



### Congratulations, Aldersgate and Rotarians!

West Little Rock Rotary Treasurer, Gene Proctor, presents a check for \$600 to Aldersgate's Executive Director C. Ray Tribble. For the fourth consecutive year the West Little Rock Rotary Club is supporting the work of Aldersgate, Inc., by helping defray expenses of international students who assist in various summer programs. International students scheduled to help for 10 weeks during the 1976 summer period are Miss Bronwyn Pudney of Australia, Mr. Kenneth Pendergrast of Ceylon and Mr. Lindsay Calder of New Zealand.

## Aldersgate announces Medical Camps

Three special summer camps for children with medical problems or handicaps have been announced by Aldersgate, Inc. The camps are conducted as non-profit projects of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in cooperation with the staff of Aldersgate. The three six-day camps are endorsed by the Arkansas Medical Society and are accredited by the American Camping Association. Dr. Kelsy J. Caplinger, a Little Rock physician, is chairman of the Aldersgate Medical Camps Committee.

Dr. Caplinger reports that the purpose of the program is to "provide a one-week camping experience for children who might not be able to participate in other resident camp programs because of the medical problem or daily therapy requirements." He says the emphasis will be on normal camping activities, but individualized as needed.

The three camping periods are General Medical Camp, June 14-19; Diabetic Camp, June 21-26, and Orthopedic Camp, June 28-July 3. The age range for all camps is seven to 16 years with no restrictions regarding race, sex or religious preference.

General Medical Camp is for youth with illnesses such as cystic fibrosis, asthma, sickle cell disease, kidney prob-

lems, heart disease and other medical problems. Diabetic Camp is limited exclusively to diabetic campers and is carried out under the auspices of the Arkansas Affiliate, American Diabetes Association. Orthopedic Camp is for children with orthopedic or neurological problems which significantly interfere with walking and taking care of daily personal needs.

Applications are now being accepted for all three camping periods. Cost is \$75 for the one-week period. Some scholarships are available depending on the amount of donations received by the camp.

The camping program was founded in 1971 and was expanded to the present three-week format last year. More than 230 Arkansas youngsters have participated in the project since its founding.

For additional information and an application brochure, persons should contact Ray Tribble, Aldersgate Medical Camp, 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, Ark. 72205, or call 225-1444.

Those wishing to contribute a tax-deductible donation to the camp should make the check or money order to Aldersgate Medical Camps and send to the camp address listed above.

# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, April 1, 1976



95th Year, No. 14

## Survey reveals strong, mostly conservative, opinions

According to responses to a survey published in the March 18 issue of the *Arkansas Methodist*, United Methodists in the state have strong opinions, predominantly conservative, concerning their church and its mission. Six hundred and sixty-three responses to the questionnaire were recorded, with an additional 65 being received after the deadline date, too late for tabulation.

The survey sought opinions on five categories of concerns, most relating to issues which will be considered at the denomination's General Conference, April 27-May 9, in Portland, Ore. The questionnaire first appeared in the January issue of *The Interpreter*, the official program journal of The United Methodist Church, and was reprinted in the *Arkansas Methodist* with permission.

The survey sought responses to 59 specific issues grouped in five categories: The Ministry, Social Issues, Special Interest Groups, Finances, and General Church Concerns. Participants were asked to indicate, on a scale of one to five, the degree to which they "agree" or "disagree" with the issue as stated.

In an effort to reflect the opinions of Arkansas United Methodists on the issues, the *Arkansas Methodist* offers the following analysis, two related articles on page two, and a detailed tabulation on page four. Editorial comment will follow in next week's issue.

### About This Analysis

In the following analysis of selected issues, when it is stated that a certain per cent "favors" or "opposes" an issue, that figure was determined by adding the first two figures (in the case of "favors") on the scale of one to five, or, in the case of "opposes," the last two figures in the scale. When participants responded to number "3" on the scale, it was interpreted as an indication of "no strong opinion either way." Few of the 663 participants responded to all 59 items.

The term "Readers" indicates the 600 lay persons and 41 ministers responding. "Delegates" indicates the 22 of the 48 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates from the two Arkansas Conferences who responded to written invitations from the *Arkansas*

*Methodist* to participate in the opinion survey. The term "Clergy" refers to the total of 53 ministers responding (the 41 included in "Readers" plus the 12 included in "Delegates"). (This category is not tabulated on the page four report, due to space limitations.)

### Priorities, Social Issues, Bring Largest Response

Based on percentage of responses (either favoring or opposing), the issues which brought the most interest concerned priorities for the church's 1977-80 program quadrennium. "Strengthening the Church School" was listed as a priority by 86 per cent of Readers, 95 per cent of Delegates and 92 per cent of Clergy. "World Hunger" was second, receiving 70, 95 and 91 per cent favoring, respectively; and "Evangelism" third, receiving 78, 86 and 92 per cent favoring, respectively.

The most pronounced opposition on any single issue was in regard to item four under Social Issues: "The ordained ministry should be open to all people regardless of sexual orientation," a reference to the question of ordination of professed homosexuals, an issue which may be before the General Conference. Opposition was 82, 81 and 86 per cent, respectively, by Readers, Delegates and Clergy.

In regard to the statement "All persons regardless of sexual orientation should be welcomed into the fellowship and membership" of the church, 37, 68 and 49 per cent favored, respectively.

In regard to whether the church "should reaffirm its opposition to capital punishment," 54 per cent of Readers were opposed, 59 per cent of Delegates favored, and Clergy were divided with 42 per cent indicating each viewpoint.

In another issue of current concern, the respondents indicated they thought membership in The United Methodist Church was declining because "the church isn't spiritual enough" instead of its "not being concerned enough about social issues." (Details on responses may be seen in the following tabulation.)

### On Other Major Issues

The response to other major issues in the five

categories is given below. (Figures are percentages and, unless otherwise stated, indicate the response in this order: Readers, Delegates, Clergy. The figures indicate the largest response received, whether "favors" or "opposes," even though the figure listed may not be over 50 per cent. In such cases, the respondents either did not "vote," or marked the number "3," indicating "no strong opinion either way.")

### I. THE MINISTRY

• Bishops should continue to be elected for life. Oppose: Readers, 51; Favor: Delegates, 68; Clergy, 58.

• Annual Conferences should be allowed to nominate candidates for the episcopacy. Favor: 59, 59, 62.

• Bishops should consult with pastors and lay persons before naming district superintendents. Favor: Readers, 59; Clergy, 58. Oppose: Delegates, 54.

• There should be a district-level counterpart to the pastor-parish relations committee. Favor: 61, 68, 38.

• Church should encourage more women to enter the ministry. Oppose: Readers, 51; Clergy, 42. Favor: Delegates, 42.

### II. SOCIAL ISSUES

• Church should support legal right to abortion under proper medical procedure. Favor: 27, 59, 49.

• Church should call for national health-care program. Oppose: 52, 45, 45.

• Church should support legislation to require registration of all firearms and a ban on most privately owned handguns. Oppose: Readers, 60. Favor: Delegates 68; Clergy, 47.

• Church should call for unconditional amnesty for war protesters as an act of reconciliation. Oppose: Readers, 68; Clergy, 57. Favor: Delegates, 55.

• Church should conduct a four-year study of human sexuality during the 1977-80 quadriennium. Oppose: 78, 82, 75.

### III. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

• Commission on Status and Role of Women should be made continuing. Oppose: 32 (32 also favored), 55, 53.

(Continued on page two)

- Church should continue to guarantee representation of women, ethnic minorities, youth and young adults on boards, staffs of general agencies through a system of fixed quotas. Favor: Readers, 41. Oppose: Delegates, 64; Clergy, 57.

- Church should provide funding for ethnic caucuses. Oppose: 58, 59, 66.

- Each local church should be required to have an organized group of United Methodist Men. Oppose: 50, 59, 72.

- National UM youth organization should be representative of and accountable to annual conference youth groups. Favor: 58, 77, 75.

## IV. FINANCES

During the 1977-80 quadrennium the church should provide special funds for:

- Black colleges. Oppose: Readers, 39. Favor: Delegates, 72; Clergy, 60.

- Educational needs of other ethnic groups. Oppose:

Readers, 39. Favor: Delegates, 72; Clergy, 53.

- Recruit and train ethnic leadership. Favor: 37, 86, 74.

- United Methodist seminaries. Favor: 65, 73, 92.

- Church publications, broadcasting, films. Favor: 27, 68, 55.

## V. GENERAL CHURCH CONCERNS

1. I think membership in The United Methodist Church is declining because:

- Church isn't spiritual enough. Favor: 70, 59, 62.

- Church isn't concerned enough about social issues.

Oppose: 46, 68, 55.

- Sociological factors (mobility, changing life-styles, etc.). Favor: 42, 82, 55.

2. During 1977-80 the church should:

- Place more emphasis on evangelism. Favor: 77, 86, 87.

- Place more emphasis on salvation and redemption. Favor: 82, 77, 85.

- Place more emphasis on social change efforts. Oppose: Readers, 45; Clergy, 40. Favor: Delegates, 36.

- Establish more new churches. Favor: 33, 59, 72.

- Send more missionaries overseas. Oppose:

Readers, 33. Favor: Delegates, 32; Clergy, 32.

- Some general boards and agencies should be relocated west of the Mississippi River. Favor: 35, 50, 28.

4. United Methodism should continue to support:

- World Council of Churches. Oppose: Readers, 43. Favor: Delegates, 59; Clergy, 47.

- National Council of Churches. Oppose: Readers, 41. Favor: Delegates, 59; Clergy, 49.

- Consultation on Church Union (COCU). Oppose: 44, 45, 68.

A complete tabulation, showing the number of responses to each of the 59 items on the questionnaire, may be found on page four.

# What Arkansas United Methodists are thinking

## Respondents comment on issues facing the church

Among the 641 responses received in answer to the opinion survey published in the March 18 issue of the *Arkansas Methodist*, 240 contained written comments on three specific concerns. Blank spaces on the questionnaires were provided for the respondent's remarks on those issues — two concerning priorities for the church's 1977-80 program quadrennium and one regarding reasons for the decline in membership in The United Methodist Church.

Most of the comments were brief and to the point. Some were lengthy and some respondents sent letters elaborating on their feelings. An estimated 25 per cent of the respondents, in addition to the 240 who commented on the three specific issues, added written remarks to many of the 59 items on the questionnaire, expressing approval or disapproval of particular issues.

In order to reflect the opinions expressed in the more than 1,000 comments of survey participants, the *Arkansas Methodist* is printing, below, a random selection of those responses.

The opinion survey, relating primarily to issues which will be considered at the

church's General Conference next month in Portland, Ore., first appeared in *The Interpreter*, the official program journal of The United Methodist Church, and was reprinted in the *Arkansas Methodist* with permission. (See related articles on this page, page one, and the

survey tabulations on page four.)

## I. PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The first category to which written comments were invited related to financing for 1977-80 program priorities. Participants were asked to indicate their

degree of agreement or disagreement in response to the statement, "During the 1977-80 quadrennium, the church should provide special funds for: Black colleges, educational needs of other ethnic groups, recruitment and training of ethnic leadership, church-related colleges in crisis, world hunger, new churches, seminaries, church media, and 'Others.'"

While the survey sought ideas on general church priorities, many readers expressed priority needs they saw in

(Continued on next page)

## National survey shows concerned, conservative, 'frustrated' members

(Editor's note: The following is a report on the same questionnaire which appeared in the March 18 issue of the *Arkansas Methodist*, the response to which is reported on pages one, two and four of this issue.)

PARK RIDGE, Ill. (UMC) — Based on questionnaires returned by some 13,000 persons from across the nation, United Methodists are more conservative — both theologically and sociologically — than the church's programs, according to editors of a news insert in the church's national program journal.

"(The answers) made it clear that United Methodists care intensely about their church and traditions of their faith," said the survey report in the April issue of the "News and Comment" section of *Interpreter* magazine, "and that many are bitterly frustrated because they feel the church doesn't listen to them when policies and programs are being shaped."

The questions appeared in the January issue of the publication and were centered on issues expected to be debated during the General Conference opening April 27 in Portland, Ore. Numerous churches duplicated the questions and shared them with either the entire congregation or specific groups within it.

Editors of the news insert say that the greatest unanimity was on the need to strengthen the church school in the coming quadrennium. Of the several options for emphasis listed, 88.4 per cent of the clergy and 90 per cent of the laity strongly favor this one.

Almost as strong was support for the providing of special funds for alleviation of world hunger.

Some of the most negative responses came in a section on social issues.

Only 36.2 per cent of the clergy and 20.7 per cent of the laity supported a proposed quadrennial study of human sexuality.

Some 74 per cent of the clergy and 78 per cent of the laity said the ordained ministry should not be opened to people regardless of sexual orientation. However, 55 per cent of the clergy and 47 per cent of the laity thought membership and fellowship in the church should be open to all people without such regard.

On the subject of gun control, 57 per cent of the clergy and 36 per cent of the laity believe the church should support such legislation. A number of sharp comments were received on this issue.

There was strong support for putting more emphasis on evangelism, salvation and redemption in the coming quadrennium, but only 36.9 per cent of the clergy and 23.3 per cent of the laity indicated an interest in the establishment of new churches.

Comments on questionnaires, say the survey's editors, indicate that a lot of people resent the current emphasis on ethnic minorities. A slight majority in each case thought direct funding for the ethnic caucuses should not be provided.

On another issue, 41 per cent of the clergy and 54 per cent of the laity indicate disagreement with the present practice of electing bishops for life, and substantial majorities favor permitting annual conferences to nominate ministers for election to the Episcopacy.

Some 58 per cent of the clergy and 41 per cent of the laity indicated support for the National Council of Churches, and support of the World Council was agreeable to 57 per cent of the clergy and 39 per cent of the laity. On the other hand, only 38 per cent of the clergy and 30 per cent of the laity thought the denomination should continue to support the Consultation on Church Union (COCU).

The editors said there was a considerable difference in response to some issues from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, and majorities on some questions contradicted responses to other questions in the survey.

## Tornados destroy one church, damage other property

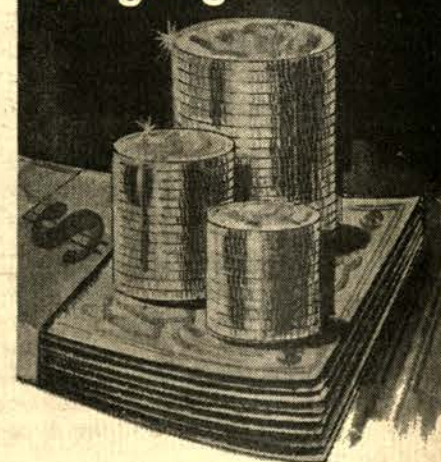
In addition to the tragic loss of life and personal property, tornados in Arkansas during the past week destroyed one United Methodist Church building and did minor damage to another and to one parsonage.

Completely destroyed was the church at Centerville (Yell County) in the Conway District. An Extension Church which had not been in use in the past few years, the building was a frame structure of some three or four rooms. A number of large oak trees in the church yard were also destroyed by the twister, which struck on Friday, March 26.

The tornado which took a reported five lives and devastated much of the business district last Monday at Cabot, did minor damage to the parsonage and church facility. The new education wing, dedicated just two years ago, experienced roof and window damage. The parsonage received extensive window damage and considerable roof damage, with a corner of the roof being torn away.

To our knowledge at press time, none of the known fatalities were related to the United Methodist congregation, though many of its members suffered large business and personal losses.

## Money — a universal language



We all speak it — understand it. Even the church uses it to communicate the Gospel. In this and sixty other nations, United Methodist World Service dollars speak to people through missions, evangelism, education, worship, stewardship, social action, minority concerns and other forms of Christian witness. Each World Service dollar speaks of your concern for a world desperately needing to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

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For more information on how the annual \$23,500,000.00 World Service budget "speaks" write:  
United Methodist Communications  
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Evanston, Ill. 60201

# What Arkansas United Methodists are thinking

(Continued from page two)

their own local churches. Some of those comments are included to reflect such opinions.

(NOTE: In listing all comments, a paragraph form is used to conserve space. A period indicates the end of a particular respondent's statement. The comments of several individuals are reported in each paragraph.)

The responses below are typical of those submitted as "other" priorities for 1977-80:

- Ministry to youth, young adults, elderly. Support for inner city churches. More education as to "What is Methodism." Need better Sunday School materials, more teacher training, more interest in our youth. Help small or country churches to have programs to attract new members, more children, young people. Elderly persons who have supported church for many years should be helped if needed. Back to basic religion; more emphasis on church's primary concern and less on fringe issues.

- Fundamental Bible teaching; we have too much social mess in the MC. Local church support to missionaries. Born-again leadership at all levels. Seminaries that have an apportionate number of conservative evangelicals on their faculties to conservative church members. Retirement home and other needs of the elderly (not nursing homes). The Methodists need to be converted through Christ Jesus — NOW!

- Single adults need organization in each city, if not in each church. Local churches, laymen, have more to say (policy making) besides financing. Health care. A need to increase the church's influence in American morals. We are over-organized; give us time to think — less meetings, not more! Establishment of urban missions in changing neighborhoods. An old-fashioned revival — let America know we are alive!

- Holy Spirit training for unbelieving and weak preachers. Relating religion to modern science and present-day verities. More emphasis on tithing. More rural churches to reach the common class of people instead of centralizing in the large churches. Provide technical assistance for third world people. Double help to improve farming, soil and equipment, especially in foreign lands. More about the Bible in Sunday School papers and less about going to the dentist or hospital! Our church needs a new pastor; our attendance is off over one-half!

## II. WHY IS MEMBERSHIP DECLINING?

The second statement to which respondents could make written comment was "I think membership in The United Methodist Church is declining because: A. The church isn't spiritual enough; B. The church isn't concerned enough about social issues; C. Of sociological factors (mobility, changing life-styles, etc.); or D. Other reasons (specify)."

Of the three issues, this received the largest number of written comments. The following, selected at random, are typical responses:

- We need good, old-fashioned preachers who don't preach for money! Lack of knowledge of structure and workings of the church. Too much emphasis on organizing and bureaucracy; diminished spiritual leadership. Sin. Not relevant to current needs of people; too slow to change. Too many other tempting things. Clergy and lay members have become too worldly. Lack of lay leadership; it is being discouraged.

- Lost ability to care about people; not enough Bible teaching and preaching. Too much power at the higher conference level; over-organized and non-democratic. Not lovers of the church but lovers of the world. The church is seldom open to true spirituality as it once was. Lack of emphasis on real Christianity and love; unbelief by leadership. We don't know the Lord personally and most don't seem to WANT to. Not as family-oriented as other denominations. Lay people are not contacting new prospects. Too affluent and lack of love for our neighbors. The church has been more concerned about everything else before the individual members who make up the church.

- Too much concern about social issues. Self-centered, too satisfied. Older ministers who talk and act like those of bygone years; pat phrases and projects. Not enough emphasis on youth. People are starved for spiritual sermons and singing. Pastor security and pastor commitment. No regular Bible study and prayer meetings. Lack of emphasis on evangelism. Most Methodist preachers are more interested in filling pews than saving lost souls. Our churches are too formal; nothing to get excited about.

- Methodists getting too high in society. The church disregarded (sociological factors) and their implications for its institutional "shape." Too much emphasis on denominational or current

psychiatric views — which the Bible does not necessarily repudiate. Too much emphasis on salary instead of the needs of the people. Church is not meeting spiritual needs of members; people are going to secular organizations to meet these needs, such as TM (transcendental meditation), etc. The church lacks desire to utilize competent sociological resource persons. Excessive liberalism. Not enough Christ-centered leaders and lay people. Apathy.

- Too old-fashioned; do not change pastors enough and do not listen to youth. Not enough conservative evangelicals in the pulpits. Trying to make too many changes too fast for no good reasons. Over-concern for our image. Program materials on too theological and too intellectual level for average members. People are too affluent; being "too religious" is being a radical to some people. Members not fulfilling their church vows, tithing and commitment. Just plain unwilling to serve, or unconcerned. Not enough "God is, but so is the devil."

- Bearded, long-haired, tattered blue-jean-tennis-shoes pastoral students; very degrading! It's stand on sex and homosexuality, its readiness for government funds for social issues, lack of "I live as a Christian myself" in pastors. White membership has not accepted the merger with our black brothers as expected. Clergy becoming self-serving, too permissive, lack of discipline, ideals. Out-dated stress on fundamentalism; need modern interpretation and viewpoints. Too stuffy. The UMC is too concerned with social issues; nowhere on this form do you mention Bible reading. Lack of love and concern for each other and the unchurched in the community.

- Unwillingness on part of many to be truly ecumenical. Lack of interest by ministers; too much concern for their own affairs. Too many chiefs and not enough braves. Our beliefs are too strict for the light-minded — thank God. Not open to change. Got too many unsaved pastors! Lack of dedication and integrity of many of the clergy; over-organization of the church. Lay people not dedicated. Brother . . . monied everyone like crazy; church in trouble; Brother . . . trying, but we DESPERATELY need a preacher!

## III. PRIORITIES FOR 1977-80

In the third and final category, participants were invited to indicate their degree of agreement or disagreement on elements of the statement, "During 1977-80 I think the church should: A. Place more emphasis on evangelism;

B. On salvation and redemption; C. On social change efforts; D. Establish more new churches; E. Strengthen the church school; F. Send more missionaries overseas; or G. Other efforts (specify)."

Though the survey sought suggestions in regard to the general church program, many readers, as in the case of the two previous categories, thought in terms of the needs in their own local churches. Some of those responses are included below to reflect such opinions. Among suggested "other efforts" for 1977-80 priorities were the following:

- We don't see enough of our District superintendent; he doesn't come to our small church unless there is a money errand. Emphasize missions at home as well as abroad. Strengthen the local church. More dedicated ministry. More scriptural emphasis on all phases of the ministry, children through adult. Strengthen seminaries by stressing Bible, Holy Spirit. Work for total commitment of each member; other things will fall in place.

- More youth-oriented programs. Concentrate on those who are already members. Seek pastors who are really on fire for Jesus to save mankind by his blood rather than by social action. Methodists need to know who they are theologically; what their basics are, where they are going and why. Why send missionaries overseas when our own people are going to sleep in the pews? More opportunity for lay persons to have a voice on their feelings; I am a life Methodist you have almost lost since the "United." There should be some way to evaluate minister performance, some definite performance standards, annual review by District superintendent and church with pastor elsewhere.

- Preach more hell and brimstone for sinners. Place more emphasis upon mental health services by the minister and staff. Encourage people to slow down and come back to church; lead a simpler life. Keep the churches segregated or they will fall apart. We need God-called preachers; we are spiritually hungry. Emphasis not so much for ourselves and more for others. More emphasis on small rural church. Take care of ME, an individual person looking for meaning for my life today. Need more rooms at the Old Austin Methodist Church. Get the members saved. Appeal at least part of the time to members who have tried to grow with the social changes of our world. Stop advocating and supporting anarchy and communism!!! Put power and energy in what we have.

## From Our Readers

### FOR MORE BISHOPS

To the Editor:

Recently, the Old Austin United Methodist Church voted on and sent the following petition for consideration to the General Conference:

"Be it resolved that in every Methodist Conference the Presiding Bishop of each Conference be required to preach in every local Methodist Church of that Conference at least once within a period of every four years."

Like most Arkansas small rural United Methodist churches, we have never had a Methodist bishop preach in our church, or else it has been so long a time all the members have forgotten, and frankly speaking, we think it's time we recognize the fact most Methodist Con-

ferences have grown far too large for our bishops to preside over with any degree of effectiveness.

For example, if our present bishop were to spend one Sunday preaching at each local Methodist church in the Little Rock Conference alone, it would take him almost seven-and-a-half years to preach in all of the churches. And if you add the North Arkansas Conference, then it becomes virtually impossible for our bishop to preach in all of our churches.

As I see it, the main problem concerning this General Conference is our serious shortage of bishops. We should all pray that the Lord send us many, many more bishops.

Casey Magie, Pastor  
Old Austin  
United Methodist Church

— More letters on page five —

## Arkansas Methodist

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### Arkansas United Methodists respond to opinion survey

Listed below are the responses received to the questionnaire which appeared in the March 18 issue of the *Arkansas Methodist* (reprinted with permission from the January issue of *The Interpreter*, the official program journal of The United Methodist Church). Six-hundred and sixty-three responses were recorded. Another 68 arrived after the deadline date of March 25, too late for tabulation.

In the summary below, "Readers" indicates the 600 lay persons and 41 ministers responding. "Delegates" indicates the 22 of the 48 delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference from the two Arkansas Annual Conferences who responded to written invitations from the *Arkansas Methodist* to participate in the opinion survey.

Of the 641 "Readers" responding, 365 were female, 276 male. Of the 22 "Delegates" responding, ten were lay persons (of a possible 25), 12 were clergy (of a possible 23); 17 were male (of a possible 36), and five were female (of a possible 12). For additional comment and analysis, see articles on pages one and two.

Agree ◀ ▶ Disagree  
1 2 3 4 5

#### THE MINISTRY

1. Bishops should continue to be elected for life.  
Readers: 1—97; 2—77; 3—135; 4—62; 5—277  
Delegates: 1—10; 2—5; 3—1; 4—3; 5—3
2. Procedures for transferring bishops from one jurisdiction to another should be made simpler.  
Readers: 1—221; 2—92; 3—231; 4—18; 5—19  
Delegates: 1—10; 2—6; 3—6; 4—0; 5—0
3. Bishops should not be allowed to serve more than eight years in any one episcopal area (now it is twelve).  
Readers: 1—260; 2—84; 3—138; 4—40; 5—83  
Delegates: 1—6; 2—4; 3—2; 4—4; 5—6
4. The annual conferences should be allowed to nominate candidates for the episcopacy.  
Readers: 1—289; 2—103; 3—126; 4—20; 5—42  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—4; 3—3; 4—2; 5—4
5. Bishops should consult with pastors and lay persons in an annual conference before naming district superintendents.  
Readers: 1—388; 2—100; 3—69; 4—14; 5—31  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—2; 3—0; 4—5; 5—7
6. There should be a district-level counterpart of the pastor-parish relations committee to provide support for the superintendent and to which the superintendent would be accountable.  
Readers: 1—296; 2—111; 3—111; 4—20; 5—50  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—6; 3—2; 4—0; 5—4
7. There should be the possibility of appointing pastors for more than one year at a time.  
Readers: 1—216; 2—93; 3—71; 4—46; 5—189  
Delegates: 1—4; 2—7; 3—3; 4—0; 5—8
8. Lay pastors should be allowed to administer the sacraments.  
Readers: 1—220; 2—76; 3—92; 4—35; 5—174  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—5; 3—3; 4—1; 5—6
9. There should be only one order of ministry (now there are two: elder and deacon).  
Readers: 1—124; 2—31; 3—208; 4—47; 5—165  
Delegates: 1—2; 2—2; 3—3; 4—6; 5—9
10. There should be a special consecration of lay persons in full-time church vocations (diaconal ministry).  
Readers: 1—252; 2—103; 3—162; 4—28; 5—42  
Delegates: 1—11; 2—7; 3—1; 4—3; 5—0
11. The church should encourage more women to enter the ordained ministry.  
Readers: 1—134; 2—46; 3—160; 4—62; 5—209  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—2; 3—9; 4—2; 5—2

#### SOCIAL ISSUES

1. The church should support the legal right to abortion under proper medical procedures.  
Readers: 1—137; 2—48; 3—69; 4—53; 5—309  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—6; 3—2; 4—4; 5—3

2. The church should support removal of criminal penalties for the use or possession of small amounts of marijuana.  
Readers: 1—56; 2—36; 3—52; 4—40; 5—436  
Delegates: 1—3; 2—2; 3—1; 4—4; 5—12
3. All persons regardless of sexual orientation should be welcomed into the fellowship and membership of The United Methodist Church.  
Readers: 1—192; 2—55; 3—62; 4—31; 5—288  
Delegates: 1—13; 2—3; 3—1; 4—1; 5—4
4. The ordained ministry should be open to all people regardless of sexual orientation.  
Readers: 1—52; 2—17; 3—16; 4—25; 5—519  
Delegates: 1—3; 2—1; 3—0; 4—1; 5—17
5. The church should call for a national health-care program, federally sponsored and based on social-insurance principles.  
Readers: 1—81; 2—40; 3—120; 4—45; 5—320  
Delegates: 1—2; 2—5; 3—5; 4—3; 5—7
6. The church should support legislation to require the registration of all firearms and a ban on most privately owned handguns.  
Readers: 1—121; 2—38; 3—65; 4—38; 5—357  
Delegates: 1—12; 2—2; 3—0; 4—3; 5—4
7. The church should call for unconditional amnesty for war protesters as an act of reconciliation.  
Readers: 1—64; 2—25; 3—83; 4—56; 5—392  
Delegates: 1—6; 2—6; 3—3; 4—0; 5—7
8. The church should conduct a four-year study of human sexuality during the 1977-80 quadrennium.  
Readers: 1—50; 2—12; 3—46; 4—39; 5—479  
Delegates: 1—2; 2—1; 3—1; 4—3; 5—15
9. The church should reaffirm its opposition to capital punishment.  
Readers: 1—120; 2—45; 3—89; 4—44; 5—313  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—4; 3—3; 4—1; 5—5
10. The church should approve the advertising of contraceptive techniques on television and in other media.  
Readers: 1—78; 2—27; 3—70; 4—46; 5—400  
Delegates: 1—0; 2—4; 3—7; 4—3; 5—8

#### SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

1. Commission on Status and Role of Women should be made a continuing commission.  
Readers: 1—155; 2—56; 3—164; 4—49; 5—160  
Delegates: 1—5; 2—2; 3—3; 4—5; 5—7
2. Each annual conference should be required to have a designated group on the status and role of women in the church.  
Readers: 1—129; 2—69; 3—143; 4—52; 5—203  
Delegates: 1—4; 2—1; 3—2; 4—5; 5—10
3. All local churches should be open to the appointment of women ministers and clergy couples.  
Readers: 1—231; 2—75; 3—114; 4—48; 5—150  
Delegates: 1—11; 2—4; 3—3; 4—1; 5—3
4. The United Methodist Church should continue to guarantee the representation of women, ethnic minorities, youth, and young adults on the boards and staffs of its general agencies through a system of fixed quotas.  
Readers: 1—184; 2—90; 3—92; 4—53; 5—190  
Delegates: 1—5; 2—2; 3—1; 4—4; 5—10
5. The church should provide direct funding for ethnic caucuses (Blacks, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanic Americans).  
Readers: 1—59; 2—41; 3—121; 4—55; 5—331  
Delegates: 1—2; 2—1; 3—6; 4—3; 5—10
6. Ethnic groups should be allowed to establish the educational requirements for their ministers' admission to annual conferences.  
Readers: 1—84; 2—44; 3—115; 4—57; 5—303  
Delegates: 1—1; 2—2; 3—3; 4—2; 5—14
7. Each local church should be required to have an organized group of United Methodist Men.  
Readers: 1—106; 2—46; 3—133; 4—61; 5—272  
Delegates: 1—1; 2—2; 3—6; 4—4; 5—9
8. The national United Methodist youth organization should be representative of and accountable to annual conference youth groups.  
Readers: 1—297; 2—88; 3—128; 4—15; 5—68  
Delegates: 1—14; 2—3; 3—4; 4—1; 5—0

#### FINANCES

1. During the 1977-80 quadrennium the church should provide special funds for:

- A. Black colleges  
Readers: 1—155; 2—88; 3—122; 4—57; 5—203  
Delegates: 1—13; 2—3; 3—6; 4—0; 5—0
- B. The educational needs of other ethnic groups  
Readers: 1—115; 2—80; 3—149; 4—68; 5—194  
Delegates: 1—10; 2—6; 3—3; 4—1; 5—2
- C. Recruitment and training of ethnic leadership  
Readers: 1—152; 2—93; 3—147; 4—51; 5—157  
Delegates: 1—11; 2—8; 3—3; 4—0; 5—0
- D. Church-related colleges that are in crisis  
Readers: 1—257; 2—139; 3—108; 4—34; 5—68  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—5; 3—8; 4—1; 5—1
- E. World hunger  
Readers: 1—346; 2—118; 3—96; 4—20; 5—33  
Delegates: 1—17; 2—4; 3—1; 4—0; 5—0
- F. The formation of new churches  
Readers: 1—262; 2—120; 3—127; 4—26; 5—69  
Delegates: 1—12; 2—5; 3—5; 4—0; 5—0
- G. Evangelism  
Readers: 1—443; 2—77; 3—63; 4—6; 5—25  
Delegates: 1—16; 2—3; 3—3; 4—0; 5—0
- H. United Methodist seminaries  
Readers: 1—325; 2—107; 3—125; 4—17; 5—32  
Delegates: 1—11; 2—5; 3—6; 4—0; 5—0
- I. Church publications, broadcasting, and films  
Readers: 1—282; 2—129; 3—126; 4—17; 5—50  
Delegates: 1—8; 2—7; 3—4; 4—1; 5—1

2. To meet the demands of inflation and emerging needs, local churches should accept increased World Service apportionments.  
Readers: 1—118; 2—64; 3—146; 4—45; 5—136  
Delegates: 1—4; 2—12; 3—2; 4—0; 5—1

#### GENERAL CHURCH CONCERNS

1. I think membership in The United Methodist Church is declining because:
  - A. The church isn't spiritual enough  
Readers: 1—394; 2—71; 3—52; 4—39; 5—45  
Delegates: 1—8; 2—5; 3—3; 4—2; 5—4
  - B. The church isn't concerned enough about social issues  
Readers: 1—86; 2—62; 3—110; 4—86; 5—222  
Delegates: 1—2; 2—3; 3—2; 4—5; 5—10
  - C. Of sociological factors (mobility, changing life-styles, urbanization, and so on)  
Readers: 1—157; 2—121; 3—114; 4—37; 5—115  
Delegates: 1—10; 2—8; 3—2; 4—0; 5—2
2. During 1977-80 I think the church should:
  - A. Place more emphasis on evangelism  
Readers: 1—438; 2—70; 3—61; 4—18; 5—21  
Delegates: 1—14; 2—5; 3—3; 4—0; 5—0
  - B. Place more emphasis on salvation and redemption  
Readers: 1—477; 2—66; 3—46; 4—16; 5—14  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—8; 3—3; 4—2; 5—0
  - C. Place more emphasis on social change efforts  
Readers: 1—88; 2—67; 3—127; 4—79; 5—217  
Delegates: 1—3; 2—5; 3—6; 4—2; 5—5
  - D. Establish more new churches  
Readers: 1—142; 2—79; 3—177; 4—49; 5—127  
Delegates: 1—7; 2—6; 3—7; 4—2; 5—0
  - E. Strengthen the church school  
Readers: 1—492; 2—80; 3—29; 4—12; 5—6  
Delegates: 1—15; 2—6; 3—1; 4—0; 5—0
  - F. Send more missionaries overseas  
Readers: 1—110; 2—68; 3—190; 4—81; 5—138  
Delegates: 1—3; 2—4; 3—9; 4—5; 5—1
3. Some general boards and agencies should be relocated west of the Mississippi River.  
Readers: 1—175; 2—58; 3—222; 4—13; 5—31  
Delegates: 1—5; 2—6; 3—9; 4—0; 5—2
4. United Methodism should continue to support:
  - A. The World Council of Churches  
Readers: 1—140; 2—63; 3—117; 4—42; 5—240  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—4; 3—5; 4—2; 5—2
  - B. The National Council of Churches  
Readers: 1—122; 2—70; 3—118; 4—43; 5—232  
Delegates: 1—9; 2—4; 3—5; 4—1; 5—3
  - C. The Consultation on Church Union (COCU)  
Readers: 1—71; 2—55; 3—139; 4—46; 5—246  
Delegates: 1—4; 2—3; 3—5; 4—4; 5—6

Reader says, 'You asked for a response . . .'

## With 'fancy ways' Methodists are fiddling while Rome burns'

To the Editor:

I have long wanted a chance to respond to some of the things that are taking place in our church today and I feel this (viewpoint survey) is a good opportunity.

I am 62 years old and a retired school teacher. I have lived in Lynn all my life and taught 20 years in home and surrounding schools. I have been a member of the Lynn Methodist Church for almost 50 years and have raised two sons and one daughter in the church . . .

Our Baptist and Church of Christ pastors in our town get out and hunt up their young people and ours, too, and work with them. I don't like to lay blame on anyone, but you asked, and I say that people feel a lot more important to the church if the pastor sees them a lot and works to get them saved and into the church.

Another thing that has hurt the church as I know it, and I go to church meetings, etc., is the fact that the big business of the church is so set up that we are forced to send money to the councils of churches by the very boards that pretend to want Methodism to grow. We want to pay money to help our

preachers' pensions but most of our members hate and despise the World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches and COCU . . .

Many of us would give a great deal of money for the old-time Methodist Church that wasn't a dictator and red-tape organization. I have almost quit several times and if I didn't love the Methodist Church and its doctrines I would have done been gone and I know several more like me.

Why does the church even consider all this bunk about homosexuals? I have heard three local ministers say that if this business of marijuana and homosexuals was not stopped in the church that they would quit the ministry. Why would you not lose members in the Methodist Church if you are constantly into some type of program that even causes your pastors to be disgusted?

Why are you not more interested in trying to establish service centers for our people who need help from drug and alcohol abuse? Why not take the large sum of money you would put on the study of human sexuality and erect a good hospital for people who need help and are not able to pay right here in our own area? Why not pick some of your

youth preachers and put them over an area to work with our young people constantly?

Why not take some of the money the church spends on committees, commissions, boards and a lot more overworked bunk and set up person-to-person contacts with our people who need help so much — maybe church guidance counselors — at least someone who makes a special effort to make special contact with our weak members who sometimes once a year may find a minister's card stuck in a door while they were away during the day . . .

I am a very poor church worker and fail in so many places, but I can say we have a wonderful little church but need a lot more pastors that contact and talk to their people more. If our pastors are not able to do this, why not, oh, why not

hire a young, dedicated Christian man to cover areas and work with our people and, more especially our young people, who are getting away from God and us?

Stop so much conferences and big business and get with it like our Baptist brethren. They are taking the country away from us and they don't have a doctrine worth a hoot.

The Methodist Church with its fancy ways is "fiddling while Rome burns" and our boys and girls and men and women are going down with it.

You asked for a response — this is it as I see it.

Mrs. Angy Brannon  
Lynn, Arkansas 72440

P.S.: And I don't care how many times you use my letter or name. It's high time we all woke up.

†

## NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

The U.S. Defense Department is studying a proposal to merge the Army, Navy and Air Force chaplain schools. Following a task force study requested by Congress, it is believed that a single school would provide opportunities for cost savings and an educational opportunity leading to a greater professional growth and development. Sites being considered by the task force include three existing schools, the Naval Post Graduate School at Monterey, Calif., Fort Dix, N.J., and Fort McClellan, Ala., a spokesman said.

†

Committees for the 1.8-million-member United Church of Christ and the 1.3 million-member Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have been named to discuss possible union. Dr. Kenneth L. Teegarden, Disciples president, and Dr. Robert V. Moss, UCC president, serve on the committees.

†

The Australian Religious Press Association has adopted a code of ethics pledging "to report and interpret the news with scrupulous honesty . . . not to suppress essential fact, and not to distort the truth by omission or wrongful emphasis."

†

A federal study prepared by Research for Better Schools, Inc. of Philadelphia has recommended that the U.S. government spend \$12.6 million on a program to stifle school violence. Parents, students and educators are "concerned about their schools being trapped in a web of violence and disruption which is destroying their effectiveness as institutions of learning," the report said. The proposed program would be used to launch a nationwide assistance program.

†

U.S. Commissioner of Education T. H. Bell asked in a recent talk, "Why shouldn't schools teach what we used to call the 'American way of Life,' the values and virtues of our system?" "Forcefully and without equivocation, our schools should teach equality of opportunity, fairness, freedom from prejudice, honesty, respect for law, and all the rest . . . The teacher should teach much more than subject matter," said Mr. Bell.

William Murray, 29, son of atheist Madalyn O'Hair, announcing his candidacy for the Republican nomination for the 10th Congressional District in San Antonio said, "The conservatism of the American public is far more important than continuation of the so-called atheist movement in America."

†

A process for building houses out of brown corrugated cardboard material has been developed by a University of Notre Dame (Ind.) alumnus and two Notre Dame architecture students to provide emergency shelters for disaster relief. The students are currently putting their product to the test in Guatemala as they demonstrate how 1 x 2 meter panels of the cardboard, covered with a wax-like coating for wet weather protection, can be produced by native manufacturers, and each unit constructed by natives within an hour.

†

Seventh-day Adventist World Service (SAWS) purchased \$250,000 worth of aluminum roofing for the rebuilding of 5,000 homes for Guatemala earthquake victims. SAWS is attempting to help the people rebuild homes that are quake resistant before the rainy season sets in.

†

A two-part Palm Sunday weekend special, "The Story of David," is scheduled for airing by the ABC-TV network, the evenings of April 9 and April 11. Dr. Noel Freedman, editor of the Anchor Bible series and director of the Program on Religious Studies at the University of Michigan, served as consultant to assure historical accuracy of the film produced in Spain and Israel.

†

Evangelist Billy Graham, responding to an interviewer's question of whether or not he could become a Roman Catholic is reported to have said, "There's not as much difference between me and Catholics theologically as there is between me and some Protestants theologically."

†

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, now observing his 25th year as chief executive of the Rabbinical Assembly, a Conservative body of U.S. Judaism, says the current era "is one of the most dynamic periods of Jewish history." Despite changing neighborhoods, economic inflation and a diminished birth rate, Rabbi Kelman said Judaism is on "the threshold of a creative age which has been unsurpassed in recent centuries."

## From Our Readers

### A 'THANK YOU'

To the Editor:

In the words of Sir William Osler, "In science the credit goes to the man who convinces the world, not to the man to whom the idea first occurs." But we are saying to the one whose idea it was and certainly to the pastor and wife, the Rev. Lloyd Smith, and members of New Haven United Methodist Church, Hensley, our children and the many friends who enlarged on the idea, and carried it out, of giving us a surprise appreciation dinner Sunday, March 7.

This was 11 days prior to our 53rd wedding anniversary, which made this a double occasion for us. Please accept our full hearts' thanks.

The Rev. C. G. and Lula Tillmon  
Hensley, Ark.

†

### NOTE OF THANKS

To the Editor:

On the evening of Feb. 9 my home caught fire. My loss was great. All that did not burn up was greatly damaged by heat, smoke and water.

Feb. 29 was "Oliver Day" at Haven United Methodist Church, the Rev. T. E. Snow, pastor. Friends gave \$300. My warmest thanks to all of you. "How

beautiful a day can be, when kindness touches it" (George Elliston). It means so much to have good friends who wish you well. Your kindness is appreciated more than words can tell.

Thanks to Sweet Home First United Methodist and to Pastor Hall for their linen shower and thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Brown, the Sgt. and Mrs. C. G. Washington and the Rev. and Mrs. B. W. Wynn for their gifts.

The Rev. John H. Oliver  
235 Walnut Street  
Hot Springs, Ark.

†

### OPPOSED TO 'STUDY'

To the Editor:

We the Adult Bible Class of the Massard U.M. Church wish to make our position known concerning the proposed revisions to the Social Principles of the Discipline and Human Sexuality Study.

We strongly object to the use of the proposed sum of \$290,000 for this study feeling that this large sum of money could be used in a more effective way to promote the growth of The Kingdom of God and The United Methodist Church.

Adult Bible Class  
Massard U.M. Church  
Fort Smith, Ark. 72901

†

## Choir Members Sought

The Committee on Worship of the North Arkansas Conference is seeking ministers and lay persons who would be interested in being in a choir to sing at the Ordination Service at the Annual Conference, Wednesday, June 9, 7:30 p.m.

Interested persons are asked to complete the application form below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in being in the Conference Choir for the June 9th Ordination Service.

(Mail to: Mrs. Elise Shoemaker, First United Methodist Church, 1610 Prince, Conway, Ark. 72032.)

# The Rejected King

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

## Lesson for April 11

Scripture: Matthew 26 and 27

**Foreword:** Someone has perceptively observed that the Cross is the central symbol of Christian Faith. The life and teachings of Jesus as well as the pattern of behavior for the believer are all somehow paradoxically summed up in this instrument of death now become the emblem of new life.

This week the two chapters of Matthew deal with the dramatic events surrounding the Cross — the Last Supper, the betrayal, the trial, the crucifixion and burial of Jesus.

Departing from my usual format for the lesson, I want to share with you a variety of observations, past and present, on the significance of the Cross for Christian faith. I do so in the hope that your understanding of the crucifix will be made richer, as indeed mine has, by this formidable "cloud of witnesses."

"Jesus hath now many lovers of His heavenly kingdom, but few bearers of His Cross. . . . All desire to rejoice with Him, few are willing to endure anything for Him. Many follow Jesus into the breaking of bread; but few to the drinking of the Cup of His Passion."

— Thomas a Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it."

— Jesus, Mark 8:34-35

"It is the source of divine grace by which man is rescued from the trammels of sin and reconciled to God. In the created order man is under divine condemnation unless he can stand before God as 'righteous,' but this no man can do for all share the inheritance of original sin. But God has provided the grace by which we can be restored to his favor through the death of Christ upon the Cross."

— John Wesley, *Sermons*, I, 159.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

— S. Carter, "Lord of the Dance"

"At the point where God deals with me, where He has sought and found me, at the cross of Golgotha, I am exposed and addressed as a sinner. Indeed, I have found and confessed myself to be this. I have said nothing to add to what is said and confessed there, nor to subtract from it. The transgression in all transgressions, the sin in all sins, namely, that I should refuse the name of a sinner, is made quite impossible. It is literally nailed to the cross with Jesus Christ. It can only die. The only thing that I can do is recognize that my sin is really dead . . ."

— Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics*

"In the end, there are only two possibilities of encountering Jesus: either man must die or he kills Jesus."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Christ the Center*

"If somebody likes you, he pats you on the head . . . If he doesn't like you, he KICKS you!"

— Snoopy, *Peanuts*

"It is precisely in the event of Jesus' crucifixion that God had announced to the world the radical demand of his love that men must die to every form of self-contrived security and idolatrous faith in which they involve themselves."

— Schubert Ogden, *The Reality of God*

"CELEBRATION IS WHEN . . .

you are forever dying to that which keeps you from living your life

SO THAT

the sentence of death becomes the summons to life"

— William K. McElvaney, *The Saving Possibility*

"But faith is a divine work in us, which transforms us and begets us anew from God (John 1:13), which crucifies the old Adam, makes us in heart, temper, disposition, and in all our powers entirely different men, and brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, this faith is a living, busy, active, powerful thing! It does not even ask whether good works should be done; but before the question can be asked, it has done them, and is constantly engaged in doing them . . . Faith is a living, well-founded confidence in the grace of God, so perfectly certain that it would die a thousand times rather than surrender its conviction."

— Martin Luther, "Preface to St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans"

"The cross is not the salvation-event because it is the cross of Christ; it is the cross of Christ because it is the salvation-event. Apart from this it is merely the tragic end of a noble man."

— Rudolf Bultmann, *Kerygma and Myth*

"My son was attempting to recall the name of a child whom I had previously baptized, when he said, 'Oh, Daddy, you remember . . . he's the one you crucified!'"

— Glen Galtere, in a conversation

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

— St. Paul, Romans 6:3-4

"I write you these few lines, to warn you fraternally, according to the precept of Christ, which tells us: 'If thy brother has just sinned, warn him in secret.' Receive, then, my words, and declare, if you have thus spoken of me. Prove that I am a heretic, and I will, with humility, correct myself, and you shall receive a reward for having rescued a man from error. Nevertheless, I hope by the grace of Almighty God, that my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is as great as yours, and that I am not less prepared to die for it with humility."

— John Hus, 1415

"If the contemporary generation had left nothing behind them but these words: 'We have believed that in such and such a year God appeared among us in the humble figure of a servant, that he lived and taught in our community, and finally died,' it would be more than enough."

— Soren Kierkegaard, *Philosophical Fragments*

"Yet, when the Divine is rejected, It takes the rejection upon Itself. It accepts our crucifixion, our pushing away, the defense of ourselves against It. It accepts our refusal to accept, and thus conquers us. That is the centre of the mystery of the Christ. Let us try to imagine a Christ Who would not die, and Who would come in glory to impose upon us His power. His wisdom, His morality, and His piety. He would be able to break our resistance by His strength, by His wonderful government, by His infallible wisdom, and by His irresistible perfection. But He would not be able to win our hearts . . . One of Luther's most profound insights was that God made Himself small for us in Christ. In so doing, He left us our freedom and our humanity. He showed us His Heart, so that our hearts could be won."

— Paul Tillich, "He Who Is The Christ"

"For a nothing, Charlie Brown, you're really something!"

— Linus, *Peanuts*

"The crucifixion of Jesus set men thinking more than anything else that has ever happened in the life of the human race. And the most remarkable fact in the whole history of religious thought is this: that when the early Christians looked back and pondered on the dreadful thing that had happened, it made them think of the redeeming love of God.

Not simply of the love of Jesus, but of the love of God."

— D. M. Baillie, *God Was In Christ*

"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

— Jesus, John 15:13

"There is no doubt at all that Christianity has survived and been sustained through the centuries by a quality of life most visible to others in **martyrdom and service**. This was so in the times of persecution: 'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.' It has also been true in the classic tales of the great conversions: Augustine's, Wesley's, and almost anybody else's you can name. In each case, it was the sight of Christian lives in martyrdom, and service to others, that prepared the way for the Spirit's converting action. In all the great epochs of missionary outreach, it was the church of the martyrs of Christ and the servants of the gospel. This is why conversions gained by the Cross used as bludgeon or gimmick have rarely served the causes of evangelism or Christian nurture or missions or social action."

— Albert Outler, *Evangelism in the Wesleyan Spirit*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

— Isaac Watts

## Hope District plans Spring Convocation

Laity and ministerial families in Hope District will gather at Hope High School Cafeteria on Wednesday evening, April 21 at 7 p.m. for a Bicentennial Celebration, according to the Rev. Charles O. Walthall, pastor of Prescott's First United Methodist Church and chairman for the special event.

The convocation will begin with a meal served by ladies of First Church, Hope, attired in dresses worn during the

recent centennial celebration at Hope.

Program speakers will include: Dr. John P. Miles, pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, speaking on "Early Methodism's contribution to the birth and growth of our nation;" Mrs. John (Dot) Blundell of Ashdown presenting some highlights on "United Methodism's present-day contribution and ministry to our nation and its people," and the Rev. Worth Gibson, pastor of First Church,

Jonesboro, suggesting "Ways in which the Lord may use American Methodism in the future."

The Hope District Council on Ministries is planning for two major district-wide fellowship and inspiration events during the year, to replace the former Fall convocation. Dr. Mouzon Mann is district superintendent.

## Memorial Gifts to North Arkansas Pension Fund

Gifts in memory of the Rev. Glenn Sanford have been made to the Board of Pensions of the North Arkansas Conference by Allen and Ethel Price of Pontiac, Mich., and Robert A. McKibben of Claremont, Calif.



Miss Joan Clark (right) with others at Little Rock District UMW Executive Committee meeting.

## Regional UMW director visits L.R. Conference

Miss Joan Clark of Dallas, Tex., regional worker for the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries, has recently conducted workshops in three districts of the Little Rock Conference, interpreting the concept, purpose and work of the Mission Coordinators.

Miss Clark conducted small "buzz" groups on programming, communications, leadership training, and gave special emphasis to the financial structure of the Board of Global Ministries. She reported that in 1975 United Methodist Women contributed 40 per cent of the total budget of the agency, fifty-one per cent of the budget of the National Division, and 34 per cent of the World Division.

Miss Clark began her round of workshops on March 8th at First Church, Monticello, with Mrs. R. A. Patton, district UMW president, presiding over the business session. District officers were installed by Mrs. James Nix, conference president.

On March 9th, Miss Clark made a presentation in a sub-district meeting of the Pine Bluff

District at Almyra and on March 10th she was present for the spring meeting of United Methodist Women of the district at First Church, Sheridan. Mrs. Hazel Dabney, Pine Bluff District president, presided over these meetings. District officers were installed. Also present were Mrs. Nix, women from Hunter and St. Luke Churches in Little Rock, and Pine Bluff District Superintendent, Dr. Virgil Keeley and Mrs. Keeley.

The Little Rock District UMW officers were hostesses at a salad supper attended by 65 women at Wesley Church, Little Rock, on March 11. District President, Mrs. Louise Pate, presided over the business meeting. A special contribution to the "undesignated funds" of the Women's Division honored out-going officers, Mrs. Lorna Ogilvie, Mrs. Anna Pearl Couch, Mrs. Harriet Kelley and Mrs. Vida Johnson. Mrs. Elsie Coley led a devotional period. Conference officers were special guests.

## News from the Churches

A SERIES of sacred music programs has been presented at First Church, Camden, under the direction of Organist-Choir Director David Glaze, assisted by the Chancel Choir. The first Sunday in Lent featured the choir performing Bach's, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. The second service included old-time favorites and Miss Barbara Dean of Atlanta, Ga., a vocalist with the Southern Regional Symphony, singing a medley which included, Amazing Grace, Lily of the Valley, and His Eye Is on the Sparrow. The third Sunday music was classified as "mildly modern." The Act of Praise was the "lining out" of the Beatitudes. The congregation joined in the singing of We Are the Church, They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love, and Pass It On. The fourth Sunday featured the old hymns of early America and several spirituals.

YOUTH of Unity United Methodist Church on Columbia Circuit were in charge of a recent Sunday evening service. UMY President James Smith presented the message entitled, Not Quitting, and other members of UMY presented special music. The Rev. Larry Martineau is pastor.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED of Camden observed the World Day of Prayer at Fairview United Methodist Church, with President Mary Seaton, a member of the host church, presiding, and the Rev. Robert O. Beck, host pastor, participated. A total of 160 persons attended the morning and evening services and presented an offering in the amount of \$225.

EDUCATION FOR ALL OF LIFE was the theme for the World Day of Prayer observance shared by United Methodist Women of Sherrill and Tomberlin Churches. Women whose work is outside their homes were invited to share in the noon fellowship meal. The UMW of Sherrill recently sponsored a churchwide five-session Sunday afternoon study of the prophets based on the book Decision for Destiny. Mrs. Earl Chadick Sr. is UMW president. Presentations were made by Mrs. Leslie J. Rogers, Mrs. Charles Turk, Don Pipkin, Earl Chadick Jr., and the Rev. Robert Clanton, pastor.

### Daily Bible Readings

Apr. 4—Sunday ..... Matt. 24:42-51  
Apr. 5 ..... Psalm 119:25-40  
Apr. 6 ..... II Tim. 1:1-14  
Apr. 7 ..... Heb. 10:11-25  
Apr. 8 ..... Heb. 12:1-13  
Apr. 9 ..... Jude 17-25  
Apr. 10 ..... Rev. 2:1-11  
Apr. 11—Sunday ..... Psalm 19:7-14

MT. PLEASANT United Methodist Church on David O. Dodd Road, Little Rock, announces a revival series for April 4-7 at 7:30 p.m. nightly. The Rev. Paul Barrington, pastor, will present the messages. Mr. J. Paul Smith, music and youth director of Malvern, and Mrs. Smith, pianist, will have charge of the music.

A CHURCH-WIDE FLEA MARKET will be held at First United Methodist Church, 22nd and Poplar, North Little Rock, Saturday, April 3, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trash and treasures from the attics and basements of the church congregation will be on sale, along with handmade items and home-baked goods. Proceeds from the sale will be used for new kitchen equipment.

A NEW public address system costing \$3400 will be installed at First Church Wynne, under the direction of Howard Hall, chairman of the Property Committee. The church's Memorial Fund will finance the project.

### RICEBELT UMY SUB-DISTRICT HEARS RABBI

Rabbi Leslie Sirtes of Anshe Emeth Temple, Pine Bluff, spoke to 135 members of the Ricebelt UMY Sub-District and their counselors and pastors as they met recently at Almyra in Pine Bluff District. The rabbi who spoke on the Jewish faith, was accompanied by Organist Virgil Howard and members of the Temple choir, Mrs. Ruth McEntire, soprano; Mrs. Willie Mae Vinson, alto, Johnny Black, baritone, and Hedva Netzer from Israel. The Rev. Gene Ratekin was host pastor. Dr. Virgil Keeley, district superintendent, was a guest.

### A Methodist Hospital Gift of Life contribution will say it best

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THE STORYTELLERS, a unit of the United Methodist Women's organization at Amboy Church, North Little Rock, will present the program for the annual luncheon of United Methodist and Presbyterian women of First United Methodist Church in Clarksville on April 1. The program will include two Easter stories: His Only Crown, by Fran Moyer, and The Little Clay Pot, by Beverly Watts. The Pudding That Broke Up the Preaching, by Sue Anderson, will be the third story.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH of McRae church were in charge of a recent Sunday evening service on World Hunger. An appropriate film was shown and a talk suggesting practical ways to help in alleviating the problem was presented by Wyndra Cook. The service included special music.

DR. VIRGIL D. KEELEY, Pine Bluff District superintendent, preached for the March 14 service at Gillett United Methodist Church and baptized Kyle Therral Wilson, infant son of the Rev. and Mrs. Therral Wilson of Gillett.

CLYDE MCGINNIS of Batesville spoke on the Early History of Methodism in Independence County at a recent meeting of United Methodist Men at Central Avenue Church, Batesville. Dub Kendall is president of the organization.

THE REV. and Mrs. Kenneth Kinard were honored by the congregation at Bearden with a potluck luncheon and gift prior to their departure to assume new pastoral duties on April 1 at Wilmet and Portland. The event followed morning worship.

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AUGUSTA United Methodist Church celebrated its 125th birthday on Sunday, Feb. 29 in a patriotic setting, with music, speeches, food and an old-fashioned church family "get-together." The Rev. Joe VanCleve, pastor, presented the morning sermon, and the red-robed choir presented special arrangements of America the Beautiful and The Battle Hymn of the Republic. In the evening the church family gathered for a potluck supper, hosted by the UMW. The program featured the singing of more patriotic songs and the presentation of a skit depicting various periods of growth in America. Forrest City District Superintendent Elmo Thomason and Mrs. Thomason were special guests.

DR. ALVIN MURRAY, pastor of First Church, Little Rock, will be preaching in a New Life Mission in Pasadena United Methodist Church in the suburbs of Baltimore, Md., April 4 through 8. Dr. Murray, who has received special training, has been selected as a National New Life Missioner.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT Parsonettes will meet April 8 at 10 a.m. with Mrs. Edwin Keith at 2212 South Fillmore, Little Rock.

CONWAY DISTRICT Committee on Lay Life and Work is sponsoring a district wide lay speaking course to be held at First Church, Conway, on April 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 p.m. each evening. Dr. Olin Cook will conduct the sessions.

WANTED TO BUY: used Pews and Piano. United Methodist Church Langley, Ark. 71952. Call 356-3577.

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## United Methodists in Arkansas



### Bicentennial Theme For UMY Sub-district Program

Dr. Rose Berry of the Education Department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock gave a chalktalk Bicentennial program at the March 14th Grand Prairie UMY Sub-district meeting at Hazen. In her presentation, Dr. Berry portrayed the role of an immigrant seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time. The Carlisle unit won the attendance banner with 18 members present. Total attendance numbered 89. Officers will be elected at the next meeting, to be held at Bethlehem.



### Starvation Brings In \$500 For Food Relief

Members of the UMYF of First Church, Walnut Ridge, raised \$500 to alleviate world hunger by sponsoring a 24-hour Starvation. The fast began at noon on Saturday and continued until noon Sunday. Participating youth were sponsored by friends, relatives or members who paid various amounts per hour provided the youth succeeded in completing the entire fast period. Youth and counselors engaged in a variety of activities ranging from painting a classroom to a ping-pong tournament during the vigil. Shown here are winners in the latter event, left to right, Steve Rose, second, Hau Len, first, and the Rev. Dick Haltom, pastor, third. Starvation earnings were directed to the North Arkansas Conference program on world hunger, which aids UMCOR and Heifer Project International.



### Arkadelphia District Conducts Evangelism Program

Some of the preachers who shared in the Arkadelphia District Evangelism effort are shown during a morning fellowship hour. ABOVE LEFT: (Seated, left to right) Dr. George W. Martin, district superintendent, the Rev. Worth Gibson of First Church, Jonesboro; (standing, left to right) Dr. John P. Miles, Arkadelphia First Church; the Rev. David Prothro, Hazen-DeValls Bluff Charge; the Rev. Charles Ashcraft, Malvern First Church, and the Rev. Sanford Hankins, St. Paul Church, Malvern. ABOVE RIGHT (left to right): The Revs. William Barron, Keith-Butterfield Charge; Bill Eason, Glenwood-Daisy Charge, and the Rev. Howard Williams, First Church, Camden.



### Monticello District Youth Retreat

Photographed at the March 19-20 Monticello District Youth Retreat at First Church, Crossett, were these newly elected officers (left to right): Mary Morse, Crossett, Projects Review Committee (PRC) representative; Buddy Ogletree, Hamburg, PRC representative; Ann Purifoy, Crossett, reporter; Steve Coburn, Monticello, president; Karyn Brown, Dumas, secretary; Buddy Boyd, Hamburg, vice president. (Hank Bray of Hampton is treasurer; the Rev. Joe E. Arnold of Warren, district coordinator.) BELOW: Resource persons for the retreat which had as its theme, "Worship: A Celebration in Life." Left to right, Bill Fuller, Little Rock; Karyn Brown; Steve Coburn; Ken Pearson, McGehee; Carr Dee Racop Jr., associate director of Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries.



### United Methodist And Roman Catholic Women Share In Event

A baby shower for Trong Ngo (seated, second from left), sponsored jointly by the women of First Church, Mountain Home and of St. Peter's Catholic Church at the latter location, proved to be an occasion of real Christian fellowship. Shown with the honoree and several Vietnamese ladies are their teachers of English from both churches, (left to right) Mrs. Nell Wright, Mrs. Evelyn Luelf, Mrs. Peg Warner, Mrs. Mary Fraser, and Mrs. Rae Johnson, chairperson for the event. Seated beside the honored guest, left to right, are Thuy Cleveland, (Trong), Xuan Ngo, Hoa Ngo, and Cay Ngo.



### Teaching Clinic At Heber Springs

Leading a two-day training event for church school teachers and workers of First Church, Heber Springs were, left to right (standing), Dr. Olin Cook of North Little Rock; Mrs. Ralph Clayton of Searcy, Miss Bonda Sue Deere, Jacksonville; Mrs. Judd Williams, North Little Rock; Mrs. Walter Lindley and the Rev. James T. Randle Jr., both of Jonesboro; (seated) the Rev. Byron McSpadden, pastor, Mrs. Lou Poff, coordinator of Youth Ministries; Mrs. Eva Waldrup, chairperson for Work Area on Education, and Mrs. Ruth Garner, coordinator of Children's Ministries.



### Paragould Choir Celebrates Birthdays

Seven members of the choir of First Church, Paragould, with March birthdays, were honored following a Wednesday evening rehearsal with an "elegant dessert party." The honorees shown here in "elegant attire" are: Organist Wirta Potter, Choir President Davis Spears, Pastor Bill Connell (whose overalls, fur tie, cowboy boots and perky hat, won him a prize), and choir members Lou Tripod, Donna Gist, Bruce and Bob Branch. Other choir members were also attired in finery recovered from attics and other storage places. The monthly birthday celebrations are looked forward to by the 47 choir members as opportunities for fine fellowship.