

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, March 25, 1976



95th Year, No. 13



Atty. Gen. Jim Guy Tucker Jr.



The Rev. Earl Carter

'Liberty and Justice for all,' theme for Youth Rally

Key speakers for the North Arkansas Conference Youth Rally to be held at Hendrix College on Saturday, April 3, will be State Atty. Gen. Jim Guy Tucker speaking on the theme for the day, and the Rev. Earl B. Carter, a clergy delegate to General Conference and pastor of First Church in North Little Rock, who will present, "Shop-Talk on General Conference." This will be a review of major issues to come before United Methodism's quadrennial meeting in Portland, Ore., April 27-May 9.

Philander Smith College launches \$3-million campaign

The Board of Trustees of Philander Smith College has announced a campaign to raise \$3 million by 1980 for building improvements and faculty and student enrichment programs at the United Methodist institution in Little Rock.

The project calls for a \$600,000 two-story addition to the science building, a campus beautification and improvement program expected to cost \$150,000, and \$150,000 worth of new equipment for the Division of National and Physical Sciences.

Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, Philander Smith president, said the college had on hand \$100,000 to apply to the science building addition. He said the beautification project would be financed by \$100,000 from the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church and by \$43,000 that the college had for that purpose.

Other interests to be benefited by the

capital improvements campaign will be the addition of 20,000 books to the college's library, additional student financial aid, faculty enrichment programs, and additions to the college's endowment fund, which presently stands at \$750,000. Dr. Hazzard reported that the college hopes to increase the endowment fund eventually to \$3 million.

In other business the trustees approved pay increases for employees for the academic year beginning in September, including \$600 raises for full-time faculty members and administrators who are also faculty members, \$400 for administrators and secretaries and \$200 for other full-time employees.



The "blue ribbon task force" of the Little Rock Conference, named to review ministries to former Southwest Conference churches, met March 20 in Little Rock. Officers named were (seated, from left) Mrs. Zenobia Waters, secretary, and Dr. George W. Martin, chairman. Bishop Eugene M. Frank served as convener. Standing (from left) are task force members: the Rev. Harry Bass, Mr. James Washington, Mr. Wendell Strong, Mrs. Lucille Nix, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Mrs. E. T. Davenport, Dr. Harold Flowers, Mr. John Blundell and the Rev. William A. Eason.

'Blue Ribbon Task Force' begins work

The "blue ribbon task force" of the Little Rock Conference, established at the conference's annual session in May, 1975 to "develop a strategy for ministering to the churches of the former Southwest Conference," met March 20 in Little Rock. All 13 members of the group were present.

Bishop Eugene M. Frank convened the session at which Dr. George W. Martin, superintendent of the Arkadelphia District, was elected task force chairman and Mrs. Zenobia Waters of Little Rock, a member of White Memorial Church, secretary.

Meeting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Methodist Headquarters Building, the task force reviewed the seven recommendations from the General Commission on Religion and Race, made during a February, 1974 evaluation of the status of the 1972 merger of the former Southwest Conference and Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences. The group then reviewed the responses made to those recommendations by the Little Rock Conference Commission on Religion and Race, as reported in the 1974 Conference Journal.

As a result of its review, the task force:

- Approved a motion urging "more ethnic and minority representation from the two Conferences" on the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Children's Home;

- Urged, after lengthy discussion, "continuing awareness of the problems relating to the appointment of a black district superintendent";

- Moved that the Annual Conference "recommit itself to an inclusive church" and that the Commission on Religion and Race (CRR) be recognized as "the Conference structure for leading in that direction" and that CRR members "be urged to attend board and committee meetings" to lift up such a goal and that it "develop strategies and make recommendations to other boards" designed to achieve that goal;

- Moved that projects resulting from the Urban Ministries Consultation held in the Little Rock District in the winter of 1975 "receive the moral and financial support of the Conference" and that "wherever possible in other urban areas of the conference, strong consideration be given to similar projects."

The task force set its next meeting for May 24, 2 p.m., at Bishop Frank's office.

Horseshoe Bend dedication Sunday

Bishop Eugene M. Frank will be the speaker at the Dedication of the Horseshoe Bend United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 28. The special service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will include special music by the choir. The Rev. Floyd Villines, superintendent of the Batesville District, and former pastors of the church will participate in the service. Other special guests will be Mrs. Eugene Frank, Mrs. Floyd Villines, wives of former pastors, and former members of the Horseshoe Bend Church. Final payments on the church were made late in 1975, thus opening the way for the dedication of the church. The Rev. Pharis J. Holifield is pastor of the church.



McElroy Youth And Children Assist In Groundbreaking

Underscoring the fact that churchmanship should begin while very young are these youth and children of McElroy United Methodist Church on the Wynne Charge as they participate in Feb. 29 groundbreaking for their church's new \$22,000 Fellowship Hall, which will be added to the present sanctuary and education space erected in the 1960s. Adult planners and participants in reaching this milestone for McElroy — one of the oldest churches in Cross County — included Irvin Sisk, a member for 60 years; Administrative Board Chairman Bill Mitchell, Building Committee Chairman Ben Burnett, the Rev. William Wilder, pastor of the Wynne Charge, and others.

See the next issue of Arkansas Methodist for
results of Survey on General Conference issues



At Little Rock Conference Council Meeting

Out-of-Conference guests at a recent meeting of the Council on Ministries of the Little Rock Conference were Dr. Robert C. Gentry (center, left), assistant to the president of Scarritt College, and Dr. Noe Gonzales (center, right), president of Lydia Patterson Institute. Each reported to the council on matters relating to their respective institutions. At left is the Rev. Alf A. Eason, director of the council; at right, Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, superintendent of the Little Rock District, council chairman.

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Dr. Mannasmith moves to Winrock Center

Dr. Clarence H. Mannasmith, D.V.M., manager of Heifer Project International's Fourche River Ranch at Perryville, assumed a new position March 15 with Winrock International Research and Training Center at Petit Jean Mountain near Morrilton.

In announcing Dr. Mannasmith's move from HPI, Executive Director Edwin Geers expressed appreciation for Dr. Mannasmith's three years' service. He noted that Heifer Project has a working relationship with the new Winrock Center and said he looked forward to continuing close association with Dr. Mannasmith.

At the new center, which has been called a "think tank" where scientists and agricultural specialists may meet to study issues related to animal agriculture's role in meeting world hunger, Dr. Mannasmith will be assistant to Dr. Hudson Glimp, acting associate director of the center. A public foundation, the project will receive support from the late Governor Winthrop Rockefeller's estate, from the public sector, and from other private foundations, institutions or individuals.

Natives of Iowa, Dr. and Mrs. Mannasmith have long been active in United Methodist activities. They are members of the Perryville United Methodist Church, where Dr. Mannasmith is charge lay leader. He is an associate district lay leader in the Conway District. He has spoken in many churches

throughout the state in the interest of Heifer Project's work. The Mannasmiths will make their home on Petit Jean Mountain, Rt. 3, Morrilton.

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Obituary

THE REV. OLIVER W. LOGAN

The Rev. Oliver William Logan of Beebe, retired member of the North Arkansas Conference, died March 15. He was 66. He had retired at the 1975 session of the conference following 21 years as a pastor of churches in the North Arkansas Conference. He was pastor of the Moorefield-Southside Charge at the time of his retirement.

Other pastoral charges served by Mr. Logan were Antioch-Stony Point, Bellefonte-Bergman, Melbourne, Pangburn, Moorefield Circuit, Green Forest-Alpena, Cotton Plant and Wilson.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Lee Fecher Logan; a son, Randall Logan, both of Beebe; a daughter, Mrs. Zenda Bannon of Forrest City; two brothers, John E. Logan of Missouri and Charles Baskin of Michigan, and a sister, Mrs. R. B. Stephens of Forrest City. The funeral was March 17 at Stony Point United Methodist Church with the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr., Batesville District superintendent, and the Rev. John Abshire, pastor of the Antioch Charge, officiating. Burial was at Stony Point Cemetery.

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Henderson Church Breaks Ground At New Site

Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent officiates as members of the Henderson United Methodist Church congregation turn out en masse for recent groundbreaking ceremonies at their new building site located at 3000 Baseline Road, Little Rock. Whitehurst Brothers Construction Co., won the low bid for construction. Roark, Perkins and Kennedy Architects will oversee the construction.

Bishop Frank praises book

New history volume to be available in May

Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976 will be the title of the new volume to be published May 25, in time to be available at the two Annual Conference sessions this June.

Authored by Dr. Walter N. Vernon of Nashville, Tenn., retired executive of the former Board of Education of The United Methodist Church, the volume will have 22 chapters and will cover the period from the beginning of Methodism in Arkansas through the year 1975. Its publication will mark the 140th anniversary of the organization of the Arkansas Conference and the approximate 160th anniversary of Methodism in the state and will coincide with the nation's Bicentennial Year celebration.

The following comment by Bishop Eugene M. Frank was prepared for use on the book's jacket, and is used here with permission:

"This is the story of that almost incredible march of Christian missionary evangelists across the New World. It tells how the Wesleyan revival spread like a prairie fire across the Eastern mountains, into the mid-west and within ten years after the death of John Wesley had leaped across the mighty Mississippi River.

"It is only part of the story, of course.

But the powerful influence of the Methodist circuit rider, the Methodist evangelist, and the Methodist pastor, changed the frontier.

"This part of the dramatic conquest of the continent by Christian evangelists is the history of Methodism in a true land of opportunity, the State of Arkansas.

"The story has never been written before with the comprehension, the full attention to detail, the understanding of the far-reaching results of events and movements within the Church and the clarity of an excellent authorship.

"United Methodists in Arkansas are proud of the people who have brought our Church to this hour of destiny. When we consider the past, we are filled with deep gratitude for our heritage. We are proud to present to the world this story of Christian heroism, missionary zeal and moral struggle to match the Gospel of Jesus Christ against the problems of their day and ours."

Pre-publication orders for the volume are now being received. Until the publication date of May 25 the price will be \$7.95; after that date, \$9.95. Order by writing: Arkansas Methodist History Publication Committee, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

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Annual Christian Civic Foundation Meeting

Dr. Charles H. Ashcraft (center), executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Convention, was principal speaker at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., March 15. He was introduced by Bishop Eugene M. Frank (right). The Rev. Edward W. Harris (left), the Foundation's executive director, gave the report for the staff. The meeting was held at Second Baptist Church, Little Rock.



New Christian Civic Foundation Officers

Mr. Raymond Hillis (second from left, standing), prominent United Methodist layman from Malvern, was named president of the Board of Directors of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc., at the Annual Meeting. Other officers being installed are (from left) Mr. Dale Ward of Little Rock (outgoing president), third vice-president; Mr. Hillis, the Rev. Don Hook of Little Rock, treasurer; the Rev. John H. Thompson of Little Rock, (United Methodist Area Council co-director), secretary; and the Rev. Edward W. Harris of Little Rock, the agency's executive director. The Rev. Dr. J. Ralph Hillis (right), superintendent of the Jonesboro District and brother of the new president, installed the officials.

Arkansas Methodist

Need cited for 'coherent health care system'

CINCINNATI, Ohio (UMC) — United Methodist health and welfare leaders were urged here March 8 by a critic of nursing homes to help "expose the scoundrels" in the field.

"You who run good homes must expose or run out of business the bad homes," Mary Adelaide Mendelson of Cleveland, Ohio, told a section meeting of the 36th annual convention of the denomination's National Association of Health and Welfare Ministries.

The author of a book critical of nursing home practices, Mrs. Mendelson said that while "the only good homes I've seen are philanthropic ones," in recent weeks complaints have begun to come in about conditions in some of these facilities. Responding to a comment that implied criticism of her approach, Mrs. Mendelson said that if agencies and leadership such as that represented at the sessions here do not help correct wrongs, "exposes" such as her book will continue.

Addressing another section of the United Methodist convention, a distinguished child rights advocate and former judge from New York said there is a growing recognition that children are not just the "property of parents," and she called for a greater "reaching out to the most disadvantaged and underprivileged parts of communities in which we are living" to see and hear "miseries which are destroying children."

Justine Wise Polier, director of the Children's Defense Fund of the State of New York Juvenile Justice Division, said that children's rights include a sense of belonging and having a permanent home, medical care and treatment, and being placed in the "least restrictive situation possible" when removed from natural parents. Mrs. Polier stressed a child's right "not to be neglected or abused by natural parents."

In another address on a related topic later in the convention, a Chicago, Ill., juvenile protective association executive

outlined court rulings concerning rights of parents, including the right to raise their children without state interference, the custody and control of children, and due process of law where civil intervention takes place.

"We must try to put the rights of parents and children together, not choose between them," stressed Thomas P. Hanrahan.

Advocacy in another area was the concern of the Rev. Clayton E. Hammond, Dover, Del., national chairman of Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCRC).

Addressing the convention section made up of annual conference health and welfare leadership, Mr. Hammond urged them to "make service to ethnic minorities" a priority in their conferences in accord with the priority set by the church's General Council on Ministries.

Annual conference health and welfare activities should be shaped by the fact that minorities have been neglected, the

BMCRC leader said, adding that in his experience such ministries have "too often been for those who need them the least."

This nation, asserted Dr. Alan F. Geyer, professor at Colgate University, "remains the only major developed country without a coherent overall health care system despite all that is spent on it." We have, he said, separate and unequal dual systems for the affluent and the poor.

"The church could, if we would, do the most to create a new health ethos," Dr. Geyer stated.

The association will hold its 1977 convention March 6-8 in Philadelphia, Pa. Functioning as an adjunct of the Division of Health and Welfare Ministries of the Board of Global Ministries, the unit is made up of some 320 homes for the aging, hospitals and services for children and youth.

The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

Friends and critics of the Church

Some thoughts on the 'adversary relationship'

It is frequently said that a major role of the secular press is to maintain an adversary relationship with society. By so doing — by being an objective and unrelenting critic — the press can expose society's weaknesses to the healing attention, hopefully, of a concerned citizenry. In so doing, the press renders a significant service.

We suggest that the same principle holds true for the Church. Not only in regard to its own press, but in reference to its total constituency.

While the Christian's basic stance toward the Church is that of an advocate rather than an adversary, there is a sense in which the individual member should by the Church's most demanding critic, its most exacting "judge." Not, certainly, in any destructive fashion, but always in a constructive way. Such a critical orientation toward the Church has been called a "lovers' quarrel." The description is an apt one, for constructive criticism can often be love's clearest expression.

Though the adversary role is a heavy one and open to abuse, it is a positive and honorable function. When rightly understood and practiced responsibly, the adversary roll serves the Church in a significant manner, even a redemptive one.

Many well-intentioned persons today are calling for a moratorium on criticism of the Church. While we are sympathetic to the feelings which motivate such a plea — there are times when we almost concur, and while we agree that the Church merits and needs its most vocal advocates, we maintain that the very health of the Church requires, even demands, that its adversaries and its constructive critics and its loyal opposition stay on the job.

Because of its nature, the Church's press falls principal heir to the "adversary relationship" role. But to a no less significant degree that role rests upon every concerned church leader and member. It is a role we neglect at our peril.

Let us, indeed, sound off about what is right with the Church. But when the Church or its ministry or its leadership or membership errs, let's hear that, too. For only in acknowledging our shortcomings and failures can we hope to overcome them. And, more significantly, only by confessing our sins can we keep faith with the gospel we preach.

The Church need not be afraid of its critics. It should be wary, rather, of its false, fair-weather friends.

Somewhere, always

Somewhere, at any given time, there are persons in need of the Church's ministry of caring. It may be due to a need caused by illness or by sorrow or by an individual or family crisis. But whatever, there are always those of us in need of what the Church can best give: the ministry of caring. All of us, soon or late, are on both ends of that ministry — as givers or receivers of its graces.

The Christian ministry of caring is expressed in many ways — by words spoken or written, by deeds done, or by a presence. But whatever the means, this ministry is patterned after the love which Jesus Christ had for persons who were hurting.

There are individuals everywhere, near us and in distant places, who are in need of this love. The Church has no more authentic role to fulfill than that expressed through its ministry of caring.

Off the Top of the Head

Status symbol

It's probably not fair to expect you to get all excited about the fact that my new shoes squeak. Well, they do, and I am. Excited about it, that is.

You might think it's bad to have new shoes that squeak. But it isn't — not all bad, anyway. It's kind of like buying a new car and leaving the price sticker on the window for awhile; it lets everybody know that your purchase is new. So what's the fun of having new shoes if they don't squeak?

But after awhile it does get to be a bit much. You get tired of your closest friends and even strangers telling you that your shoes squeak. And you become weary of telling them that you had noticed that, and saying "Yes, thank you, it's because they're new, you see."

But what really gets me is that I've been through this same thing with the three or four other pairs of this kind of shoe that I've bought over the past dozen years. And every time, when I finally found a way to stop the noise, I vowed I would remember what it was I did. And every time, I've forgotten — which is what I've done this time.

Oh well, it's not everybody who had a pair of shoes that are getting older and more comfortable and that still squeak. So why not enjoy it? It's the best of all worlds.

Count your blessings

If you think you're fed up with reading all about my new shoes and my M&M's and my family, then you don't know when you're well off. Since I've about exhausted those subjects, I could be telling you all about my motorcycle days. And if I ever got started on that, there'd be no stopping.

I just wanted you to know that you're better off than you realize. So there.

JSW

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Dangers cited in leaving moral education to schools

NEW YORK (RNS) — A former religion editor has warned "conscientious parents . . . to be wary of relinquishing moral education to teachers and school psychologists."

Writing in the March issue of McCall's magazine, Kenneth L. Woodward, now a general editor at Newsweek magazine, says that "in schools all across the U.S. — public as well as private — officials are adding classes in moral education."

Proponents, he writes, say "the school must fill the vacuum left by the declining moral influence of parents and religious institutions." He calls the moral-education movement "part of a larger effort to combat the 'do-your-own-thing' ethic in American culture."

Mr. Woodward gives examples of the

movement's growth. In New York, an estimated 80 per cent of the grade and high schools "offer some kind of program designed to help students clarify their values and measure their conduct."

In Georgia, the state education board "has gone so far as to mandate 16 goals to be taught to all public school children," he writes. "Among them are certain values that range from respect for God, authority, and property to an appreciation for concepts of right and wrong, proper manners and the virtues of the capitalistic free-enterprise system."

However, in general, he says, "the goals of moral education are limited to advancing student appreciation for general values like truth, integrity, individual rights and cooperation."

Apparently, Mr. Woodward writes, most parents favor these programs. He cites a December Gallup Poll which reported Americans favor, by a 72 to 15 per cent margin, "instruction in the schools that would deal with morals and moral behavior."

Mr. Woodward says that while "parents ought to welcome the concern for moral education" in the schools, "like the waging of war the teaching of moral values ought not to be left in the hands of the experts."

He suggests "dangers and drawbacks to school-sponsored moral education." For example, he warns that teachers may use theories about moral development "to stereotype their students, much as some teachers use IQ tests. In addition, school

psychologists can easily add moral-development-test scores (e.g. 'John Smith: incorrigible stage-two type, resists stage-three reasoning') to their burgeoning dossiers on students."

He quotes "one skeptical principal": "I've seen teachers use moral education to indoctrinate their students. If the goal of moral education is to legitimate conformity, they've developed a powerful tool."

Mr. Woodward urges that "before formal classes in moral education become a permanent feature in U.S. public schools," parents ought to be more careful and concerned about the moral education they give their children in the home.

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Open Forum

A lovers' quarrel with the Church

Reader says: "Spend 'sexuality study' money on review of seminaries"

To the Editor:

I have read with interest the articles in the Feb. 19th issue of the *Arkansas Methodist* in which, on page one, the Executive Committee of the Board of Discipleship's Division of Evangelism, Worship and Stewardship analyzed the reasons that the Methodist Church has lost 1,100,000 members in the past ten years. I also read your article in the Editor's Pulpit commenting on the above mentioned article on page one. My comments will be based on both of these articles.

In the news item article the general conclusion that I reach is that the committee felt that the church's lack of money invested in evangelism was one of the major reasons that we have not had more members added to the church through profession of faith. They gave some very impressive statistics that showed that 38.3 per cent of all Methodist churches did not receive anyone by profession of faith and that 65.8 per cent had received fewer than four persons per year.

I agree with your comments that our response to this loss is most important, and that in our haste to reverse this trend it would be tragic if we violated the very gospel which gave birth to our church. I couldn't agree with you more, except to say that that gospel has already been seriously violated and this is the major reason we are not adding members by profession of faith. Does anyone think for a moment that the same gospel that John Wesley preached would not produce more fruits than are being evidenced by the pitiful figures stated above? How can one be challenged to a saving faith in Jesus Christ when he never (seldom) hears it from the pulpit?

I feel that the statistics speak for themselves, that the good news of the gospel is not being effectively proclaimed in some two-thirds of our churches. Why is this? I think the

obvious answer is that our Methodist seminaries are simply not teaching the word of God. The products of these seminaries are, for the most part, liberal in their outlook; doubting the very essential doctrines that made the early Methodist church great and richly blessed by the Lord.

How can the Lord give his blessing to a church whose pastor preaches a gospel that is contrary to basic biblical Christianity? How can the Lord bless a Sunday School system that teaches primarily a social gospel whose discussions not uncommonly deteriorate to discussing witchcraft or the latest R and X rated movies or some other subject just as uplifting? The inevitable conclusion, I feel, is that the majority of our Methodist churches are simply not teaching or preaching the pure word of the gospel.

Increased expenditures for evangelism is maybe part of the answer, but I feel the primary place to go to find the source of the disease is our sick seminaries. Evangelism must start in the pulpit of each individual Methodist church . . .

Let me say at this point that I belong to a church (Asbury) whose minister . . . is vitally interested in evangelism. He preaches the gospel with the zeal of an evangelist wanting all of his listeners to know and love the Lord as he does. I'm glad to report that we are not in that 65.8 per cent group that have fewer than four persons join the church on profession of faith each year.

I love the Methodist Church, but I love the Lord even more, as all Methodists should. My quarrel with Methodism is a lovers' quarrel and as such I feel I must acknowledge some of its more glaring weaknesses. In place of a \$290,000 study on human sexuality, I would like to propose that that same amount, or more if necessary, be spent on a study of these seminaries who produce ministers who are totally ineffective in providing new members on profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

I agree with your conclusion made in the last statement of your editorial, "We have a Christ who is too glorious to hide." I think that this is just the point — He has been hidden too long! Let's proclaim Him in every manner possible, but first and foremost let's proclaim Him from the pulpit. This will never happen until we clean up the seminaries who are

New plan proposed for 'World Hunger' giving

DAYTON, Ohio (UMC) — World hunger, already declared to be a "missional priority" of the church, has been recommended for a revised funding pattern of \$5,000,000 a year by The United Methodist Church.

The amount and proposed method of funding were voted here Mar. 10 by the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) and referred to the denomination's Council on Finance and Administration, which has final responsibility to determine what financial recommendations will be submitted to the United Methodist General Conference starting Apr. 27 in Portland, Ore.

The GCOM proposes that \$2,000,000 a year be raised as an apportioned benevolence — that is, a new separate fund to which each church would be asked to give a fair share. The other \$3,000,000 would be asked through Advance Specials, a plan for voluntary designated giving.

The hunger Advance Special would be presented as a single, broadly designated project. All hunger giving under the proposal, from the apportioned benevolence fund and from Advance Specials, would be divided by a percentage formula:

- 58 per cent to the Board of Global Ministries for the alleviation of hunger and the basic causes of hunger;
- 18 per cent to the Board of Discipleship for programs designed to cultivate life styles that involve less consumption;
- 18 per cent to the Board of Church and Society for programs to affect public policies toward more adequate systems for food production and distribution;
- 6 per cent to the Board of Higher Education and Ministry for training and research, utilizing United Methodist institutions.

The \$3,000,000 item in the Advance would be the largest ever single, broadly designated Advance project, according to the Rev. Joe W. Walker, director of the program. He said that already the Advance is dealing with hunger through 119 projects of the Board of Global Ministries, amounting to \$3,100,000.

providing us with liberal and ineffective ministers . . .

D. B. Cheairs, M.D.
Doctors' Park, Suite 330
9600 W. 12th St.
Little Rock, Ark. 72205

World hunger was one of two "missional priorities" identified by GCOM in March of 1975.

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Helen Wilson writes

TO: Fellow United Methodists in Arkansas

FROM: Helen B. Wilson, your missionary to Bolivia now on furlough and based in Hot Springs.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is made GREAT by each ONE of us SHARING in the special offering HOUR suggested to be observed March 28 this year. It sustains the budget of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a division of the Board of Global Ministries of our United Methodist Church.

Within its current emphasis to help in the worldwide hunger problem, I know that in Bolivia they are supporting an interdenominational team to work with the colonists in a new agricultural area to grow products such as rice, tropical and citrus fruits and to raise meat-producing animals.

UMCOR is among the first agencies to send resources, human and economic, when disasters occur such as the recent earthquake in Guatemala. When there were floods in Bolivia there was immediate response to the telegram request for relief.

Please write me if you would like for me to come to your church to tell you more about our partnership in mission in Bolivia.

Your Co-worker in Christ,
Helen Wilson
835 Quapaw Avenue
Hot Springs, Ark. 71901

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Former World Council head to lecture in Ecumenical Series

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. who served as General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, from 1966-'72, will be the April 1 lecturer for the Ecumenical Series sponsored by the Women's Council of Holy Souls Catholic Church. The concluding lecture in the series will be held at Second Baptist Church, 222 E. Eighth, Little Rock, at 8 p.m.

Arkansas Methodist

RECENT MEMORIALS:

R. W. ROBERTS SR.
by Mrs. Paul Deaton, Mr. and Mrs.
Frank Edmund, and Mr. and Mrs.
T. A. Jeffries Jr.
ALFRED A. KNOX
by Miss Connie L. Moore

The six presidents of the World Council of Churches, in their annual Pentecost Message, have highlighted the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. Their message says, "He makes Christ known to those who did not know him. He sustains and renews the faith of the believers. He leads them back to the source of their faith. He gives Christians courage and power to witness for Christ. He helps them to discover in the tensions and struggles of our time what is God's will for his people. He binds them together in a fellowship which transcends all human differences."

Dr. Paul Hardin III, president of Drew University and head of the National Commission on United Methodist Higher Education, declared that without its colleges and universities, the United Methodist Church would be "just another anti-intellectual sect."

Signs of a spiritual awakening following the Guatemala earthquake were noted by the Rev. Fred Pankow, an official of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod who made a trip there to survey the devastation. "The Guatemalans seem to really listen now when their rising from the rubble of earthquakes is compared to Christ's rising from death for them," he said.

Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota has asked the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs to help expose what he called "lies and misrepresentations" being circulated about the Child and Family Services Bill and the Youth Camp Safety Bill. The senator, a United Presbyterian layman, said that unfounded charges about the first measure have included allegations that it would substitute government for parents in rearing children and would prevent parents from teaching children about God.

The Rev. Betty Bone Schiess, an Episcopal woman from Syracuse, N.Y., irregularly ordained a priest, has filed a memo with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission urging that agency to rule her bishop guilty of sex discrimination for refusing her license to function as a priest.

Ten Christian leaders have been charged in South Korea with conspiring to overthrow the government of President Park Chung Hee by means of a "people's uprising." Arrests are reported to have followed a reading of an anti-government document in Seoul's Roman Catholic cathedral, which demanded the resignation of President Park and the restoration of freedom of speech, parliamentary democracy and an independent national judiciary.

The growing popularity of religious cults and sects among youth is forcing churches to ask, "Why have we lost our tradition of spirituality?" commented Dr. Philip Potter, general secretary of the World Council of Churches and clergyman of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas, as he addressed United Methodism's General Council on Ministries in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Potter said young people today are challenging organized religion to "become the church we began as."

Dr. Philip Potter, addressing the denomination's General Council on Ministries, paraphrased an often repeated statement once made by Methodism's founder John Wesley, "The world is my parish." Dr. Potter cautioned his hearers not to let their parish become their world.

The Boulder Valley School Board (Colorado) has set an April 19 meeting with religious leaders and other interested persons to try to draft a new policy regarding religion in the schools. Pastors of various denominations told board members that the study of comparative religion is appropriate for public schools, as is the role religion has played in American history and the study of religious art and music.

Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, addressing lawyers at a Brotherhood Week luncheon on the "urgent" need for "open and forthright dialogue" on the issue of aid to parochial schools, said the "heart of the matter is that belief in God is the cornerstone of our American philosophy of government." The cardinal cited an alarming rise in violence and vandalism in the nation's public schools as evidence of the need for religious and moral formation, "an essential ingredient of a good education and of good citizenship."



Receives Upper Room Citation

JACKSON, Miss. — Mrs. Clarie Collins Harvey, who served as president of the 29-million member Church Women United from 1971 to 1974, receives the 1976 Upper Room Citation from The Rev. Maxie D. Dunnam (left), editor of the Upper Room, and Dr. Melvin G. Talbert, general secretary of the United Methodist Board of Discipleship. More than 700 persons attended the citation dinner in Jackson, where Mrs. Harvey, a United Methodist leader, owns a funeral home and an insurance company. (RNS Photo)

Christian family life study proposed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — A quadrennial study of Christian family life is being proposed by the United Methodist General Family Life Committee, a 32-member group chaired by the Rev. Noe Gonzales, El Paso, Tex.

The petition is being sent to the executive committee of the Board of Discipleship for adoption and transmittal to the General Conference.

The Family Life Committee took no action on a proposal being made by several other church groups calling for a quadrennial Study Commission on Human Sexuality. "That's too limiting," Mr. Gonzales observed. "Our proposal calls for a study of the family which will include human sexuality along with many other concerns."

The Committee is proposing that the study be designed and conducted under the guidance of the Board of Discipleship with a budget of \$58,000: \$8,000 for research and materials, \$18,000 for three consultations involving 26 persons meeting three times, and \$32,000 for study materials and mailings to local churches. Participants in the consultations would include seminary professors, bishops, pastors, men, women, and youth.

The Committee also revised a Resolution on the Family which was referred for study to the churches by the 1972 General Conference. The Committee hopes the 1976 General Conference will formally adopt the statement this time as the official stance of the denomination.

"The 1976 resolution will hopefully be more descriptive of family life and more readable," Mr. Gonzales explained.

The proposed quadrennial study emphasizes on the Christian family would be two-fold: "a study commission to research responsible medical, sociological, psychological, philosophical, and theological thinking related to family life, and a church-wide study including attitude assessment, study of resource materials, evaluation and follow-up."

Purpose of the study will be:

—"to enable/encourage local church members to study and share their understanding of the full range of meaning and expression of the Christian family;

—"to gain a clear picture of current United Methodist thinking regarding the Christian family;

—"to work toward a descriptive statement of Christian family living based on current responsible scholarship from a United Methodist perspective;

—"to discover what forces in society are weakening family structures;

—"to find ways to strengthen Christian family life;

—"to report findings and recommendations to the 1980 General Conference."

The General Family Life Committee is composed of representatives of the four program boards of the denomination and includes several at-large members.

Council Directors to Local Churches

TIDINGS, pioneer in contemporary materials for evangelism, is currently working to develop and publish the resources you need for fresh, exciting, and meaningful outreach. The address is: TIDINGS, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202. In a recent brochure, TIDINGS offers some tools and ideas that have worked in churches of United Methodism.

None of these tools and ideas, however, will do the job in themselves. Your own Christian experience and that of others in your church, what the worship of God really means to you, the fresh experience of God's love that comes through even to the stranger when your church gathers for worship, preaching and witnessing by persons who have been touched by the living Christ, the prayers of persons who know that they are addressing none other than God himself, and the imagination and en-

Increasing worship attendance

thusiasm of persons who care enough about bringing others into their fellowship to devote constant planning and hard work to inviting persons to worship — these are the basics.

With them, tools and ideas will extend the outreach of your enthusiasm. If they are lacking, it is with these basics that you need to begin.

Here are some ideas for improving worship attendance:

IDEA I. Worship attendance registration puts you in contact with the visitors to your church. It opens up such possibilities as these:

(1) A personal letter from the pastor to every visitor.

(2) A visit from a neighboring family or visitation team.

(3) Follow up these first contacts as may be appropriate, with a pastoral call or mailing, additional lay visitation,

placing the person's name on a mailing list, or invitation from appropriate church school class.

IDEA II. Worship attendance registration also helps you care for those who are already members. Here are some suggestions:

(1) Keep a 3-month attendance record for entire active membership.

(2) Send a bulletin or card to absentees.

(3) When a regular attender is absent two or three Sundays in a row, phone to find out if there is some situation that would call for special ministry.

IDEA III. Use of registration pads can help break down barriers among persons sitting near one another in worship.

(1) After the pad has been passed the length of the pew, pass it back and encourage persons to look at the list of

names as it goes by.

(2) Some congregations have an informal moment, or ritual of friendship, during which persons greet those around them.

IDEA IV. One Sunday each year you may wish to have a special covenant service in which persons renew their vows to Christ and his Church. This may be done at the same time new members are received, or when the confirmation class is confirmed.

Do not begin a worship attendance program without a solid plan for follow-up care and cultivation. TIDINGS has developed essential resources to assist you: **Twenty-five Ways To Assimilate New Members**, at \$.75; **Come Worship With Us — A Plan To Increase Worship Attendance**, at \$4 per hundred; **Church Worship Attendance Planbook**, at \$.25. These and other valuable tools may be ordered from TIDINGS.

Man Under Judgment

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

Lesson for April 4

Scripture: Matthew 25.

Foreword: I have read or heard somewhere about radio station KRML which serves the coastal resort of Carmel-by-the-Sea in California. According to the report I received this little town is as near to the Garden of Eden as one is likely to get on earth. What makes station KRML interesting is that until recently its declared policy was to broadcast only what is termed "Sunshine News."

Every morning an announcer with a happy-happy voice would begin the news cast with the words: "Here is the good news of the world," and proceed to read a bulletin from which all mention of wars, tragedies, and disasters was rigorously excluded. Except for regrettable accidents, no one ever died in Carmel. The nasty bits and pieces of life (which seem to dominate our news reports) were swept right under the expensive Persian carpets of Carmel citizens. They might retort that if they can afford the privilege of not hearing about the seamy side of life, why shouldn't they?

Matthew 25 is a good answer to that question.

Sooner or later any person who writes about Christian faith and life is bound to find himself confronted with the fact that it's not all "good" news! Matthew delivers bad news this week in a terrifying portrayal of the "Last Judgment" in three parables where we are told that persons will be judged by their **readiness** for the Kingdom (25:1-13); by their **responsibility** for what God has entrusted to them (25:14-30); and by their **helpfulness** to unfortunate fellow human beings (25:31-46).

On the face of it, this chapter appears to be the biblical equivalent of our daily dose of dismal news — with the exception that our reporter is Matthew rather than Cronkite!

On Chickens and Pigs

One writer has advised his readers that in matters concerning the eschaton (literally, the "last thing"), that "we must avoid becoming so concerned with details of damnation that we miss the main point of the text."¹

I am reminded of a story that Dr. W. J. A. Power used to tell his students at Perkins School of Theology which illustrates our tendency to become so bogged down in detail that we miss the meaning of scripture.

According to the story a chicken and a pig belonging to the Armour Meat Packing Company were walking along the highway when they spied an advertisement for their company's products. Pictured on the billboard was a tasty breakfast setting of orange juice, coffee, two eggs sunny-side up, and crisp bacon. As the two animal friends looked at the advertisement, the chicken remarked about how pleased he was to belong to such a fine organization that helped feed the world. The pig thoughtfully scratched his head and replied, "Well, Chicken, you can say that because it only requires a small contribution from you — but for me it requires a total life commitment!"

If we become concerned about whether chickens and pigs can talk, read highway billboards, and other details of this story then we are likely to miss the point altogether.

Yet, that is precisely what happens so often when we read scripture. We ask, "Did a snake really talk in the garden?" and miss the creation. We worry about how Noah could live 950 years and overlook the significance of the flood. We hang our hat of faith on the virgin birth and fail to understand the meaning of the Incarnation. We spend much time speculating about the furniture of heaven and the temperature of hell and forget that Christ calls us to be disciples in the present. We wonder if Christ will come "in his glory, and all the angels with him" (Matt. 25:31) at the end of time to sit in judgment upon us, damning some to hell and raising others to

heaven, but omit the present significance of the Last Judgment.

Sometimes we fail to understand the meaning of scripture because we have difficulty with the language and concepts in which it is expressed.

Myth and Meaning

And rightly so. We no longer view the world in the same way that the biblical writers did. We are a scientific people. The Bible is written from a pre-scientific point of view.

The cosmology of the New Testament is essentially mythical in character. The world is viewed as a three-storied structure, with the earth in the centre, the heaven above, and the underworld beneath. Heaven is the abode of God and of celestial beings — the angels. The underworld is hell, the place of torment. . . . Miracles are by no means rare. Man is not in control of his own life. Evil spirits may take possession of him. Satan may inspire him with evil thoughts. Alternatively, God may inspire his thought and guide his purposes. He may grant him heavenly visions. He may allow him to hear his word of succour or demand. He may give him the supernatural power of his Spirit. . . . This aeon is held in bondage by Satan, sin, and death (for "powers" is precisely what they are), and hastens towards its end. That end will come very soon, and will take the form of a cosmic catastrophe. It will be inaugurated by the "woes" of the last time. Then the Judge will come from heaven, the dead will rise, the last judgment will take place, and men will enter into eternal salvation or damnation.²

We no longer conceive of God as "up there" in the heavens or "our there" somewhere in the universe,³ but the writers of the New Testament believed such a concept and the Gospel is contained within it. The problem is how do you speak of Christian Faith without getting hung-up on what biblical scholars call a "mythical" world-view?

The discovery that scripture contains myth is often disturbing to those for whom "myth" means something unreal or false or non-factual. However, such a popular understanding of myth is inapplicable to scriptural myth. Instead, biblical myth is a highly technical word used to describe an ancient story-book means of conveying truth. It does **not** mean that scripture is untrue, but that the truth of scripture is told in pre-scientific language. The details of this "mythological" language cause a great deal of trouble in the modern mind.

To return to the story of the chicken and the pig above, we can certainly say that it is a myth. But does that mean it is untrue? Our experience and knowledge of barnyard animals tell us that they do not carry on human discussions. So, it appears to have no basis in fact.

On the other hand, however, when we probe deeper into the **meaning** of the story we find that it is really not about pigs and chickens at all, but about human beings! We also find that the story describes real-life situations, some of which demand only contributions while others require total commitment. At that level, the story is not only true, but profound!

And so it is with the truth of scripture, portrayed in the mythological language of a three-storied universe, which requires that we get underneath the myth if we are to understand it. As one person observed, not only was Jonah swallowed by the "whale," but the **meaning** of the book of Jonah as well. Few people can tell you what the story of that prophet is about, and they will be unable to do so until they get beyond the myth.

The Eschaton

What, one might ask, does all of this have to do with the Last Judgment?

Rudolf Bultmann answers that question in this way:

The mythical eschatology is untenable for the simple reason that the **parousia** of Christ never took place as the New Testament expected. History did not come to an end, and, as every school boy knows, it will continue to run its course. Even if we believe that the world as we know it will

come to an end in time, we expect the end to take the form of a natural catastrophe, not of a mythical event such as the New Testament expects.⁴

Bultmann goes on to say that if we are to understand the eschatology of the New Testament, as well as the meaning of the Gospel itself, the New Testament must be "de-mythologized." He does not mean that we should take a pair of scissors and snip out the mythological portions of the Bible leaving a shredded and worthless document, but that we should attempt to understand the **meaning** of the biblical narrative contained in mythical concepts.

Hence, the importance of the New Testament mythology lies not in its imagery but in the understanding of existence which it enshrines. The real question is whether this understanding of existence is true. Faith claims that it is, and faith ought not be tied down to the imagery of New Testament mythology.⁵

It is my belief that the understanding of human existence and the nature of God in Christian Faith are true even if the "details" in which it is expressed are obsolete. To claim otherwise, it seems, is like saying that just because we no longer believe in the earth-centered theory of the universe there is no solar system! Or, on the other hand, insisting that an obsolete world-view be accepted as the **only** understanding is tantamount to saying that just because Jesus walked, rode a donkey, and sailed in a boat we must not use any other means of travel in the modern age!

In terms of the Last Judgment, Jesus probably will not come at the end of time as portrayed by the Gospel of Matthew in 25:31-46. This does not mean that we should throw the Last Judgment out the window as an irrelevant and obsolete concept of our faith. It does mean that we must attempt to express that concept in terms understandable to the modern age.

An Interpretation

The **Arkansas Gazette** recently carried an editorial entitled, "Still Paying for Sumter," in which it noted that over one-hundred years afterward we are still paying for the Civil War, and that we will still be paying for the Vietnam War well into the 21st Century! "Aside from the killed, wounded and destruction, the war cost about \$140 billion initially. However, veterans' pensions, survivors' benefits, interest on the national debt and inflation will stretch the cost of the war to about \$700 billion. Most of a war's cost doesn't occur until after the conflict is over. We will feel that judgment for sometime to come."

The Last Judgment reminds the Christian that human history is judged finally by the Christ-event. All human life is held accountable ultimately by whether it is lived as self-redeeming or Christ-redeeming, with self-love or love of God and neighbor, in self-righteousness or self-giving.

It means that we live in a state of readiness for the coming of the bridegroom that is marked by a wise and productive use of our talent and loving care for those in need — the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked and the imprisoned. To fail to be ready in this sense is not only to be unfaithful, but to be judged severely for all time. Matthew intends for each of us to see that God holds us finally accountable for the world he has graciously given us.

†

¹Adult Leader, 45.

²Rudolf Bultmann, *Kerygma and Myth* (New York: Harper & Row, 1961), 1.

³John A. T. Robinson, *Honest to God* (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1963), 10.

⁴Op. cit., 5.

⁵Ibid., 11.

⁶March 16, 1976.

Daily Bible Readings

Mar. 28—SundayMatt. 28:1-10
Mar. 29John 20:1-18
Mar. 30Luke 24:13-35
Mar. 31Luke 24:36-49
Apr. 1John 20:19-23
Apr. 2John 20:24-31
Apr. 3John 21:1-19
Apr. 4—SundayMatt. 24:42-51

First Church, Stuttgart, is sponsoring a Conference on the Holy Spirit to be held on three weekends beginning March 27-28. Leaders will be staff members and students from Oral Roberts University. The Rev. Jack Wilson, pastor, reports the emphasis of the conference will be on the person and ministries of the Holy Spirit.

Saturday events on the three week-

ends will feature a Youth Concert and Forum at 2 p.m. and a community worship service at 7:30 p.m. Sunday events will include Sunday School at 9:45 and worship at 10:15 a.m.

Vocal groups and speakers will be: March 27-28, "New Song," and Dr. Jerry Horner, associate professor of Biblical Literature at ORU; April 3-4, "Spring-

water," and the Rev. Larry Stockdale, an ORU chaplain; April 10-11, "Sycamore," and the Rev. Gary McIntosh, an ORU chaplain.

Coordinator for the conference is Mr. Marquis Jones, chairman of the Work Area on Education at the host church. The public is invited to all events in the series.

Arkansas Methodist



Mr. Len Bobo

Lakewood Church Names Full-time Music Director

Len Bobo, who for the past two years has served as director of music and youth activities at Oaklawn Church in Hot Springs, will join the staff of Lakewood Church, North Little Rock on May 1 as director of music. He will succeed Miss Dorothy Bridenthal, who for a number of years has directed the Chancel Choir. Mr. Bobo, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., received the bachelor of music degree at Mississippi College and the master of music degree at the University of Tennessee. He has been part-time instructor in piano and organ at Garland County Community College, and accompanist for the Marjorie Lawrence Opera Workshop. In addition to the Chancel Choir, he will direct the youth and children's choirs.

HUNTER MEMORIAL CHURCH, Little Rock, is holding a seminar series on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Speakers and their subjects will include: March 29 — Eleanor Milley, Pulaski County Director of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN), "Dynamics of Child Abuse and Lay Treatment Therapy;" April 12 — Dr. Cagle Harrendorf, psychiatrist, "Dynamics of Psychosomatic Illness;" May 10 — Loyce Bonner, of the University of Arkansas Graduate School of Social Work, "Suicide;" and June 7 — Susie Mercer, assistant professor, also of the School of Social Work, "Sexual Dysfunction."

FIRST CHURCH, SEARCY, held a two-day missions emphasis March 12 and 14, focusing on projects in Africa. On Friday evening, at a dinner attended by 160 persons, the Rev. John S. Workman, Arkansas Methodist editor, spoke and showed slide pictures on Heifer Project International's dairy project in Tanzania. The Rev. Jon D. Guthrie, dean of students at Hendrix College and former missionary to Zaire, gave the sermon at the Sunday morning worship service. The emphasis was planned by the church's Commission on Missions, Mrs. Bill Densford, chairperson.

SWEET HOME United Methodist Church announces a \$25,000 improvement project which will include a number of structural changes in the church plant. Several sister churches are assisting in the financial drive for the project, according to the Rev. C. C. Hall, minister. Recently special services have been conducted with the New Zion congregation of West Marche and their pastor, the Rev. Milton Nelson, and St. Paul Church, Maumelle, with Pastor J. H. Thompson and three of the church's choirs visiting the Sweet Home Church.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Strangers' Home, Alicia and Swifton churches financed the installation of new cabinets in the kitchen of their parsonage.

THE REV. Michael Orr, pastor of the Swifton-Alicia Charge, was "kick-off" speaker for a three-night youth revival at the Harrisburg Church. He was accompanied to the opening night service by the Swifton youth group.

A Methodist Hospital Gift of Life contribution will say it best

For birthdays, anniversaries, to recognize service or friendship, or to express your sympathy... a Gift of Life to the Methodist Hospital Foundation will always be appropriate and appreciated. Please mail your tax deductible gift in any amount to:

Methodist Hospital Foundation
1265 Union Avenue
Memphis, Tenn. 38104

The person or family that you honor will be notified in the appropriate manner. Thank you...

DR. EARNEST A. SMITH, an executive with the General Board of Church and Society in Washington, D.C., will preach for a series of Holy Week services at First Church, Walnut Ridge.

THE REV. BYRON McSPADDEN, pastor of First Church, Heber Springs, will be preacher for Holy Week services at First Church, Marianna, April 11-15.

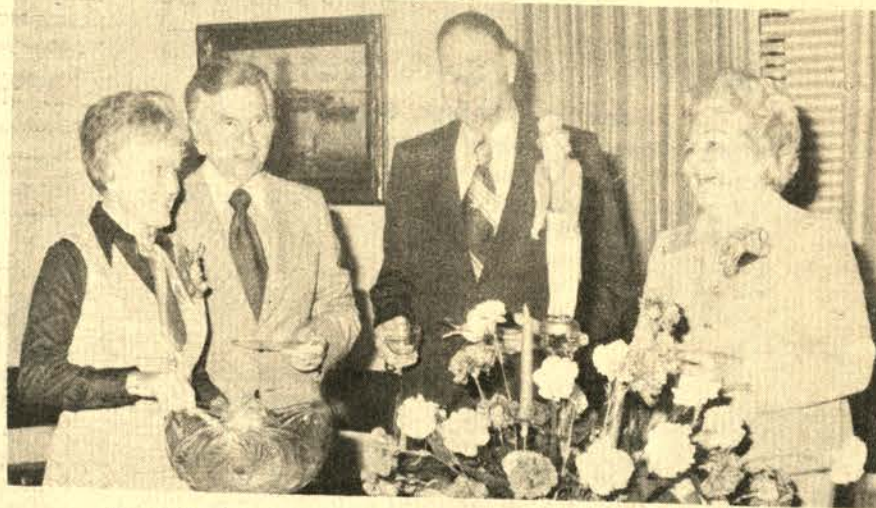
PLUMMERVILLE United Methodist Church in Conway District announces a Lenten Revival to be held March 28-April 1. The Rev. David Scroggin, pastor of St. John's Church, Van Buren, will be the evangelist, with song evangelist Bill Kennedy of England, Ark. assisting. The Rev. David Hanshaw is host pastor.

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH of Texarkana will mark its 100th year with a centennial celebration next Sunday, March 28. The congregation and the pastor, the Rev. Joe Head, extend an invitation to members, former members and friends to take part in the all-day gathering which will begin with the 9:30 a.m. service. "Dinner on the grounds," reminiscing and singing will follow morning worship.

DR. ROBERT E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent, preached at the three churches on the Danville Charge on a recent Sunday. The churches include Danville First Church, Trinity, and Waltreak.

ROE United Methodist Church and the pastor, the Rev. William Dowell, had as an evangelistic team for special services Marquis Jones, a layman from Stuttgart who presented the messages and Bill Kennedy of England, Ark., who was in charge of music.

GREEN FOREST Church, whose pastor is the Rev. Fern Cook, had as program guests on a recent Sunday evening, the Rev. Brady Cook, West Helena pastor, who presented a slide showing of his recent trip to Europe and the Mediterranean area, and his sister, Miss Irene Cook who presented vocal music with accordion accompaniment by Mr. Cook. Fayetteville District Superintendent Harold Spence and Mrs. Spence were also present for the special event attended by more than 100 persons.



First Church, Texarkana, Salutes America's 200th Birthday

A "Birthday party for Uncle Sam" was a special feature of the Feb. 22 Sunday evening Bicentennial celebration at First Church. The celebration followed a program featuring the Arkansas High School Madrigal Singers and a documentary film entitled "Uncle Sam: the Man and the Legend." Pictured at the "Happy Birthday, Uncle Sam!" celebration, left to right, are Mrs. Lewis Henry, Dr. Edwin B. Dodson, Albert Hudson, president of the Texarkana Board of Realtors, which provided the film, and Mrs. W. H. Oberthier, Bicentennial chairman.



Horseshoe Bend Churches Share Special Service

United Methodist ladies of Horseshoe Bend were hostesses for an inter-church World Day of Prayer Service and fellowship hour which followed. This was a "first" for the 11 denominations represented, with 204 persons in attendance — 38 of whom were men. This group of women, representing Nazarene, Assembly of God, Lutheran, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Methodist Churches, were among those planning the event. The second annual observance, planned for next year, will be held at the Roman Catholic Church.

Monticello District UMW's Hold Annual Spring Meet

Seventy-seven United Methodist Women in Monticello District braved stormy weather to attend the March 8 Annual Spring Meeting and Workshop at First Church, Monticello.

Miss Joan Clark, of Dallas, Tex., regional staff member of the Women's Division of United Methodism, made a presentation relating to the program theme, "Around the World in 50 Pages." Mrs. R. A. Patton of Monticello, district president, presided over the all-day meeting. Others appearing on the program were Ms. Cornie Steelman of Fordyce, district coordinator of Christian Personhood; and Mrs. Floyd Reep of Warren, district treasurer.

Also present to participate in the day's program were the following Little Rock Conference UMW officers: Mrs. Lucille Nix of Lonoke, president; Mrs. Helen Blakley of Benton, secretary; Mrs. Ida Bell Mitchell of Little Rock, secretary of Program Resources; and Mrs. Barnett Miles of Monticello, Membership chairperson.

Other special guests included the Rev. Everett Vinson, district superintendent, and Miss Helen Wilson, missionary home on furlough from Bolivia.

Mrs. Nix installed the following new district officers: Mrs. Jim Pirtle of Fordyce, vice president; Ms. Steelman, Christian Personhood coordinator; Mrs. S. M. Newton of Tillar, coordinator for Supportive Community, and Mrs. Sykes Harris of Warren, Committee on Nominations member. Continuing officers were also installed. These included: Mrs. Patton, president; Mrs. Ray Pledger, secretary; Mrs. Reep, treasurer; Mrs. Don Toon of Crossett, Global Concerns coordinator; Mrs. Mercil Banks-ton of Hamburg, Program Materials secretary, and Mrs. Collin Stockdale of McGehee, Committee on Nominations chairperson.

Retiring officers, Mrs. Douglas Pope and Mrs. E. C. Freeman were honored with special memberships and Mrs. Bruce DeLess, with a gift to Missions. Also honored was Mrs. John Arnn for her work as Past Conference Committee on Nominations chairperson.



Mr. Douglas McKinney

Rogers Church Adds Staff Member

Douglas McKinney of Wichita, Kans., has been named director of Education and Nurture Ministries at Central Church, Rogers, according to an announcement by the church's Pastor/Parish Committee chairman, A. Leon Warren. Mr. McKinney is a graduate of Baker University in Baldwin, Kans., a United Methodist institution.

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, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, or telephone 374-4831.

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PART-TIME position for Youth Director. If interested contact Wesley United Methodist Church, 2200 Phoenix, Fort Smith, Ark. 72901. Telephone: 646-9702.

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United Methodists in Arkansas . . .



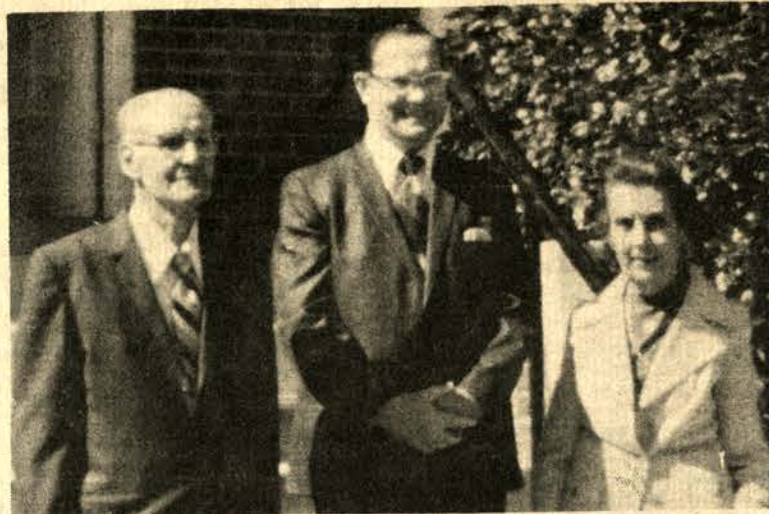
Hospital Development Director Named

Steven L. Mourning, native of Little Rock, has been named director of development for Methodist Hospital at Memphis and staff officer for the Methodist Hospital Foundation. He will coordinate and administer fundraising campaigns and programs within the three hospital-owning conferences, which include the North Arkansas Conference. Mourning, a graduate from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, participated in continuing education courses at Washington University, Tulane University and the University at Fayetteville. For a number of years he has served as a field representative for the National March of Dimes Foundation.



Twenty-two Birthdays

Mrs. Sara Jane Hollowell, for 80 years a member of First Church, Magnolia, was a Leap Year baby born on Feb. 29, 1888. Although she has actually celebrated only 22 birthdays, this octogenarian has lived 88 active and full years.



Vantrease Church School Teachers Honored

Among the 38 teachers and education department workers honored at Vantrease Church, El Dorado, on a recent Sunday were, M. D. Carmichael (left), who received a covered pocket watch for more than 40 years of service, and Mrs. John Ricky (right), who was presented a mantle clock for dedicated service as church school secretary and church historian. The Rev. Don Williams, pastor is shown with the honorees.



New Choir At Asbury, Batesville

This recently organized youth choir, under the direction of Mrs. Debbie Greenfield, performed for the first time in a recent service at their church. The Rev. Marc Cooper is their pastor.



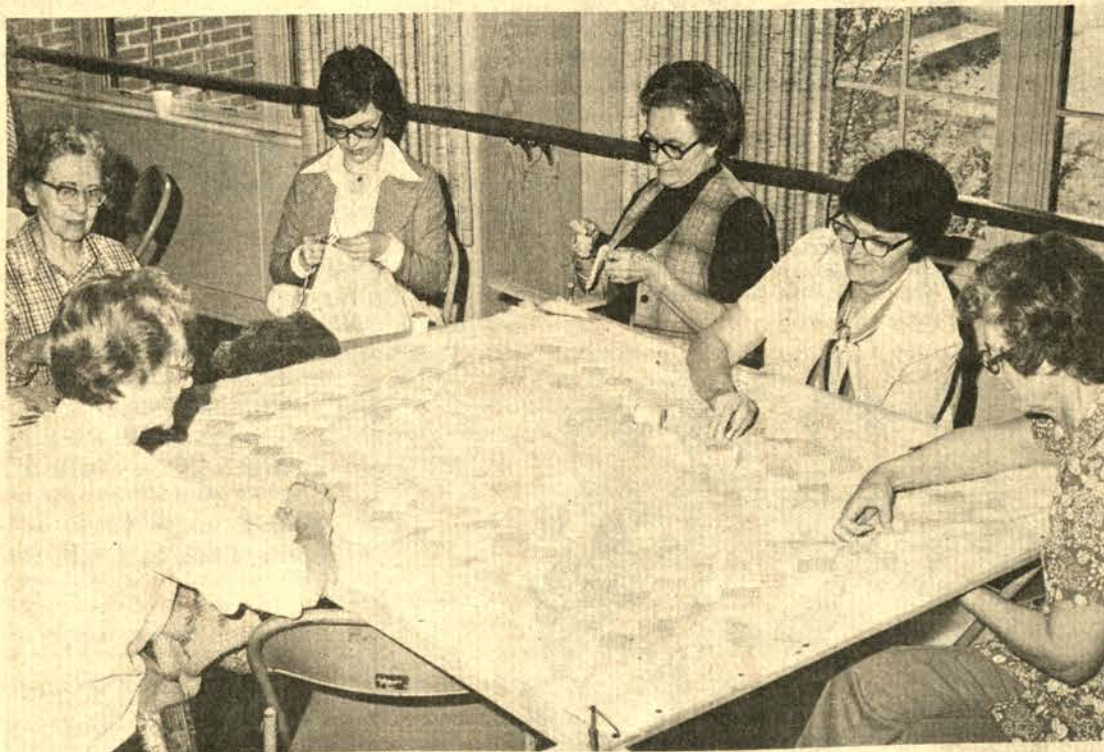
To Study in Rome

Miller Williams, internationally known poet, professor of English and co-director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, is the recipient of this year's prestigious Prix de Rome presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He is the son of the late Rev. E. B. Williams, who served in the North Arkansas Conference as pastor and district superintendent. Williams, whose works have appeared in numerous literary publications, and who has spoken to college audiences throughout the nation, in Canada and Latin America, will under the auspices of the grant, spend a year at the American Academy in Rome.



Mountain View Parsonage Consecrated

The Rev. Floyd Villines Jr., Batesville District superintendent, conducted a Service of Consecration for the new eight-room parsonage at Mountain View on Sunday, March 14. An open house at the \$33,000 residence followed. The Rev. Jesse A. Bruner is pastor at Mountain View.



Crossett UMW Sponsors Weekly Crafts Workshop

These members of the United Methodist Women unit at First Church, Crossett, demonstrate their quilting prowess on a crib quilt — one of various arts and crafts taught at weekly Tuesday morning Workshops. Other crafts include all forms of stitchery, bread-making, wood working, rock art, macrame, and the art of working with colored glass fragments. The sessions begin at 10 a.m. and continue on through the day with time out for a sack lunch. The workshop, open to the entire community, has been an avenue for developing a meaningful fellowship between all ages of persons.



Jim Stobaugh

Down, But Not Out!

The following story of courage and faith was submitted by the Rev. Virgil C. Bell, pastor at McGehee.

"Jim Stobaugh is a young man who was 'up' even when he was 'down.' On September 12, Jim, a 1975 graduate of Vanderbilt University, was on his way to enroll at Harvard Divinity School. Twenty miles distance on his journey he was critically injured in a car wreck. The first three months were in traction in the hospital; the second three months was in a body cast at home. Before leaving for Seminary Jim had taught the Hope Class of young adults. When Jim came home from the hospital, the Hope Class went to Jim's home each Sunday and Jim taught from his bed.

"Jim is up and around on borrowed crutches from his preacher. Hopefully in the fall of 1976 Jim Stobaugh will complete his journey to Harvard (and of course later return to serve as a minister in the Little Rock Conference.)"