers in their district. We get the sense of the situation there. And we're working, planning, anticipating certain things that might develop. We try to strengthen a minister's situation where he is. Or, if there should be a change, we try to work with the Pastor-Parish Committee to bring about an action which would be productive for both concerned. And this is what we bring to the cabinet to discuss, and then share in the responsibility of making the appointment.

Arkansas Methodist: At what point does the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee come into play?

Bishop Frank: I think one of the best things we can do would be to put into your hands the paper we have been working on — a suggested process for appointment-making. It's based upon the report that is going to come to the General Conference from the committee to study the episcopacy. It is also based on a statement from the Council of Bishops — you carried an article about that a few weeks ago.

The bishops, in their consultation, arrived at a series of steps in the process. In this process it shows exactly where the Pastor-Parish Committee is brought into the consultation. And it tells at what point the pastor is conferred with regarding his desires or the desires of the Pastor-Parish Committee.

Now there isn't anything official about this paper; it's simply an agreed upon suggested process that came out of the Council of Bishops. And I'd be very happy for the people to know the process which we try to follow. (See box at left for the list of ten suggested steps.)

Arkansas Methodist: What should pastors tell their people in respect to their own feelings about a change of appointments?

Mr. Vinson: If the people have asked for a move, then no explanation is needed. If the pastor is in an appointment in which he is highly favored, he usually leaves because he is going to something he wants better. He should be very honest with

(Continued next page)

North Arkansas board supports legislation relating to CIA

The Board of Global Ministries of the North Arkansas Conference has urged support of legislation aimed at stopping the use of missionaries by U.S. intelligence agencies.

The resolution, adopted at the board's Feb. 25th meeting in North Little Rock, states: "We recommend the adoption of Senate Bill 2784 which would prohibit the Central Intelligence Agency and other U.S. government intelligence agencies from seeking intelligence information from American missionaries and clergy and from appropriation of funds for such purposes. We encourage church members to write their senators and representatives in support of this legislation."

The bill was introduced by Senator Mark Hatfield.

The issue arose in late 1975 when Mr. Philip W. Buchen, President Ford's White House counsel, stated in a letter to Senator Hatfield that "the President does not feel it would be wise at the present to prohibit the CIA from having any connection with the clergy . . ." Mr. William E. Colby, then director of the CIA, had made an earlier statement (Sept. 23) that "in many countries of the world representatives of the clergy, foreign and local, play a significant role and can be of assistance to the United States through the CIA with no reflection upon their integrity or their mission."

tion upon their integrity or their mission."

The statements had drawn criticism from many church groups across the country, including the National Council of Churches and the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. The latter group reported that no United Methodist missionaries had been involved in such activities and later issued a statement that any who did would be terminated as missionaries. A group of 79 United Methodist missionaries, meeting Jan. 10 during the Winter Missionary Conference, issued a unanimous resolution repudiating such practices by the CIA.

The government has since stated it would revise its policy. Senate Bill 2784 would give legislative prohibition to the practice.

Officers of the North Arkansas Conference board are Nadine (Mrs. Hugh) Hardin of Fort Smith, chairperson, the Rev. Ronald Clark of Harrison, vice-chairman and Freddie (Mrs. Victor) Nixon of Jonesboro, secretary.

†

Christian Civic Fd.

(Continued from page one)

have him as our inspirational speaker for our Annual Meeting.

Dr. Ashcraft's message will precede the organization's business meeting, and adjournment is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. The price of the luncheon will be \$2.50. Anyone wishing to attend may make reservations by calling the Foundation office, 372-0318, not later than Friday, March 12.

†

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Eugene M. Frank announces that the Annual Conference membership of the Rev. Robert E. J. Felder, pastor of Mallalieu United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, has been transferred from the Texas Conference to the North Arkansas Conference, effective Feb. 1.

Arkansas Methodist

Pastoral appointments

(Continued from page two)

those people and tell them that it is his choice. And then immediately he should sever his ties with that congregation and prepare the way for his successor. This is the only way to do it; that is to do it honestly. You can't serve two appointments at the same time.

Arkansas Methodist: Occasionally a well-intentioned lay person — perhaps unfamiliar with how the system works — will know of a minister whom he or she believes would be a fine leader for his or her congregation. And that lay person will contact the "prospective pastor" to see if he or she would be interested in coming to that church. What should a minister do in a situation like that?

Mr. Vinson: Refer the matter to his own district superintendent immediately.

Arkansas Methodist: What should the minister tell the inquiring party?

Mr. Vinson: The same thing; that he works only through the system. That's the only way we're set up to work. And this is the only legitimate way that we should work.

Mr. Villines: And the district superintendent would listen to the Pastor-Parish Committee of that local church.

Arkansas Methodist: How does the cabinet inform itself of the needs of the local churches?

Bishop Frank: We always give all the time in the world for each superintendent to go through his entire district and tell us things that are going on in every church and anything that we need to know about the pastoral family, the parsonage family needs that come up.

Mr. Vinson: It's easy from the outside to say how appointments should be made. On the inside you see the difficulty of it. I've tried to analyze it in my own mind and put it in a few words and I really can't explain it better than this: Just as everyone has a personality, so do ministers have a personality. Each minister has his own personality, his own personal identity. But amazingly, this is also true of the churches. There are many things a church will have in common with other churches, but it has a personality.

And this matter of matching personalities with personalities is one of the most difficult things that we have to deal with. Really, there are so many ramifications. Sometimes there are so many personal things which no one ever hears of outside the cabinet — personal requests on the part of ministers which we would never dare let anyone else know about. Nothing shady of course, or anything of that sort.

For example, a family member needs to be in school, or a pastor's parents are old and he needs to be near them, or perhaps his wife is finishing a course of study — so many different personal factors enter the picture.

This is why you can't sit down in an hour or a day or perhaps a week or even a lifetime and explain exactly how and why appointments are made a certain way.

Sometimes I catch myself wishing that many ministers who have never been superintendents or perhaps never will be superintendents could somehow attend a cabinet meeting and see this first hand. It would be an eye-opener to see how many factors come into the entire process. It's absolutely amazing. I've seen the time when we would spend literally hours on just one appointment, and sometimes days, trying to work things out.

Arkansas Methodist: Do you foresee many pastoral changes at this summer's two Annual Conference sessions?

Mr. Vinson: No more than normal.

Arkansas Methodist: Because of the unusual number of district superintendents whose terms expire this or next year, it would seem that there would be a "bumper crop" of appointment changes this year. Is this not so?

Bishop Frank: Of course it is, as you say, a bumper year because five years ago was a bumper year, too. And consequently there are more superintendents who are approaching the end of their term. And in order to keep some continuity among the superintendents, we ought to balance this out a little bit. So we probably will have quite a few district moves this year. But, as Everett says, I don't anticipate as many this year as we had last year. We had an enormous amount then — about 80, as I recall.

Arkansas Methodist: Will there be any appointments announced this year before the Annual Conference sessions?

Bishop Frank: Not this year! That was a mistake last year (laughter). It works in some Areas. Some have already announced a whole bunch of appointments to take place in June. But it sure didn't work in Arkansas.

Arkansas Methodist: Do you anticipate many moves this year across Annual Conference lines?

Bishop Frank: I don't see any more than usual. We usually have a few and we'll have a few this year. But no — I would say that the superintendents have responded to the urgent request on the part of the bishop and the needs of the whole Area to think of themselves, first of all, as Conference superintendents, and then secondly as Area superintendents.

Because if the superintendent is the extension of the authority of the bishop in the Conference, then every superintendent has to assume some responsibility for the bishop's responsibility — which is in both Conferences. And they have responded to this. We've had two very successful joint cabinet meetings in which the superintendents have really been concerned about the whole Area and not just a district or a conference.

Arkansas Methodist: Is it fair to lay a "bomb shell" on you and ask what is the status of union between the two conferences?

Bishop Frank: That's no bomb shell.

Mr. Vinson: Let me answer that by saying that Bishop and Mrs. Frank have had more to do with helping to bring the conferences closer together than anyone else in our Area. We have, each year, a retreat for superintendents and their wives along with Bishop and Mrs. Frank and whomever they want to bring in from the outside to lead us in various studies together. And the fellowship, the sharing, has been great. And I think that the fine relationship that each cabinet has with the other right now is a result of these years of work on the part of our bishop and his wife.

Mr. Villines: We certainly do have a good working relationship together.

Arkansas Methodist: Do you see structural union between the two conferences as a thing that ought to be talked about again?

Mr. Vinson: I think it's a little premature right now. I think we need to grow more. After all, the bishop has brought us together as a unit, not forceably but in his own winsome way. And we have not felt under compulsion to associate with each other; but we wanted to. This is an outgrowth of what we felt like we wanted to do. We're working together now, not under compulsion but because we really want to. When we try to make this an organized thing, or a "structured" thing, this is when we run into difficulty. Let it grow from our real Christian feelings. Let's grow a little bit more at this matter before we bring it to a heated debate and a vote again.

Arkansas Methodist: Do you sense this same feeling in the North Arkansas Conference?

Mr. Villines: I would say "amen" to what he has said.

Arkansas Methodist: Bishop Frank, do you have more to add on this?

Bishop Frank: No — I would agree with this. I don't think it will be brought up for quite a while, personally. And if we can continue to create the fellowship that we now have among the superintendents, I don't see this coming up again very soon.

Mr. Vinson: I don't see any real great need of it as long as we have the wonderful dialogue that we have.

Arkansas Methodist: What can a congregation and a pastor do to prepare the way for a new minister?

Mr. Vinson: First, break away from the former pastor and realize that the one who has been assigned is the only pastor they have at the present. Therefore, they will not only help him in temporal matters, but they will pray for him and will back him as far as they possibly can.

They will, of course, look after his family and so on like that. These are the niceties every minister enjoys in every appointment. People are usually better to most of us preachers than we deserve. I don't think this is really a big point of difficulty. Many of our churches receive their preachers royally.

Just as we say a minister should sever his ties, relative to his serving, so also should a congregation sever its relationship to the former minister in that they realize they can't have two pastors at one time.

Mr. Villines: I think it would help if the new pastor could be provided a list of names of the church's families, or if there is a pictorial directory, to place this in his hands so when he arrives he is conversant with these names and persons. And I would hope that they would make other contacts with the man who is coming, so he knows that he is welcome.

Arkansas Methodist

Established 1882

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

Editor and Business Manager John S. Workman
Associate Editor Doris Woolard
Editorial Assistant and Bookkeeper Karen Compton
Office Secretary Kathleen Storey
Circulation Manager Jane Raiford
Poetry Editor Barbara L. Mulkey
Contributing Editors Alf A. Eason
Myers B. Curtis

Officers — Board of Managers

Chairman The Rev. Edward G. Matthews
Vice Chairman Mr. Jim Lane
Secretary Mrs. Craig Wood

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

POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

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

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

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$5.00 per year.

MEMBER:

Associated Church Press,
United Methodist Assn. of Communicators

New aid for publishing newsletters

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — Publication of what is believed to be the first manual devoted entirely to production of parish newsletters has been announced by United Methodist Communications.

Author and publisher of "Words Ring Louder Than Bells" is Raymond H. Wilson of Glendale, Calif., editor of Parish Paper Service, a project of the communications agency.

The 64-page volume contains ten chapters discussing the mission and content of parish papers, role of the editor, sources of material, layout and art, size and frequency, printing, audiences and mailing regulations.

Mr. Wilson, in the book's foreword, points out that "of all the forms of printed and electronic communications used in the church today, parish newsletters account for more money, more time and more attention than any other method of communicating with the churches' membership."

He estimates that in The United Methodist Church alone, some \$15,000,000 is

spent annually by congregations to print and mail their newsletters, and that they reach more persons than any other form of communication, including sermons.

The Rev. Howard Greenwalt, an associate executive secretary of United Methodist Communications, said the agency has "sponsored the first printing because we believe that parish newsletters will be playing an increasingly important role in communications between the church and its members in the years to come."

Information concerning the volume can be obtained from United Methodist Communications at 1200 Davis Street in Evanston.

'Fellowship of Adults in Youth Ministries' organized

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — A new "Fellowship of Adults in Youth Ministry" has been launched in The United Methodist Church with an initial membership of slightly more than 600 persons.

The concept of such a fellowship grew out of a consultation of annual conference coordinators of youth work in the fall of 1973.

The Rev. Don Cottrill, Board of Discipleship staff member who will serve as executive for the Fellowship, said there are approximately 168,000 local church adults who work in youth ministry. "They often feel isolated and neglected," he said. "We hope to help these persons feel part of a network or supportive team."

The Rev. Charles T. Settle, pastor of the Grady-Trinity Charge in the Pine Bluff District, is a member of the board of directors of the Fellowship.

Colorado Trail Hike

As a part of its Summer Camping Program, the Little Rock Conference is sponsoring a Colorado Trail Hike the middle two weeks in July.

The hike will be limited to 24 participants, including 4 adults. Also, participants should be high school seniors and older.

For additional information please contact the Rev. Carr Dee Racop Jr., 715 Center, Little Rock, Ark. 72201 or the Rev. R. W. Trieschmann, 316 N. 11th, Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923.



Little Rock Pastor Writing Study Unit

The Rev. Larry D. Powell (left), pastor of Markham Church in Little Rock, makes a point at recent writers' conference in Nashville. Powell is one of three writers chosen to write study units in the first of eight new Bible-to-Life Books for Senior Highs. The books are scheduled for release, one each quarter, beginning in September, 1977. Shown with the Little Rock pastor are, left to right, Miss Frances Brooks, editor of Bible-to-Life Books for Senior Highs, the Rev. Kenneth Caraway, writer of the unit on Christian love in friendships, Dr. Garland Knott, writer of the unit on building relationships with adults, and Mr. Richard H. Rice, editor of Youth Publications in the section on curriculum resources of United Methodism's Board of Discipleship.

Council Directors to Local Churches

Summertime ministries for children

A one-week, five-day, Vacation Church School for children is the most common summertime activity for children in the local church. Most churches have this kind of program, and some do it without ever thinking of its real purpose. A great many seek to make it a true learning experience in Christian living. It can be made one of the most helpful training opportunities children have. Why do only one week?

The two-weeks Vacation Church School is not so far off in the distant past to be forgotten by many persons living today. And, the children would gladly come for a two-weeks period. The one-week school, in most churches, was instituted by adult workers who refused to give the time to do a two-weeks program. Some now call what we have a "one-week" school. However, that does not have to be true. One good week of study is better than nothing. If you plan to do only one week, do it well.

Did you ever compare the time children spend in religious training with the time spent in public school? Consider the following:

Nine months of religious training in the church: 54 hours.

The additional time in public school: 1,026 hours.

The mathematics used here are not too good. Yet, a story is told and a lesson is learned. The difference in time spent in the two areas of training is staggering. Some would say, "Count the time spent in religious training in the home." In some homes; yes, this is a factor that ought to be considered. In far too many homes, religious training for children consists of a two or three-minute bedtime prayer and possibly grace at meal-time. This is good but not good enough.

Why do churches not take advantage of the opportunity for day-camping for children? This is an area of great interest for most children. And, our church is now producing some materials that will help us. Contact your Council on Ministries office for information.

The titles of units for Vacation Church School this year look exciting. They are as follows:

NURSERY: "I Can Choose"

KINDERGARTEN: "God Made Me . . . I'm Glad"

GRADES 1-2: "God Made Me . . . Here I am!"

GRADES 3-4: "God Made Me . . . To be Responsible."

Other materials are available in "Undated Elective Units," "Urban Series," "Through-the-Week" series, "Through-the-Week with Young Children," or "Education For Mission" series. Check your PLANBOOK FOR LEADERS OF CHILDREN, 1975-1976.

Training for leaders of Children's Summertime Ministries is provided, in most or all, the Districts of the Annual Conference. Your District Coordinator of Children's Ministries can tell you what is planned in your District.



At North Arkansas Council Meeting

Shown at the mid-year meetings of the boards and agencies of the North Arkansas Conference are (from left) the Rev. Samuel B. Teague of Bentonville, chairman of the Council on Ministries, Dr. S. Duane Bruce of Oklahoma City, executive director of the South Central Jurisdiction Council, and Dr. Myers B. Curtis of North Little Rock, Conference Council director. The Council on Ministries heard reports from the agencies concerning implementation of 1976 programs and suggestions for programs for 1977. The meetings were held Feb. 23-26 at Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock.

Nine months of public school education provide the child: 1,080 hours.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Dr. Nicholas Piediscalzi, director of the Public Education Religion Studies Center at Wright State University, has noted a zooming interest in religion in U.S. public high schools. The educator mentioned several factors contributing to the surge, including the current stress on rediscovering one's cultural heritage, and the U.S. Supreme Court decision sanctioning academic teaching "about" religion. Over a seven-year period in Pennsylvania, the number of students registered in academic religion courses went from 700 to 12,000. Also noted was a trend on the college level away from Eastern religions to courses like Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, and Introduction to Western Religions.

Labeling Transcendental Meditation (TM) a "thinly disguised form of the Hindu religion," a newly-formed group called the Coalition for Religious-Integrity said it planned to file a lawsuit in federal district court asking for a halt to government-sponsored TM programs in five New Jersey high schools.

Fathers Peter Campbell and Edward McMahon, Jesuit priests who teach at the University of Ottawa (Quebec) see profound dangers in the practice of TM — Transcendental Meditation — ranging from "copping out" to merely "coping" with life. "Rather than actively committing themselves to the slow, painful task of long-term constructive change, many persons might instead meditate," they said. "Because they can cope, their motivation to change society or personal way of life is diminished." "It would be a monumental cop-out, in our opinion," the two priests said, "if instead of doing something to change the dehumanizing conditions and imbalance in our society, we meditated."

The Australian Festival of Light movement has announced plans to mobilize a national campaign "to revive Australia — not simply economically, but morally and spiritually." The positions of the AFOL, a movement dedicated to moral reform, were considered factors in the recent overwhelming defeat of the Australian Labor government. "Even though Festival of Light members belong to many political parties, it is clear that the outcome of the election indicates a strong desire to retain a Christian moral base for Australia," said Dr. John Court, former chairman of the Australian movement.

The Rev. Evelyn Newman, a United Methodist, has been appointed as the first female to the ministerial staff of interdenominational Riverside Church in New York City. As minister for pastoral ministries Mrs. Newman's responsibilities will include laity training and membership recruitment. The 3,000-member congregation is about two-thirds female.

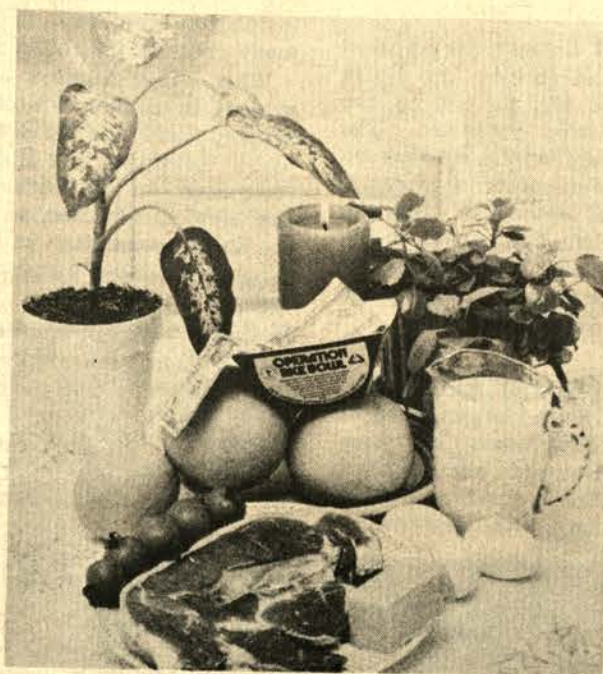
Agencies of four Protestant denominations and a Roman Catholic archdiocese in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area are taking steps to educate their constituencies on conditions in the People's Republic of China in cooperation with the Midwest China Study Resource Center. Dr. Donald E. MacInnis, the United Methodist minister who directs the center, believes it is the only operation of its kind in North America. Since it was established last year the center has assembled a library of 630 books and 42 periodicals, and an audio-visual loan library of nine documentary films, twelve audiotapes, and five filmstrips. The center serves both the church and the academic community.

The 1976 Church of England Year Book reports a marked decline in baptisms, confirmations and Easter Communion in the 1970-73 period. The "preface," traditionally written anonymously, makes a call for members of the General Synod to take a "sabbatical year" (defined as a year devoted to God). Says the writer, "It is imperative that our bishops, priests and leading lay people should be far less enmeshed in the over-elaborate machinery of maintaining and re-ordering the Church so that they can be more free to attend the priorities of the Gospel."

A proposal that would warn drinkers that "excessive consumption of alcohol is dangerous to your health" has been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives. The amendment, adopted by a preliminary 94 to 26 vote, would require all ads for alcoholic beverages and all alcoholic beverage containers sold or offered for sale in Minnesota to carry the warning statement, similar to the federal law requiring warnings on cigarettes.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, a Conservative Baptist layman, the Rev. Alison Cheek, an irregularly ordained Episcopal priest, and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, served as panelists in a National Town Meeting forum at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Each gave their views on challenges facing religious groups today.

Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, reminded Americans in a Brotherhood Week address that "the future of the majority is as much at stake as the future of the minorities" in tackling social problems in the U.S. Dr. Hyatt declares: "We need peace. We need employment. Surely with all the creativity and dynamism within our American business, industrial and governmental leadership, we have the capacity to find meaningful employment for all Americans."



RNS Photo by Linda Pfeiffer

Operation Rice Bowl

PHILADELPHIA — Operation Rice Bowl — a unique, interfaith program designed to help feed the world's starving — will be launched throughout the country on March 3 (Ash Wednesday). American families are asked to pray a common prayer, give up for one meal the type of food pictured here and make an offering at their own dining room table to feed the millions who exist on the brink of starvation. Money saved by eating a sacrificial meal may be placed in specially provided "rice bowls" provided by many churches and synagogues. The program was conceived last year in Allentown, Pa., by Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish clergymen. Suggested menus for Operation Rice Bowl include meals such as potato soup and a slice of bread, tuna fish salad and pudding, spaghetti and tomato sauce and jello, and tomato soup and crackers.



RNS Photo

Bishop Arias Resigns

NEW YORK — Bishop Mortimer Arias has resigned as episcopal leader of the Methodist Evangelical Church in Bolivia. His action is the result of a dispute involving the role of the Aymara Indians in the Church. The Aymaras, who make up about half of the Church's membership of 4,000, wanted more leaders who were Bolivian-born and speak their native language. Bishop Arias is a Uruguayan by birth and does not speak the Aymara tongue.

Dr. Samuel Sandmel, who in 1956 became the first American Jewish scholar to write a Jewish interpretation of the New Testament, was honored in Cincinnati for his work as general editor of the soon-to-be-published Oxford Study Edition of the New English Bible with the Apocrypha. Dr. Sandmel is professor of Bible and Hellenistic literature at Hebrew Union College.

Dr. W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision International — evangelical relief organization, has urged President Ford in a letter "to uphold the doctrine of church-state separation and to remove the cloud from our overseas missionary enterprises by directing the CIA to refrain from involving persons in Christian vocations in its intelligence activity."

Hostilities in Lebanon have ended for the foreseeable future and the Muslim and Christian factions are cooperating on an agreement billed as a new "national covenant," according to two representatives of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who recently visited the war-devastated country. The officials said there is need for basic essentials and funds for repairing and rebuilding their denomination's damaged properties.

A United Church of Christ study shows that its lay leaders and local congregations depend more on newspapers for information than on any other news media. The study showed that 53 per cent of its lay leaders and half of the clergy polled look first to newspapers, with television ranking second and news magazines third.

A free lunch program which originated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Colorado Springs has by mutual agreement been moved to the basement of First Baptist Church in the downtown area. Father Bill Sulzman, a Roman Catholic priest who operates the project, said the City-County Health Department had noted violations of rules at the original location. One involved serving milk "straight off the farm" as donated by a local farmer, the only way the free lunch service could obtain milk. Much of the food dispensed by the soup kitchen is donated by bakeries, stores, a hospital and other agencies with unsold or surplus items.

News from the churches

DR. HORACE WEAVER, editor of Adult Publications for The United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tenn., will lead a Bible Conference at First Church, Newport, March 5-7. Dr. Weaver's book, "Getting Straight About The Bible," will be the resource for his lectures, scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, 7-9 p.m. and Sunday, 2-4 p.m.

THE REV. Charles E. Ramsay, pastor of First Church, Russellville, will be the preacher for a Preaching Mission at Trinity Church, 1101 North Mississippi at Evergreen, in Little Rock, March 7-10. The Sunday through Wednesday evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

SIMULTANEOUS REVIVALS are planned for all the churches in Arkadelphia District during the week of March 21-26 in a district-wide evangelistic emphasis. A training session was held at First Church, Arkadelphia, on Feb. 23. Dr. George W. Martin is superintendent of the district; the Rev. Carlos Martin, pastor of Oaklawn Church, Hot Springs, is the district evangelism coordinator.

NEW HOPE Church of DeQueen and Mt. Zion Church of Horatio, both on the Lockesburg Enlarged Charge, will engage in a joint revival March 8-12, with a former pastor, the Rev. Richard Clark Preston of Wichita, Kans., preaching. The 7:45 p.m. services will be held at New Hope Church on Monday and Tuesday and at Mt. Zion on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, according to the Rev. William A. Scott Jr., pastor. The public is invited to hear Rev. Preston, a former pastor.

DR. JAMES ARGUE, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, was the featured speaker at the Sixth Annual Brotherhood program sponsored by the Pine Bluff Ministerial Association. The service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church with the Rev. W. Harold Flowers, president of the association and pastor of St. James United Methodist Church, Pine Bluff, presiding.

THE REV. Jack Wilson, pastor of First Church, Stuttgart, and Mr. Bill Kennedy, song evangelist of England, Arkansas, served as an evangelistic team in recent revival services at Almyra United Methodist Church. The Rev. H. E. Ratekin is pastor.

RECENT SUNDAY-AT-SIX Services at First Church, Jonesboro, have included presentations by Bill Nash, executive director of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Boys' and Girls' Ranches located near Jonesboro, Boyd Mills, director of The Good News Taping Ministry in Little Rock, and The Latinos, a Mexican-American gospel group from Los Angeles, Calif.

LARRY SKINNER, director of Lonoke County Exceptional School of Children, was the speaker for the February meeting of Concord United Methodist Women.

BOYS TRAINING SCHOOLS NEED SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

A request for dedicated, dependable Sunday School teachers and a pianist (or organist) for the Boys' Training Schools at Pine Bluff has been issued by Chaplain Larry Henderson. Anyone who can help to fill such a need should call 879-1325. The Rev. Matthew Watson at Wrightsville needs teachers, a song leader, and someone who can direct the playing of rhythm band instruments. If interested in rendering such a service call 879-3526.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT Parsonettes will meet Thursday, March 11 at 10 a.m. with Mrs. Alvin C. Murray at 4114 South Lookout, Little Rock. Members are requested to take needle and white thread, scissors and pinking shears. They are also reminded to take donated items.

CONWAY DISTRICT PARSONETTES were recent guests of Mrs. Robert E. L. Bearden at the district parsonage in Conway. Mrs. Von Dell Mooney, president, presided over the meeting which included a devotional period led by Mrs. Herschel McClurkin and a Bicentennial program on Methodism in America and Arkansas presented by Dr. James Workman, a retired member of the Little Rock Conference. Following the program the parsonettes met at Holiday Inn for a "Dutch Treat" luncheon.

DR. KELLAR NOGGLE, superintendent of Des Arc Schools was guest speaker at a supper meeting at First United Methodist Church, Cotton Plant. Dr. Noggle showed slides on the Church in Russia as photographed during his recent trip to the Soviet Union.

PARKER DYKES, sponsor of Fellowship of Christian Athletes at ASU in Jonesboro, recently spoke to the youth of First Church, Walnut Ridge.

UNITED METHODIST MEN of First Church, Mountain Home, recently traveled to Fourche River Ranch in Perryville, Ark., to visit the home of Heifer Project International.

THE ASCENSION QUARTET of Jonesboro and Blytheville, were featured at a recent Ladies' Night sponsored by United Methodist Men of First Church, Newport.

FIRST CHURCH, Conway, has prepared a ten-page booklet entitled This Do in Remembrance of Me, for use by the church's Communion Stewards. The booklet gives detailed instructions on the duties of the stewards for morning, night and special services in which the Sacrament of Holy Communion is observed. Nine couples have been named to serve as the church's Communion Stewards for 1976.

MRS. HAZEL DABNEY, president of the Pine Bluff District organization of United Methodist Women, has completed a new "History of Church Women United in Arkansas" in observance of the state organization's 30th anniversary.



Moorefield-Southside Men Form Organization

The men of Moorefield-Southside Charge have combined to organize a Methodist Men's group. Shown receiving the charter for the new organization from Batesville District Lay Leader Marvin L. Gaither (second from right) is Mr. F. R. Bowman, president of the group. Looking on are District Superintendent Floyd Villines (right) and the Rev. Ralph VanLandingham, pastor.

GUEST SPEAKERS at First Church, Jacksonville, revival Feb. 29-Mar. 3 were: Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent; the Rev. James Keith, Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock; the Rev. David Prothro, Hazen Church; Dr. Clint Burleson, Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, and the Rev. Nick Evans, Hunter Memorial Church, Little Rock.

C. RAY TRIBBLE, director of Aldersgate, Inc., was guest speaker for a recent fellowship dinner at West Helena-Lexa Churches.

DR. ROBERT E. L. BEARDEN, Conway District superintendent, was a recent pulpit guest in Levy Church, North Little Rock.

FIRST CHURCH, Texarkana, recently held a Bicentennial Celebration featuring the Arkansas High School Madrigals and a documentary film, "Uncle Sam, the Man and the Legend."

OGDEN United Methodist Church recently installed a public address system. The system was a gift from Mrs. Linda Price of Alta Dena, Calif., in memory of Nathan Furlow Sr., a life-long member of the Ogden church who had served as Sunday school superintendent, a member of the administrative Board, and other leadership capacities.

Monticello Sunday School Class Honors Long-time Member

In special Sunday morning ceremonies on Feb. 15 the Asbury Sunday School Class of First Church, Monticello, changed its name to the Dean James H. Hutchinson Sunday School Class, in honor of one of its teachers — a long-time member of the class — and a leader in many areas of the church's life.

With many members of his family present, in addition to most of the class members, and with the Rev. Bill Elliott, pastor, presiding, Mr. Hutchinson was recognized for his service as Board chairman, as a trustee, as a member of the finance committee, as a delegate — for many years — to annual conference, and for leadership in the building program which culminated in construction of the present building. The special ceremony in which various church members participated included also a presentation by Mayor James Jordan of some of the highlights from his own personal association with Mr. Hutchinson.

Lenten Preaching Series At Lonoke

"Lent: A Season of Renewal," will be the theme for a Lenten Preaching Series scheduled for Sunday, March 7 through Tuesday, March 9, at Lonoke United Methodist Church. Each service will feature a different speaker. The schedule, roster of speakers, and their subjects include:

Sunday, 11 a.m. — Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of Little Rock District, A Renewal of Personal Commitment to Christ.

Sunday, 7:30 p.m. — Dr. George W. Martin, superintendent of Arkadelphia District, A Renewal of Christian Marriage and Family Life.

Monday, 7:30 p.m. — The Rev. Ed Matthews, pastor of Lakeside Church in Pine Bluff, A Renewal of Christian Vocation — The Christian Life in the World.

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Dr. James Argue, pastor of Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock, A Renewal of the Mission of the Church.

The Rev. Michael R. Clayton, host pastor, will preside over the services; Mr. James E. Campbell is organist.

†

Youth of First Church, Magnolia Sponsoring Appearance of Navy Band

Net proceeds from the March 18th appearance of the U.S. Navy Band at Magnolia Junior High School Auditorium will go for mission work with neglected and underprivileged children, a project of the youth of First Church, Magnolia.

The official U.S. Navy touring band, under the direction of Lt. Commander Ned Muffley, is composed of 52 instrumentalists selected on the basis of musicianship, character, intelligence and education. Their appearance in Magnolia was made possible by special arrangement with the Department of Defense, and will be part of the area-wide Bicentennial celebration.

There will be a 2 p.m. matinee for students and a full-stage performance at 8 p.m. Student tickets for the matinee are \$1.50 and for adults, \$2. All seats for the evening performance are \$3. Tickets are on sale at local businesses or may be obtained by writing P.O. Box 1776, Magnolia, Ark. 71753.

Personalia

THEODORE STEWART WAYLAND was born Feb. 16th to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stewart Wayland of Wheaton, Ill. Paternal grandparents are Dr. Ewing and Frances Wayland; paternal great-grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Edward Theodore Wayland, all of Mt. Prospect, Ill.

DR. JOHN R. CHEYNE, missionary to Africa for more than 20 years, was a recent Sunday morning speaker at Richmond and Ashdown United Methodist Churches. Dr. Cheyne, Southern Baptist area secretary for East Africa, is the brother of the Rev. William A. Cheyne, Ashdown-Richmond pastor, and Mr. Bob Cheyne of Bentonville, North Arkansas Conference lay leader. Home for a brief furlough, he with Mrs. Cheyne will return to Nairobi, Kenya in March. Their son, Stephen, a student at Ouachita Baptist University, sang for the services.

MICHELLE RENNE GOZA, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Keith D. Goza, was baptized Jan. 25 by the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr., superintendent of the Batesville District. Mr. Goza is pastor of the Kensett-McRae Charge.

Children's Home, Hendrix College receive gifts from Moore estate

Two institutions of The United Methodist Church in Arkansas have received bequests from the estate of the late Samuel Howard Moore of Little Rock, former owner of the 7-Up Bottling Company of that city. The Methodist Children's Home was the beneficiary of \$30,000 and Hendrix College received \$28,500.

Mr. Moore, who died Nov. 2, 1974, had worked with his father in the bottling firm and became its owner, later selling the firm and forming his own stock, bond

and security business. He sold his interest in that business upon his retirement in 1968.

Mr. Moore was born at Des Arc, the son of the late Samuel A. and Eva Johnson Moore. The family moved to Batesville when Mr. Moore was a child, but he had lived in Little Rock since 1918. He had served as secretary, treasurer and president of the Arkansas Bottlers' Association. He was a member of First United Methodist Church and had served on its Board of Stewards and Budget Committee for several terms.

Mr. Moore had long been a supporter of The Methodist Children's Home and had for years sent monthly checks to cover the cost of a child's school lunch. A part of the estate's bequest will be retained in a permanent fund, the interest from which will be used to continue this project.

Hendrix College has received a partial distribution of the unrestricted grant, and a final distribution later will increase the total value of the bequest.

†

WORKSHOPS ON EVANGELISM IN PINE BLUFF DISTRICT

Recently two Workshops were held in the Pine Bluff District for Local Church Chairpersons of the Work Area on Evangelism. The first was held in the First United Methodist Church, Stuttgart, for the eastern part of the District. The second, a week later, was held in the First United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff for the remainder of the District.

The leader for the workshops was Osborne White, district secretary for Evangelism. He was assisted by the Rev. Fred Arnold, chairman of the Conference Board of Evangelism and the Rev. John Walker, secretary of Evangelism in the Camden District.

†

"CONSTANTINE AND THE CROSS," a movie based on early Christian struggles amid Roman persecution, was shown to the congregation of Oaklawn Church, Hot Springs, on a recent Friday evening.



Sunday School Class Honored

The W. M. Riddick Sunday School Class at First Church, Morrilton, was honored recently at a tea hosted at the parsonage by their pastor, Dr. Raymond Franks and Mrs. Franks. Mrs. J. S. Williams (seated at left) teaches the class. At right, Mrs. Betty Warren, president of United Methodist Women, gets an assist with serving from Mrs. Franks. Thirty-five members and guests were present for the fellowship event.

†

Cause For Celebration

These members of Jones Memorial Church on the Hartford Charge in Fort Smith District were photographed at a potluck dinner in the church's recently repainted and newly curtained downstairs. Seated are the Rev. O. R. Findley, retired minister, and Mrs. Findley. The Rev. Paul Dubar is the present pastor.

†



GOSHEN CHURCH, Fayetteville District, has recently formed a chapter of United Methodist Women. Mrs. Karen Chambers, Fayetteville District UMW president and Mrs. Doris McConnell, district vice president, met with the Goshen women in January to aid them in forming their unit. Officers elected at the meeting were: Judy Douthit, president; Lorraine Hash, vice-president; Nancy Stingley, secretary, and Emma Lou Banks, treasurer.

ASBURY OLDER ADULTS (A.O.A.) are planning a tour of Mobile, Ala., New Orleans, La., Natchez and Vicksburg, Miss., March 29-Apr. 1. The group will visit Bellingrath Gardens, dine on the U.S.S. Natchez in New Orleans harbor, and visit some of the historic homes in Natchez and the battlegrounds at Vicksburg. Mrs. V. B. Story, director of Christian Education, is tour director.

Bill Gaither/Ronn Huff/Don Marsh/Derrick Johnson/Carlton Young
in

THE WIGHTMAN MEETINGS

Scarritt College / Nashville, Tennessee 37203

A Seminar and Workshop for Church Musicians
April 1, 2, 3, 1976



An inspirational and technical event for professional and volunteer musicians, featuring:

- * Music ministry philosophy
- * Seminars in conducting, new music, graded choirs, church orchestras
- * Premiere of two new Musicals
- * Track tapes, drama, creative worship, new sound system
- * Reading sessions conducted by some of today's leaders in Christian music
- * Brass ensemble feature

Sponsored by Scarritt College and John T. Benson Publishing Company.

Participation limited to 300 persons. Room and Board information and rates by return.

Center of Continuing Education
Scarritt College, Dept. 4, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Enclosed is \$25 registration (full fee) for the Wightman Meetings Seminar-Workshop for Church Musicians, April 1, 2, 3, 1976. (I understand that I may cancel by March 26 and receive full refund). fee includes music packet \$25 value.

Name _____
Street Address _____
City or Town _____ State _____ Zip _____



CONTACT executive visits Little Rock

The Rev. Robert E. Larson Jr. of Harrisburg, Pa., executive director of CONTACT Teleministries, USA, Inc., talks "shop" with Mrs. Lynn Harding, executive director of the Little Rock unit. Mr. Larson presided at a meeting last week of the Little Rock Board at which 15 volunteers were commissioned into the program. During the week he visited Pine Bluff and Hot Springs and other Arkansas cities. Little Rock was the fourth city in the U.S. to establish a CONTACT center, but is now among 67 centers in 23 states. Mrs. Harding said the Little Rock unit received about 4,200 calls the first year, adding, "This year we're going toward 12,000 . . ."

†



Will You Be My Valentine?

Framed within the 8-foot heart shown here are Dr. Darrell Spriggs, chairman of the Administrative Board of Central Church, Fayetteville, and Mrs. Spriggs, creator of the heart which provided the focal point for the meeting of United Methodist Men of the church when they entertained with "Ladies Night." Dr. Thomas Turpin, chairman of the Art Department at the U. of A. at Fayetteville, presented a slide program reviewing the growth and change in art in the U.S. during the past 200 years. Re-elected president of UMM was Kenneth Stewart. Serving with him will be Frank Davis, vice president, and Russell Faupel, secretary-treasurer.

The Need for Repentance

By VICTOR H. NIXON, Pastor, Huntington Avenue United Methodist Church, Jonesboro



Lesson for March 14

Scripture: Matthew 21:6-22:14.

Foreword: For some strange reason which is not altogether clear to this writer the lesson design from the **Adult Bible Series** begins the account of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem with Matt. 21:6, rather than 21:1, thus breaking the natural sequence of events between Jesus' instruction to the disciples concerning the donkey and her colt and the carrying out of those instructions. I could find no major biblical commentary support for beginning the so-called Triumphant Entry with 21:6. It appears that the author of Matthew intended that his account should begin with verse 1.

The first six verses of Chapter 21 contain not only the preparatory instructions for the entrance into Jerusalem, but also a quotation from Zechariah 9:9, of which the author perceives these events to be the fulfillment. Matthew, being the most Jewish of the Gospels, quotes liberally from the Old Testament because one of his primary purposes in writing is to make the Gospel of Jesus palatable to the Jews.

Consequently, I would recommend that teachers and students begin their study at the beginning, that is, verse one of Matthew, Chapter 21. Perhaps "the need for repentance" begins with our easy rearrangement of the biblical text to suit our own purposes!

One might well begin consideration of the events in Jerusalem by recalling that Jesus began his public ministry with a call to repentance. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). It is particularly significant that Jesus concludes his ministry with this same theme of repentance in Jerusalem, the "holy city," indicating that Matthew's concept of messiahship is viewed **primarily** as God's mission to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt. 10:6), rather than to the gentile community. Consequently, the events and teachings in this section should be viewed as directed to those of us within the modern-day house of Israel, namely, the Church.

The cleansing of the temple (Matt. 21:12-17), the cursing of the fig tree (21:18-22), the controversy over authority (21:23-27), and subsequent parables of the two sons (21:28-32), the tenant farmers (21:33-43), and the rejected invitation (22:1-14), have as a common denominator God's judgment and call to repentance of the established community of faith.

Jesus entered Jerusalem in the midst of social accolades and messianic expectations, but the word of repentance he delivered was unexpected and unwanted (by the religious authorities, at least), inevitably resulting in plots against him (21:45-46).

Who Is This Man?

The irony of the whole Triumphant Entry scene is splendidly captured in the following conversational excerpt from a play by P. W. Turner:

(Man) Fine king he'd make! Just what I said to Ethel on Sunday when he came into town and they made all that fuss — three cheers for the Son of David and all that stuff about coming in the name of the Lord — "A king on a ruddy donkey?" I said. "Just mark my words, they'll be singing another tune by the end of the week." Straight I did, didn't I, Ethel?

(Woman) That's right, Joe. He suddenly stops waving his flag and shouting like a barrow boy in the market, and turns to me and says: "A king on a ruddy donkey? I don't think!" Just like that.¹

The Christ-event enters our lives in unexpected ways. We look for paradise, but he shows us a cross. We ask for a crown of gold, he places a crown of thorns on our heads. We desire to be kings, he calls us to servanthood. We long to be strong, he values weakness. We seek security, he offers us no place to lay our hands. We want respect, he summons us to repentance.

Like the exultant crowd of Jerusalem, the Christian Church needs to continue asking the question, "Who is this man?" — lest we make the mistake of confusing our expectations with **divine** revelation.

Penance and Profit

The story of the cleansing of the temple is a classic example, often repeated in the Church's history, of what can happen to the community of faith which forgets to examine its purpose for being. One might say that the moneychangers in the temple had exchanged the prophet-motive for the profit-motive! Then as now, the house of God is due for a periodic cleansing.

Lent is the seasonal reminder that the Church has provided for confession and repentance. From Ash Wednesday until Easter, a period of forty days, Christians have traditionally disciplined themselves to self-examination and self-denial. Implicit within such an understanding of faith is the belief that Christians are **not** those persons who need no repentance. On the contrary, we above all should be aware of our tendency to separate ourselves from God, to misunderstand and abuse our faith.

Yet, the problem for Christians often has been their failure to see the need for repentance. Each week I receive a number of church bulletins from across our Annual Conference containing the Sunday order of worship. A surprising number of them do not contain a "prayer of confession" — an indication that either we have a number of churches comprised completely of saints or of people who fail to recognize the reality of sin!

If there is no awareness of sin, of falling short, of missing the mark, there can never be confession. As Ian J. McCrae observes: "Perhaps that is part of the meaning of Jesus' statement that he came to save sinners. Only a sinner can recognize a savior."²

Like any human institution or organization, the Church is imperfect. But unlike any other social gathering, it is the Church — and sometimes **only** the Church — that acknowledges "we have erred and strayed . . . we have offended." All people live under sin but it is the worshiping Church that publicly confesses this whenever it assembles to worship. Without confession in some form, in addition to proclamation and dedication, one can question whether worship has indeed occurred. Confession is the Church's on-going mode of repentance.

A Parable of Repentance, Matt. 21:28-32

Repentance, however, is more than praying a prayer or an "I'm sorry about that, God!"

One of the parables told by Jesus in this section is about two sons. When ordered by his father to work in the vineyard the first son refused, but "afterward repented and went." The second son, given the same command, agreed then failed to go.

The second son reminds us that words come easily and do not get the job done. The first son portrays repentance as a complete change in the direction of life itself.

In both the Old and New Testaments the idea of repentance is often expressed by such words as "turn" and "return." The fundamental concept behind the use of these words in a religious sense is that of subjects who had rebelled coming back to serve their rightful king.

In this sense "turning" means much more than a mere change of mind, though it includes this; it represents a reorientation of one's whole life and personality, which includes the adoption of a new line of conduct, a forsaking of sin and returning to righteousness. The Prodigal Son repented and returned to his father.

Repentance and Permanent Revolution

One Sunday recently after worship as I customarily greeted worshipers at the church door and received the usual remarks about "enjoying the sermon," one perceptive lady candidly stated that the Gospel had really stepped on her toes that morning.

When it is taken seriously, God's revelation in the Christ-event always steps on our toes, reminds us that faith is not a possession to be proudly paraded but a gift to be graciously received.

H. Richard Niebuhr powerfully expresses the relationship between revelation and repentance:

Revelation is not a development of our religious ideas but their continuous conversion. God's self-disclosure is that permanent revolution in our religious life by which all religious truths are painfully transformed and all religious behavior transfigured by repentance and new faith. It is revolutionary since it makes a new beginning and puts an end to the old development; it is permanent revolution since it can never come to an end in time in such a way that an irrefragible knowledge about God becomes the possession of an individual or a group. Life in the presence of revelation in this respect as in all others is not lived before or after but in the midst of a great revolution.³

†

¹Christ in the Concrete City (London: S.P.C.K., 1967), p. 9.

²The International Lesson Annual (New York: Abingdon, 1975), p. 239.

³The Meaning of Revelation (New York: The MacMillan Co., 1962), p. 182.

Next Week: "An Indictment of Hypocrisy"

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-23:39

Open Forum . . .

A delegate shares views on General Conference issues

To the Editor:

As a Delegate to the 1976 General Conference at Portland, I have received a variety of publications, committee reports and proposals in recent months — each designed to keep the delegates informed about issues that may be considered by The United Methodist Church this year.

I have also received many personal letters from members of my own conference, clergy and laity, expressing their views on some of these subjects. I appreciate hearing from them, and feel a responsibility to study these reports and letters in an effort to reach an intelligent decision at the General Conference.

When the time comes to discuss these issues and to cast my vote, however, I must respond in a way that reflects my own personal convictions based upon my Christian beliefs. That response will be reached prayerfully.

Because it has been my experience as a journalist that the media may give emphasis to an issue completely out of proportion to its significance at the General Conference, I wish to make clear my strong convictions on one subject in advance. I do so with the sincere hope that our members will appreciate the fact that their delegates are giving months of time on the vital work of the Church.

When the latest report and proposal was published by the General Board of Church and Society on the subject of "human sexuality," the Chairperson expressed a hope that this issue would not monopolize our time as delegates in Portland. I share that hope, and deeply regret that the Board of Church and Society ever reviewed and reached a divided decision on a subject that was clearly stated at the 1972 session. The mistake is in bringing the subject back to the General Conference floor.

At a time when world hunger has reached a critical stage; when there is a plea for greater evangelism in the Church and in our Church School programs to rebuild our membership; when catastrophes like the earthquake in Guatemala demand a more immediate response from Christian peoples everywhere; when this country has become a mission field in itself — we have far more important problems facing us as delegates than to spend hours reviewing and debating what the vast majority of members believe to be a positive statement on the Christian attitude toward the family and human sexuality.

An overwhelming amount of time and money has already been spent by public and private organizations over the last decade on the subject of human sexuality. Our bookstores are saturated with the results of such studies. Some of it has been helpful, but much of it has been redundant and even demeaning. And none of it has altered the position that the Bible teaches as reflected in the report of the 1972 General Conference. I am unalterably opposed to spending more money in a five-year study as has been suggested.

There are those who insist that as society changes, so must the Church — and in areas like communication, evangelism and world outreach this is true. This does not mean a weakening of Christian principles on any subject. I believe that the family unit in our society

is in need of strengthening if it is to survive — and this is vital to the Church. I also believe in the worth and dignity of every person in the eyes of God; that the Church should turn its back on no one, no matter what the problem.

The answer is not in more study with the possibility of altering fundamental beliefs, but in a greater effort to teach what the Bible teaches in a spirit of love. We should begin by reaffirming the report of the 1972 General Conference. I trust that our membership will not pre-judge the 1976 General Conference on the basis of preliminary reports or of headlines that may come out of Portland.

Bob Cheyne
307 Crestview Dr.
Bentonville, Ark. 72712
Delegate and
Conference Lay Leader
North Arkansas Conference

PETITION

To the Editor:

SUBJECT: The spending of 290,000 dollars for studies on the subject of Human Sexuality.

The members of the Union Grove United Methodist Church have resolved that there is no need for such study. The members of the above mentioned local Church believe that the foundation of the Christian Church is the revealed Word of God as set forth in the Holy Bible. Most studies in the area of human sexuality to date have tended to undermine the Holy Scriptures, i.e., the approaches to the subject have dwindled into a perverted secularism.

If, however, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church insists there is a real need for such study, we strongly suggest the studies, both religious and secular, by the many scholars of expertise is sufficient. The myriad of libraries are fraught with primary and secondary materials such as documents, periodicals, and books by psychologists, sociologists, and commissions, research and other reports done for the Federal Government.

Such experts and authorities on the subject are even today extending the study into all facets of life. We feel, therefore, that the desired \$290,000 would be better spent on areas that glorify God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Members of the Union
Grove Methodist Church
Rt. 2, Jonesboro, Ark. 72401

LAKESIDE CHURCH, Pine Bluff, has underway a project of locating and reproducing photographs of all former pastors to be appropriately displayed in the church. The following photographs are needed: C. B. Brinkley, T. O. Owen, J. F. Carr, W. F. Evans, J. R. Sanders, J. L. Cannon, John R. Cason, M. N. Waldrip, J. M. Hawley, Theo Copeland, W. P. Whaley, H. B. Trimble, W. C. Watson and Marion S. Monk. If Arkansas Methodist readers have any of these photos, their loan would be appreciated. They may be sent to: Lakeside United Methodist Church, 1500 Olive, Pine Bluff, Ark. 71601.

Involvement of women in North Arkansas Conference surveyed

The Commission on The Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church is a special commission appointed by Bishop Frank and approved by the North Arkansas Annual Conference. One of the Commission's priorities is a study of the extent to which women are involved in program and policy-making decisions of the church. The information below is the

result of the 1975 survey conducted by the Commission to determine the level of involvement of women in local church structure.

A total of 253 local congregations representing 65,667 persons responding to the survey out of 414 which were requested. The figures were compiled by Mrs. June Westphal.

Boards or Committees in the Church:	Total No. Members	Total No. Women	% members who are women	No. women serving as: Chair person	V-Chrp.	Secy.
Administrative Board	5672	2289	40.3	9	1	64
Council on Ministries	1605	905	56.3	21	3	32
Nominations & Personnel	651	333	51.5	11	3	23
Pastor-Parish Relations	679	291	42.8	18	3	8
Trustees	744	80	10.7	2	0	6
Finance	951	207	21.7	5	2	15
Building	191	52	27.2	4	0	4

The survey indicates that the percentage of women Administrative Board Members drops in churches with larger numbers of members:

Churches with membership of:	151 to 500	501 to 2000
150 or less	42.3% women	40.2% women

The percentages of women members of local Councils on Ministries and Administrative Boards is relatively high though not ideal in the case of Administrative Boards. This is due to the fact that certain positions have traditionally been held by women such as coordinators of children's ministries, chairpersons of missions and chairpersons of education.

The Discipline guarantees the President of United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men a place on both. Yet many United Methodist Men's organizations do not currently operate in local churches. It is interesting that only 3.5 per cent of Administrative Board Chairpersons and 8.3 per cent of Council on Ministries Chairpersons are women. The same low figures are evident for the Trustees, Finance and Building Committees.

Yet untapped is a large reservoir of skills, insights and talents. Women as well as men, manage whole households

and take responsibility for the nurture and growth of their families. Increasingly, women are entering the workforce in positions of responsibility. They are high-level managers; they own and operate their own businesses; they are teachers, bankers, lawyers, doctors and on and on.

Women possess valuable abilities, qualities and perspectives for filling local church leadership needs and roles. Are women refusing positions of leadership and decision-making? Or, are they not being considered for these positions? Only the nominations committee and pastor of each local church knows for sure.

Rev. Carol Lascaro, Pastor
Massard United Methodist Church
Fort Smith, Ark.
(Member of Conference Commission
on Status and Role of Women)

Scarritt's Life Income Plans bring you many benefits



Increase your present income
Increase your tax deductions
Reduce your estate taxes
Reduce or eliminate your tax on capital gains
Earn income for your life and lives
of your beneficiaries
You, together with Scarritt's worldwide ministry,
can benefit the world. Write for the full story.

Scarritt College for Christian Workers Nashville, Tennessee 37203
FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS COUPON

Scarritt College for Christian Workers, Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Please send the full story about my benefits from Scarritt's Life Income Plan.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Date of Birth _____ Sex _____

Role of religion in relief of stress cited

CINCINNATI (RNS) — Religion can play a major role in relieving the constant stress which has become an inescapable part of the tempo of modern life, according to an article in the St. Anthony Messenger.

A number of elements inherent in religion help "cushion life's stresses," said Barbara Beckwith, assistant editor of the monthly, published here by the Franciscan Friars of St. John Baptist Province.

Among the elements cited were the religious vision of the universe, religious sacraments and ceremonies, and religious values which distinguish between "real" and "apparent" success.

"Religion, basically a love relation with God, should (not) be used merely as a psychological crutch," said the article in the magazine's February issue.

The article noted that one should not "go to church because it makes me feel good." But it is valid to realize that "Because I go to church I feel good."

"Salvation is for the whole person and . . . God seeks to heal us from our neurotic responses to stress as well as from sin," the article said, pointing out that psychological health was not merely a "side effect" of spiritual health.

Rather, freedom from neurotic stress is seen as part of the healthy wholeness which God wants for us all.

Stress points measured

The St. Anthony's article refers to a scale designed by Dr. Thomas Holmes of the University of Washington to measure stress. Points are assigned to stressful life changes. When enough changes occur during a year to add up to 200, a "danger point" has been reached.

Death of a spouse tops the list of stress-producing changes with 100 assigned points. Others are: Divorce, 73; Marital separation, 65; Jail term, 63; Death of a close family member, 63; Personal injury or illness, 53; Marriage, 50; Fired from job, 47; Marital reconciliation, 45; Retirement, 44; Change in health of family member, 40; Pregnancy, 40; Sex difficulties, 39.

Also, gain of a new family member, 39; Change in financial status, 38; Death of a close friend, 37; Change to different kind of work, 36; Change in number of arguments with spouse, 35; Foreclosure of mortgage or loan, 30; Change in work responsibilities, 29; Son or daughter leaving home, 29; Trouble with in-laws, 29; Outstanding personal achievement, 28; Wife beginning or stopping work, 26;

Beginning or ending school, 26; Revision of personal habits, 24; Trouble with boss, 23; Change in residence, 20; Change in schools, 20; Vacation, 13; Minor violations of law, 11.

As the items in the scale indicate, stress is not necessarily caused by negative events. Anything that upsets routines — such as going on a vacation, getting a raise, or becoming pregnant — can be stressful. A degree of stress can also be a positive stimulus to or indication of healthy growth.

Dr. Holmes found, however, that more than 200 "life change units" in his scale in a single year can make a person physically ill. His studies revealed that 80 per cent of persons experiencing more than 300 life change units actually had heart attacks, becoming seriously depressed or suffered other major illness.

The St. Anthony Messenger article said that "religion tackles stress head-on."

The article cited eight specific things which Christianity had "going for it in the relief of direct stress." Among them are:

— **Order and Purpose in the Universe.** Christian philosophy argues that there is an order in the universe that gives every person a place, however humble. It sees a divine Providence moving in history, a God who has created everyone for a reason and has an ultimate purpose for all existence. A person is encouraged to move in step with this cosmic plan. . .

— **A Humanistic Scale of Values.** Christianity's distinction between real and apparent success in life and its emphasis on the spiritual purpose of living creates its own set of priorities and values — more under the individ-

ual's control than the secular world's notions of success which depend more on luck, talent and opportunity. . .

The article also described the value of contemplation and ritual to allow persons to "center down" and come to terms with their deepest feelings. Through this process, they may be able to set reasonable goals to solve their problems, and also to relieve stress caused by feelings of guilt.

In overcoming stress, 10 steps are offered in the St. Anthony article:

- Admitting our feelings honestly.
- Using creative coping mechanisms as simple as talking.
- Channeling anger into self-assertiveness.
- Learning how to deal with grief.
- Learning how to deal with guilt.
- Tackling stresses mentally, by getting information, considering possibilities, planning and worrying creatively.
- Establishing priorities in life.
- Removing or reducing sources of stress that are under our control.
- Building some success into our lives.
- Learning how to cope.

The article warns that "sometimes instead of absorbing stress, religion creates stress. . . But it is worthwhile to recognize that, in the main, religion does have stress-relieving potential.

"Our challenge," the article concluded, "is to limit our stress to healthy amounts, and make our tensions creative and a means for growth, without slipping off our sane moorings into catatonia. It is to our advantage to realize that, if we let religion work for us, a side benefit of the kingdom is healthy coping and some insulation from stress."

†

National missionaries meet, find unity in diversity

By Bud Herron
Associate Editor TM/UMR

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (UMC) — More than 100 United Methodist "national missionaries" from throughout the United States and its possessions came together here Feb. 16-19 in a first-of-its-kind conference designed to allow "persons in mission" to share and debate the church's "mandate for mission."

After three and a half days of answering questions with questions, only one fact remained obvious: United Methodist national missionaries are a diverse group — theologically, politically and missionally.

In spite of those differences, however, the entire gathering came together on the final day of the meetings in a worship service which many categorized as a "mountaintop experience" in Christian faith.

Randle B. Dew, an executive secretary in the National Division and one of the main planners of the conference, called the final worship service "the best single expression of the love and commitment present in both the evangelical and social action camps of the church that I have ever seen."

After small group meetings that had been marked more by "differences" than "oneness," the final day found "diverse people bound together by Christian love in a way that is unique," Mr. Dew said.

Although persons in mission through the World Division (overseas missions) of the denomination's Board of Global Ministries have a long history of such "missionary conferences," the National Division missionary conference was the first ever for persons serving in mission within the United States and its possessions.

Part of the reason for the apparent diversity among the missionaries is the fact that they represent not one avenue of national church mission, but six different programs and emphases under one mission umbrella. Participants included deaconesses, home missionaries, community developers, church and community workers, "US-2s" and mission agency staff persons.

Dr. Negail R. Riley, assistant general secretary in the National Division, and another of the conference planners, told participants "We have brought all of you together for the first time so you can tell us how you see mission." He asked participants to discuss the "who, what, when, where, why and how" of mission within the following perspectives: (1) social needs (2) ideological and liberation struggles, (3) global dimensions, and (4) the crisis nature of the missionary question.

After spending the first eight hours in discussion and debate in small groups, the entire gathering reconvened to share the results. There was little agreement on "answers" to the original questions, but some additional "questions" surfaced in common among the groups. They included:

- Should the church exclude non-Christians from Christian mission efforts?
- How colonialistic and imperialistic have historic mission efforts been? If efforts have been so marred, how does a missionary today fit into that picture?
- Must all mission efforts have an evangelistic element? Must all mission efforts have a social action element?

Later in the session, participants divided into groups according to their special avenues of mission and discussed the questions raised as they apply to their specific service.

Mr. Dew said he felt the conference accomplished what it set out to do: to allow missionaries to exchange ideas and to stimulate discussion and thinking on issues of mission for today.

As a keynote speaker for the conference, he warned participants to "never see the Board of Global Ministries as the primary sender of persons into mission. God is the primary sender."

"Being in mission means commitment," he said. "A nominal Christian will be nominally in mission. A radical Christian will be radically in mission."

HUNGER HURTS HELP HEAL

New York, N. Y. — At least 460 million of the world's 4 billion people are starving. Drought, overpopulation and crop failures contributed to this continuing situation . . .



Daily our attention is called to the plight of the world's hungry. Stories and pictures tell of the suffering caused by starvation, population pressure and human injustice. Your One Great Hour of Sharing gift will help the United Methodist Committee on Relief respond to the people's physical needs — and help them renew their lives. **Help give the hungry new hope.**



For further information
or promotional materials write:
United Methodist Communications
1200 Davis St., Evanston, Ill. 60201

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING ○ MARCH 28, 1976

Hendrix College offers 'Evening of Opera'

"An Evening of Opera" will be presented at Hendrix College March 5-6 with acclaimed opera singer and director Arthur Schoep as guest director. The program will consist of excerpts from six operas with Hendrix students comprising the cast of vocalists.

The program, to be held in Reves Recital Hall at 8 p.m. on the two evenings, is presented by the college's music department and sponsored by the Hendrix Fine Arts Endowment program and the student senate's symposium Committee.

Operas from which excerpts will be presented are Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "The Marriage of Figaro," Gounod's "Faust," William Mayer's "Brief Candle," and Mascagni's "The Old Maid and the Thief." Vocalists are Kenneth Reid, Susan Dunn, Drew Noble, Jeanne Patterson, Sarah Mackey, James Tilley, Diana Peer, David Green, Katherine Duncan, Jeffery Hoffman, Reginald Moore, Lynn Rea, Kim Abbott, Julie Christopher, Ginny Sims, Paul Bowen, Scott Lewis and Kenneth Bohannon.

The Hendrix Fine Arts Endowment, created for the development of cultural events at the college, was established by five families in Arkansas, including Mrs. Leslie E. Bryant of Clarksville, the Cabe families of Texarkana, Gurdon and Little



At The Ecumenical Conference

The Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald (center), bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock, chairman of the seventh annual Clergy and Laity Conference, is shown with the Rev. Msgr. Edward H. Flannery (right) of Washington, D.C., and the Rev. Dr. Richard B. Hardie, pastor of Westover Hills Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, where the event was held Feb. 16-18. Msgr. Flannery, executive director of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations, was one of the featured speakers at the event, which was co-sponsored by the Division of Education of the Arkansas Council of Churches and the Arkansas Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Mr. Milton Himmelfarb, director of Information and Research Services of the American Jewish Committee, was the other principal speaker.

Rock, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hanna of El Dorado, former Gov. and Mrs. Ben Laney of Magnolia and Mrs. E. J. Holmann of Little Rock.

The March 5-6 programs are open to the public and there will be no admission charge.

Aldersgate gifts

MEMORIAL CAMPERSHIPS

CHARLES M. TAYLOR III
by Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Jones
MR. EDWIN L. BAXLEY
MR. J. C. OSLIN
MR. WAYLAND ROBERTS
MRS. MABEL MOORE PEACOCK
by Edward and Mabel Harris
REV. DAN R. ROBINSON
by Little Rock District Ministers Wives
IDA BELL DOUGLAS
by Louise Pate
HENRY HUNT
RAYMOND P. MILLER
by Dr. and Mrs. Chester F. Hight
S. H. "HERB" ALLMAN
by Arkansas Council of Churches
DR. J. O. COOPER
by Mrs. Stewart Allen
KEVIN CAPLINGER
LAMONT GRAY
by Kelsy and Ethel Caplinger, Fordyce
MRS. CHARLES RIDGELY
by Gene Jernigan
HANK FORGY
by Mr. and Mrs. John R. Forgy
MISS LYN HORTON
by M. and Mrs. Garrett Brown
MRS. GRACE ALYNE HARRISON
by Kelsy and Ethel Caplinger, Fordyce
TRUMAN BAKER
by Dr. and Mrs. Charles W. Richards
REV. JOHN B. HEFLEY
by Mrs. Lucille Hefley
MRS. EDWARD M. TOLIVER
by Mr. and Mrs. Randall Johnson
O. T. JONES
by Pearl McCain Circle, UMW, Trinity
United Methodist Church, L.R.
MRS. HUGH MOSELEY SR.
by Edward and Mabel Harris
by Richard and Elizabeth Livingston
EDWARD COULTER
by Frances Neal
by Freddy Schader
by Marie Pinckney
by Jackie Poe
by Billie Nichols
by Jane Cazort
by LaNell Compton
by Mary Sue Shepherd
GENE JOHNSON
DAVID WATSON
IKE LAWS
by Ed and Lynn Wimberly
MRS. JANE REED
by Phillip and Carol McMath
by David and Joelyn Belew
by Cathy Belew
MRS. HARRY (O'DESSA) THOMAS
by Dr. and Mrs. Bert L. Phillips
W. E. DUNN
by Grover Skidmore, Inc.

HONOR CAMPERSHIPS

Mrs. Clyde P. McDonald
by Nancy, Craig, Russ and Bryn Wood
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Danley
Mrs. C. W. Thomasson
by Nannie May Roney
Miss Ada Akin
by The Bess Hale Class, Fairview U.M.C.,
Camden
Dr. Jim Deere
Dr. F. B. Miller
Frank Westerfield, M.D.
Miss Mary Wackerhagen
Mr. Jess Herrod
Dr. L. Warford
Dr. Jerry Baldwin
Dr. L. K. Austin
by Rachel and Stewart Allen
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Wise
by Anderson Drug Co., Marvell
Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Webb
by Mrs. Allen D. Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Seaton
by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Barnes
The Ministers and Families of the Conway Dist.
by Rev. and Mrs. Robert E. L. Bearden
Dorothy Dyer
by United Methodist Women, First Church,
Little Rock
Mrs. Jo Arnold
by George Martin Sunday School Class,
Lakewood U.M.C., N.L.R.
Mrs. Carrie Williams
by Sheridan United Methodist Women
Rev. and Mrs. John Rushing
by Irene Linam
Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Prewitt
by Ed and Lynn Wimberly
Mr. and Mrs. Winfred D. Polk
by Tabbie Mae Moore
Gladys Womack
Carolyn Henslee
Mrs. Harold Cabe
Mrs. W. E. Arnold Jr.
Mrs. E. D. Galloway
Bishop Eugene M. Frank
The Rt. Rev. Christoph Keller Jr. STD
The Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald, DD
Reginald Moore
Dr. and Mrs. Allen Rozzell
by Ray and Betty Tribble

DONATIONS DESIGNATED FOR CAMPERSHIPS, MEDICAL CAMPS, RETIREMENT CENTER, TREATMENT CENTER, SENIOR CITIZENS, GENERAL BUDGET, ETC.

Wyatt Memorial UMW, Fort Smith
Oak Forest Methodist Fishermen's Class
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Arnold Jr.

United Methodist Women, First UMC, Wynne
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Juroszek
United Methodist Women, Indian Hills UMC,
NLR
United Methodist Women, McArthur Drive
UMC, Jacksonville
Circle #4 Asbury UMC, Little Rock
Kathleen P. Ingram
Women's Bible Class First UMC, NLR
Katherine Croom
Louise Pope
The Ambassador Class
United Methodist Women, First UMC, Malvern
Web and Waneta Long
Seekers Sunday School Class, First UMC,
Warren
Miss Ruth E. Burnet
King's Daughters Class, First UMC, NLR
Dr. and Mrs. Marshall T. Steel
W. A. Eldredge Jr.
United Methodist Women, Wesley UMC, L.R.
E. Eugene and Gwendolyn Efrid
United Methodist Women, Wesley Memorial
UMC
Beth McLain
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henslee Jr.
Pratt C. Rimmel
Odds and Ends Class Markham UMC, L.R.
Mr. and Mrs. Homer T. Fort Jr.
The Smith-Holloway Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Tyndall Dickinson
Richard C. Butler
Elizabeth G. Young
Mr. Carl C. Hall
Curtis Lee
Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton A. Davis
Jesse W. Mason Sr.
Louis and Mary Cabe
Mrs. Jane C. Lockett
Linda Fox
United Methodist Women, Marvell UMC
Anonymous, Camden
Edith Martin
Douglas E. Davis
Sherman Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Don W. Hearn
Sheridan United Methodist Women
Mary Martha Circle UMW, Wesley Memorial
UMC, Conway
Carl L. Toalson
Mr. and Mrs. Claude Deaton
Estella M. Baer
Arts and Crafts Group, First UMC, L.R.
Blakeney Bible Class
Mrs. Marjorie Carpenter
Susannah Wesley Bible Class, Asbury UMC,
Little Rock
Arkansas Chapter AAP
Circle #3 UMS Asbury UMC, L.R.
Helen R. Horton
Auxiliary Pulaski County Medical Society
Auxiliary Arkansas Medical Society
Women's Auxiliary, Pope-Yell County Medical
Society

Daily Bible Readings

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Readings, which the Board of Discipleship invites you to use as a regular guide in your homes.

Mar. 7—Sunday Job 23:1-10
Mar. 8 Psalm 37:1-11
Mar. 9 Psalm 37:18-31
Mar. 10 Psalm 63:1-11
Mar. 11 Psalm 119:46-72
Mar. 12 John 16:16-24
Mar. 13 Heb. 13:1-8
Mar. 14—Sunday John 1:43-51

WCC to hear five-year plan

COLUMBUS, Ohio (UMC) — A five-year Plan for Worldwide Mission and Evangelism will be proposed to the World Methodist Council when it meets in Dublin, Ireland in connection with the World Methodist Conference Aug. 25-31. Recommendation for the emphasis will come from the executive committee of the Council's Evangelism Committee. The plan will follow a four-year evangelistic emphasis sponsored by the Council.

The committee's recommendation states "With 2,700,000,000 people who have not received the good news of Jesus Christ . . . the church has no option but urgently to undertake the task of evangelism."

The proposed plan projects a broad definition of evangelism: "The message to be presented must emphasize the reality of a personal experience of God, the need for personal integrity and quality of life, and a radical challenge to any unjust structures of world society. The church in each country is urged, as a witness to a total evangelism, to grapple with social conditions which make it difficult for people to live a truly human existence."

The program, says the committee proposal, must seek "to enable every Methodist to make clearly the case for Christianity in his or her own culture and country."

While stressing that "in all possible ways and situations, efforts in evangelism are to be ecumenical in nature," the proposal asserts there is a recognition that "the human need and the divine compulsion are so great that Methodists must not delay in confessing Christ today with urgency."

AD RATES

Arkansas Methodist advertising pays

Liner ads cost only \$.75 per line, or part of line; \$.50 per line for identical ads after first entry. Display ads cost \$5 per column inch for first insertion. For additional information write: Arkansas Methodist, P.O. Box 3547 (We reserve the right to reject advertising which is not in accordance with our publication policies.)

NEEDING PEWS?

Factory Representatives
Located Nationwide

OVERHOLTZER
CHURCH FURNITURE, INC.
P.O. BOX 4039 • MODESTO, CA 95352
CALL TOLL FREE (800) 344-7162

For
COLDS
take 666

ASSORTED SWEET ONION PLANTS

500 Plants (10 bunches) \$6.50 postpaid,
250 Plants (5 bunches) \$4.50 postpaid. Free
instructions. For your choice of variety,
please add \$1.00.

TONCO
FARMERSVILLE, TEXAS 75031

United Methodist Youth of Arkansas . . .

Nursing Scholarship

Larry Fisher of Prairie Grove receives from the Rev. Harold H. Spence, Fayetteville District superintendent, a \$500 check awarded by an anonymous donor for a worthy student in Nurses Training from the Fayetteville District. Mr. Fisher is a Hendrix College grad and has done graduate work at the University of Arkansas, where he is now enrolled in the training. Miss Brenda Bell of St. Paul Church, Harrison, was the 1974-'75 recipient of the scholarship given as a memorial to Mrs. Charlotte Verhoeff.



God And Country Badge

Boy Scout Hulen Self of Foreman United Methodist Church receives the God and Country merit badge from Scoutmaster Bobby Hannibal. Young Self is an active member in his church. Also participating in the ceremony was Pastor Guy Downing.



King And Queen

King Tracy Cobb and Queen Anita Reed of Wade's Chapel Church were selected to reign over the Sweetheart Banquet festivities at their church. Forty-four persons attended the event. A Sunday School was organized at Wade's Chapel nearly a year ago with an attendance of five persons. The school has now grown to an average attendance of 58 persons. The Rev. Guy Downing is pastor.



Gregory Guest At Rap Session

Dick Gregory, comedian, actor and civil rights activist, was a recent open forum speaker at the Wesley Foundation at Arkansas State University. Nearly 200 persons attended the Coffee-House Rap Session. Gregory's appearance was the continuation of a policy begun several years ago of providing an open forum setting for speakers engaged for the University's Lecture-Concert Series. The Rev. James T. Randle Jr. is the Wesley Foundation campus minister.



Hartford Church Hosts Scouts

Hartford Jones Memorial Church in Fort Smith District hosted Hartford Boy Scouts and Explorers Troop #144 on Boy Scout Sunday. The 48 scouts were accompanied by Scoutmaster Ronnie Messick. The Rev. Paul Dubar is pastor of the Hartford Charge.

THE UMY of First Church, Ashdown, held a "sock hop" to raise money for the March of Dimes on Saturday evening, Feb. 14.

THE YOUTH of First Church, El Dorado, recently traveled to Shreveport, La., for an afternoon of shopping at South Park Mall and an evening of ice skating at the skating rink.

Church history can be fun!



"FIELD PREACHING" is demonstrated by youth of First Church, Van Buren, as one facet of a recent Fort Smith District Youth Rally held at Cavanaugh Church in Fort Smith. Seated with the youthful audience is Dr. Charles McDonald (center), district superintendent.



SOME of the 80 youth from over Fort Smith district who spent the day studying the history of Methodism in their district reflect on "200 years of theology."



"FROM BARN to indoor plumbing" was the theme of the presentation by this youth group. Their church's earliest congregation first met in a barn.



EARLY Charleston preacher "challenged by villains."



THESE YOUTH relate events surrounding the celebration of Massard's Golden Anniversary celebration in 1938. The Rev. Carol Lascaro, the present pastor, is Fort Smith District coordinator of youth work.



CIRCUIT RIDER from Booneville leads his "congregation" in prayer.



FIRST CHURCH, Van Buren, once served as a Civil War hospital.