



Magale bequest to finance second boys' home in Magnolia

Executors of the estate of John Magale deliver to representatives of the Methodist Children's Home \$140,000 worth of Municipal Bonds. These bonds were part of the \$400,000 bequest made to the home by the late John Magale. Income from these securities will be used to finance the operation of two group homes for boys in Magnolia. From left to right are Archie Monroe, J. Edwin Keith, L. E. Tennyson, Mack Anderson and Homer Green.

The Methodist Children's Home will open a second group home for boys on June 1 in Magnolia. The house shown here will accommodate 10 boys, and was made possible by a gift from the late John Magale and Mrs. Magale. The first group home for ten boys was opened five years ago. The residential care expansion program of the Methodist Children's Home is in the direction of group homes in different parts of the state. This acquisition will make five such homes now in operation. The Methodist Children's Home is presently responsible for 156 children in residential care.



Delegations meet, leave for Portland

General and Jurisdictional Conference delegations of the two Arkansas Annual Conferences met recently in final briefing sessions prior to leaving for General Conference in Portland, Ore., now in session.

The Little Rock Conference delegation met April 10 in Little Rock. Delegation head Dr. George W. Martin, superintendent of the Arkadelphia District, reported that approximately 20 of the 24 delegates and reserves were present. (Both annual conferences have eight delegates each to General Conference. Delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference, which meets July 13-15 in Lincoln, Nebr., serve as alternates to General Conference. The Little Rock Conference has eight Jurisdictional Conference delegates, the North Arkansas Conference has ten. Both conferences have reserve delegates to the Jurisdictional Conference. The delegations are composed of an equal number of clergy and lay members.)

Dr. Martin reported that the two-hour session on April 10 was concerned primarily with making nominations for general board and agency memberships.

Martin stated that he had received

(Continued on page two)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

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95th Year, No. 18

Global Ministries chief shares thoughts on major issues

Last week's issue carried Part One of an interview with Dr. Tracey K. Jones Jr., general secretary of the Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church. Dr. Jones, of New York City, was in Arkansas April 10 to give the keynote address at the Third Annual Meeting of United Methodist Women of the North Arkansas Conference, held at Hendrix College.

Part II

Arkansas Methodist: Of the some 30 major issues before General Conference, which ones do you see emerging as priorities?

Dr. Tracey K. Jones Jr.: I think they've been pretty clearly defined by the news outlets of our denomination. Certainly the issues of global hunger, of ethnic minority church priorities, the question of whether or not issues of human sexuality will be given a fair hearing — not to make any decisions at this meeting, but for the future. That'll be a major debate.

And I think there's going to be considerable debate regarding the whole question of oppression as we find it emerging around the world; the rising rate of torture, issues of that kind. And then the more structural questions of the episcopacy, the ministry.

And probably the most important in some ways will be the reflection on the documents "The Kingdom of Christ in Our Midst" and "Committed to Christ and Called to Change." If these documents reflect what the General Conference delegates really affirm and believe, then I'm assuming we're going to move in the next quadrennium. If they're going to say something they don't believe and aren't going to commit themselves to, then of course we have some problems.

A.M.: How do you view the issues revolving around

the question of ordination of homosexuals?

Dr. Jones: Well, the whole question of human sexuality, at least as it relates to ordination and the ministry, I find, myself, a real problem. And in this sense I think the judgment of the Council of Bishops, in my view, is wise. And that is we ought to get off that old question. That is not a viable debate for this General Conference.

I, myself, would find that very hard to live with as an ordained minister. And I, obviously, if I'm going to be open, need far more thought and reflection myself to come to grips with that question. But I'm not ready at this stage of the game to make a decision. If I were to make a decision at this stage it would be very clearly "No." I'd be very forthright at that point. But what that means for the future, I'd be very willing to hear the facts. But I'd have a long way to go before I could understand what is being said.

A.M.: You responded earlier [last week's issue] to questions regarding the debate between the so-called "evangelical" and "social action" segments in the church. What does it mean for The United Methodist Church to be "pluralistic"?

Dr. Jones: My conviction is that we affirm a pluralistic church. And when we say that we have to be able to live with these many points of view, including that of those who would call themselves "orthodox" evangelicals. You notice they're increasingly using the word orthodox instead of evangelical. And perhaps this helps clear the air. Because I would say I'm very clearly an evangelical.

I would want to ask some very careful and precise questions about someone who was asking me as a United Methodist to be orthodox. I've not heard that word in our United Methodist lexicon, and I would like to know what someone means when they start bringing that into The United Methodist Church as one of the standards.

A.M.: Are there boundaries, limits, to pluralism?

Dr. Jones: Traditionally we turn to four areas for an understanding of Christian truth. The first is the Bible. The second is tradition. The third is experience. And the fourth is reason. Now, how you fit the word "orthodox" into that, I'd be happy to discuss. But our traditional approach has not been to come at it from the dogmatic, fundamentalist point of view — that there are certain propositions required to mark the life of a Christian and if you don't accept those particular propositions you are automatically not accepted, not considered a Christian. This I do not believe. I'm convinced it's not faithful to the Wesleyan tradition.

Certainly the theological affirmation has got to be tested by the four doctrinal principals of scripture, tradition, experience and reason. And if it does not respond to this criteria then it would seem to me that immediately we would be in real jeopardy in some of the positions a Christian might take.

A.M.: Do you consider the charismatic movement, as popularly understood, meeting those four-fold guidelines? And how about speaking in tongues?

Dr. Jones: I have not been directly involved in the charismatic movement except through reading and occasional friends who are a part of it. So my response may not be too helpful at this point. My knowledge is somewhat peripheral.

But I would think I would raise some of the questions Paul raised about speaking in tongues. I would also, however, want to come at the whole question with what I think is a Wesleyan approach. And that is, there is a tremendous openness to the movement of the Spirit and although John Wesley was a little skeptical too, this kind of openness is needed. How that affects the fourth criteria of reason is something that would have to be looked at.

(See page three for other comments by Dr. Jones.)

Hendrix College announces Alumni Days, festival events

Alumni Days April 30-May 1

Alumni Days '76 will be held April 30-May 1 at Hendrix College, Conway. The event will feature class reunions, lectures, a concert and a golf and tennis tournament.

The Alumni Luncheon will be at noon, May 1, with Hendrix president Dr. Roy B. Shilling Jr. giving the address. Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at that time and class reunions will follow.

The Alumni Lecture will be given at 10 a.m. May 1 by Professor Robert W. Meriweather, associate professor of Education, History and Political Science. The Alumni Concert by the Hendrix College Choir, directed by Professor Robert M. McGill, will follow at 11 a.m. Golf and tennis tournaments will be held at 2:30, as will class reunions by the classes of 1926, 1931, 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966 and 1971.

Delegations

(Continued from page one)

approximately 25 communications from Administrative Boards and individuals in regard to issues to be before the Portland session. He said that in every instance the communications centered on the issue of ordination of homosexuals or proposed changes in the church's Social Principles. (The question of ordination of professed homosexuals has been discussed for months after being raised by unofficial groups. No group has indicated that any such proposal will be made at the session.) Martin said he had also received a small number of communications from outside the state on other matters to be before the General Conference.

North Arkansas Delegation Meets

The North Arkansas Conference delegation met Wednesday, April 21 in Conway with 11 of the 24 delegates present. (An extended meeting of the bishop's cabinet, involving four of the delegates, precluded their attending.) The session had been announced as an open one to which any persons with matters to discuss with the delegation were invited.

In addition to the delegates, three other individuals were present, Dr. Myers Curtis, Council on Ministries director, who reported on plans for Arkansas TV and radio coverage of the Portland meeting, Dr. James W. Workman of Conway, retired member of the Little Rock Conference, who inquired of the delegates concerning Disciplinary matters relating to duties of communion stewards, and the Rev. John S. Workman, editor of the *Arkansas Methodist*.

Miss Mildred Osment of Jonesboro, head of the delegation, reported she had received 102 communications from local churches and individuals concerning issues to be before the General Conference. She said that 90 of those dealt with issues of human sexuality.

Mr. Homer H. Fulbright of Searcy, a member of the Church and Society legislative committee, reported he had received 49 communications, most relating to the human sexuality issues. He said that one petition bore 64 signatures and that many others were signed by large numbers of individuals.

Festival Day Sunday, May 9

Festival Day, Sunday, May 9, at Hendrix College means music, drama and art. At 4 p.m. the Hendrix College Choir will sing a concert out-of-doors in front of the Mills Social Science Center. While chairs will be provided, it is suggested guests bring blankets to sit on.

The Theatre Arts Department under the direction of Dr. Rosemary Henenberg and Mr. Frank Roland will present "Wholecloth," an original play based on American Indian mythology, at 6 p.m. in front of the Mills Center. In case of rain both of the above programs will be in Trieschmann Fine Arts Building.

At 8 p.m. in Staples Auditorium Mozart's "Requiem" will be presented by the 100-voice chorus and 32 members of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. Soloists will be Susan Dunn, soprano, a senior from Bauxite; Ann Rice, North Little Rock contralto, widely known in Arkansas music circles, and one of the soloists last fall when the Arkansas Symphony presented Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony"; Richard Veale, tenor, a Hendrix graduate, concert artist and professor of voice at Columbia College, Columbia, S.C., and John Bangerter, bass-baritone, also a Hendrix graduate from North Little Rock, known throughout the area for solo work in opera, musicals and church oratorios.

Robert McGill, associate professor of music at Hendrix will conduct the choral events in addition to serving as director of the day's activities.

A Senior Art Show, under the leadership of Mr. Don Marr and Mr. William Hawes, will be on display all day, in the gallery of Trieschmann Fine Arts Building.

The delegation heard reports from members regarding various areas of proposed legislation. Reporting for the legislative committees were Mr. Fulbright for Church and Society, Miss Osment for Global Ministries, Dr. Joel A. Cooper for Higher Education, the Rev. Earl B. Carter for Council on Ministries and Mrs. Nadine Hardin for Status and Role of Women.

'Whom Do The Delegates Represent?'

Asked if the delegation had taken official positions in regard to any of the issues, Miss Osment replied it had not. She asked the delegation members their understanding of whether they were to go to General Conference "as individuals, voting our own conscience, or all together as a team, representing our Annual Conference."

In response, Dr. Cooper said "I don't judge that being a team means that we would vote as a block on any issue, but that we would be open to express our individual feelings, letting everyone come to their own conclusions." He said the question of whether a delegate voted his or her own convictions was "an age-old problem that we have in the federal government." He added, "My own feeling is that every man has to have his ear to what his people are thinking, but in the last analysis, when it comes to a vote, he has to vote his own convictions."

Miss Osment, noting "the Conference elects us as delegates to represent the Conference," said "I would find it very difficult, though, to vote something that I felt was against what I felt was within



Horseshoe Bend Sanctuary Dedicated

Bishop Eugene M. Frank presented the dedicatory sermon and officiated at the March 28 Service of Dedication at Horseshoe Bend United Methodist Church, assisted by the Rev. Floyd Villines, Batesville District superintendent and other ministers. Left to right: The Revs. W. Harrell Ford — a former pastor; Pharis Holifield, present pastor; Bishop Frank; the Rev. Denzel Stokes — a former pastor, and Superintendent Villines. (Another former pastor, the Rev. Claude Masters was present also.) The church began as a missionary project of the North Arkansas Conference Board of Missions, with only a few members. The present membership numbers 360 with an average attendance of 270. The church was assigned its first pastor, the Rev. James Braezeal, in 1966.

Travel-study program offered

Travel and study opportunities to Holland and Jerusalem are being offered this summer and winter under the auspices of the Advisory Committee for Educational Opportunities, an ad hoc committee of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church.

Mr. Winfred D. Polk of Corning, the Arkansas Area coordinator for the continuing education programs, announces that the first event, Aug. 9-24 in Utrecht, Holland, will feature seminars on "The Movement of the Holy Spirit in the Developing Churches." Among resource leaders will be Dr. Hans-Ruedi Weber of Switzerland, Dr. W. J. Hollenweger of Great Britain, Bishop Friedrich Wunderlich of Germany and Dr. Albert H. Van den Heuvel of The Netherlands. Mr. Polk reports that Bishop Abel Muzorewa of Rhodesia and Dr. Alan Walker of Australia have tentatively accepted as resource leaders.

Tour options include a five-day trip to Ireland during the World Methodist Conference and a side tour to Holland.

The second study event will be a conference in Jerusalem on "Jesus: His Life

me." Mr. Carter said "We have to be very careful because the voice of the people is not always the voice of God."

Mr. Fulbright noted that in past General Conferences the delegation had discussed the issues together, but that "no pressure was on anyone to vote solid." He said "I have the feeling that I'm not voting for myself. I know I ought to take all the evidence and weigh it and then measure it against all I've got from the reports, and then vote what I think would be best for the Conference. I'm not going up there just to reflect only what Homer Fulbright thinks about these issues."

Most delegates left for Portland last Sunday or Monday. The session, which convened Tuesday, April 27, is to adjourn no later than May 9.

and Times." Two sections of this event, 11 days each, are planned, one beginning Nov. 22, 1976, the other Jan. 17, 1977.

Among the eight resource leaders for the first Jerusalem event will be Dr. G. Douglas Young of Jerusalem, Dr. Anson F. Rainey of Tel Aviv and Dr. Isaiah Gafni of Jerusalem.

Mr. Polk reports that options on all events include side trips or the travel programs only. Cost of the three major events is \$799 each, from the point of departure. Inquiries concerning scholarships and full details of the programs may be secured by writing: Winfred D. Polk, P.O. Box 72, Corning, Ark. 72422.

Conference on 'Church and Elderly' set

A conference on The Church and the Elderly will be held May 17-18 at St. John's Catholic Center, Little Rock. Sponsored by the Arkansas Council of Churches, the event is designed to "assist churches and synagogues in developing programs that will draw older persons into the fellowship of the congregation and meet the needs of the less fortunate elderly" and to "recognize older persons and their contribution to the congregation and the community."

Keynote speaker and principal resource person will be Dr. Rosalie Lawson of Fayetteville, a specialist in work with older adults.

Registration for the event will begin at 9 a.m., May 17, with the opening session at 10 a.m. The closing session will begin at 11 a.m., May 18. Total cost, with lodging and meals, is \$16. Registration is only \$2. Details may be secured by writing: Arkansas Council of Churches, P.O. Box 6011, Little Rock, Ark. 72206.

The Church: Signs of a new age coming

United Methodist leader gives 'five clear signs of hope'

The following is a continuation of the interview (page one) with Dr. Tracey K. Jones Jr.

Arkansas Methodist: What signs of hope for the future do you see?

Dr. Tracey K. Jones Jr.: There are five clear signs of hope, as I see it, in the church around the world.

• **The first** is, in my judgment anyway, the churches are experiencing, under the power of the Holy Spirit, an understanding of their unity that was not so clear a decade ago. The ecumenical movement is under criticism but at the same time the issue is being raised. And the whole coming together of the churches, in my judgment, is one of the very important developments of the 70s and will become increasingly so in the 80s. This includes ties with the Roman Catholic Church, the Orthodox Churches and all the Protestant churches.

• **The second** thing I see is a much more gentle approach to the people of the other religions; a much more humble approach. And I think this is important, not only because it's Christ-like, but because it's the more effective way of making possible the real transmission of the gospel with the hope of conversion and the development of the Church.

• **The third** thing is that I think there's no question that the churches — whether they're liberal or conservative by stereotype — are now concerned with social issues. They all recognize that the liberation of people from hunger, injustice and oppression is biblical and calls for commitment on the part of Christian people. The fact that these ideas are now converging in all the major religions is, in my judgment, a very important sign of hope.

• **A fourth** sign of hope is that the global Church has arrived. Churches are found everywhere in the world, and they increasingly are all recognizing they have a world responsibility. The churches in Africa have a responsibility for their brothers and sisters in North America. They're having to deal with that; and they don't quite know what it means to send ideas and convictions. But they recognize as Christians they have a responsibility for our lives. It's a new idea for them; and it's a new idea for us to receive from them. I find that a very important development.

• **And the fifth** sign that I find very encouraging is the emergence of a whole understanding among the nations that the time for a global community has arrived. In fact, the survival of the Church, as well as the human race, depends on international interdependence. And the Church, therefore, becomes the potential sign of the new age that is emerging. If it can live out in its own interrelationships with other Christians, unity, humility, gentleness, social concern, global strategy, then the churches themselves become, as you might say, the first fruits of a new world that we trust to emerge.

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From the Bottom of the Heart

Eudora's Class of '76

The incidence of racial tension in Eudora this past week, which resulted in the closing of the public schools for the remainder of the year, brings unpleasant recollections and feelings which are associated more with a decade ago than with the "good state of affairs" which — we have imagined, anyway — has been achieved in recent years.

The closing of a school is a severe measure; a step, we trust, that was taken only after the most responsible consideration of all factors involved. At any rate, we would not presume at this distance to judge whether the school board was "right" or "wrong" in that action.

But what we will presume to say is that Eudora's problems are not that community's alone. Whatever the particulars, Eudora happened to be the place and last week happened to be the time when the fruits of several years of national neglect of civil rights and human justice were evidenced once again.

The whole situation is an unpleasant reminder of something we should have realized during these most recent years: that as we have given, nationally, a lessening attention to racial justice and civil rights, injustices have continued and the whole "problem" has been simmering. In spite of the progress that has been made, so much of the quality of black life remains dependent upon the rest of society. And so long as our priorities are given third or fourth — or worse — place to the causes and results of economic, social and cultural injustice, we can expect such problems to continue.

We sympathize with Eudora. We would hope that current efforts to restore racial harmony will be successful and that the community's schools may be reopened for a proper completion of the school year. Eudora High School's Class of 1976 should have more to remember for their senior year than such a "Spring of '76" and a diploma received through the mail.

Whatever the outcome, the situation underlines the responsibility of the Church in the community. It is the vehicle of a reconciling message, the reminder to all that there is a more excellent way. Wherever there are persons who practice its message of goodwill, there is always hope for a new day.

Off the Top of the Head

On General Conference, chicken casserole, jet planes and life

Things to get excited about

With just a few hours remaining before I leave for General Conference in Portland, it has occurred to me that I should correct an impression I left with my mommy and daddy as I enjoyed chicken casserole and family talk with them in their home in Conway one day last week.

"Are you excited about going to General Conference?" Mom had asked eagerly, her eyes sparkling with her own excitement. I think my reply was something like "Really, I haven't had time to get excited about it, and knowing how much work is involved, I'm not sure 'excited' is the word" — or something akin to that.

Quite frankly, my remark has bothered me — for several reasons. First off, because it's kind of unpatriotic in our family not to get excited about such things. And I like that. It suggests an attitude I hope I have passed on to my own children — that life in general and such opportunities in particular are always something to be excited about.

And second, my remark has troubled me because it wasn't really true. The fact is I have been and am so excited about going to General Conference that, as the saying goes, I can't hardly stand it. I guess when one is as excited as I am the natural reaction is to try to act blasé about it, as though attending the once-every-four-years General Conference were something I had gotten used to (the fact is, I've been to only one before) and as though flying across the continent were just another day's work, ho hum.

And a third thing. Those of us who get to go (not "have to go") to Portland have something of a responsibility, on behalf of all those who aren't going, to be excited about it. I owe that to Mom and Dad. I owe it to our readers. Our delegates owe it to the Annual Conferences which elected them. They owe it to the Church at large. And we all owe it to ourselves.

So, Mom, the real truth is that, yes, I am excited about it. "Hot dog!"-excited about it. And though I may try to appear all calm and collected and nonchalant as I board the plane and do my thing in the Coliseum in Portland, the truth is that my little heart will be thumpin' all the while.

And by the way, your chicken casserole and home grown asparagus, and the muffins you cooked, Dad, were pretty exciting too. And I'm already getting excited about coming home from Portland — and I haven't even left Little Rock yet.

What this all adds up to, I guess, is that this whole business of life is a pretty exciting thing. And that's the way it ought to be.

JSW

Arkansans nominated, one elected in jurisdictional UMW meeting

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UMC) — Election of officers and other leaders, and a simulation exercise looking toward The United Methodist Church's General Conference which began Apr. 27 in Portland, Ore., were highlights of a regional meeting Apr. 2-4 at the Continental Hotel.

Representatives of the 218,000-member United Methodist Women organization in the denomination's 8-state South Central Jurisdiction elected officers, or the "core planning group" as they are termed, for the next four years. They are:

President — Mrs. Wilton Killam, Lufkin, Texas; Vice-president — Mrs. Diane Holland, St. Louis, Mo.; Secretary — Mrs. H. Doyle Ragle, Lubbock, Texas; Treasurer — Mrs. John I. Wade, El Paso, Texas; Members-at-large of the core planning group: Mrs. E. Stephen Raby, San Antonio, Texas, and Mrs. Silas Wilson, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Nominating committee — Mrs. G. E. Baskins, Windsor, Mo., chairperson; Mrs. Nell Barling, Fort Smith, Ark.; Mrs. Juanita Gomez, Harlingen, Texas; Mrs. Winston Dahnke, Temple, Texas; Mrs. Verdell Irby, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Wiley B. Gardner, Mooringsport, La.; Mrs. B. E. Faulkner, Woodbine, Kans.

United Methodism's South Central Jurisdiction includes Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico. About 350 persons attended the meeting, focused around the theme, "On Our Way."

Besides electing officers, another important function of the quadrennial meeting of the jurisdiction United Methodist Women was nominating 16 women for possible membership on the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries and its Women's Division (national policy-making body for United Methodist Women) for the 1977-80 quadrennium. Eight of the nominees will be elected to board-division membership by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference in Lincoln, Neb., in July.

(The 16 nominees included: Nadine Strang (Mrs. P. H.) Hardin, Fort Smith, Ark., and Mrs. Rubye Lee Jackson, Pine Bluff, Ark.)

Presiding at the meeting was outgoing jurisdiction United Methodist Women president, Yvonne (Mrs. E. L.) Ferris, Central City, Neb. She was presented a

"sustaining membership" pin in the organization signifying the jurisdiction has given \$1,000 in her name to missions through the Women's Division.

The largest time block at the meeting was given to a simulation exercise dealing with some issues expected to come before the General Conference, United Methodism's highest legislative body meeting Apr. 27-May 8 in Portland, Ore. Though the jurisdiction group has no legislative or policy-making function or authority, all at the meeting were invited to assume the role of General

Conference delegates. In "legislative committees" and plenary sessions, the women took delegate roles, dividing into half clergy and half lay as a real General Conference is divided.

They worked on issues preselected by a "leadership team" who had narrowed them down from 100 issues. The resolutions, or petitions, acted on were all hypothetical, though several were described as similar to real petitions going to General Conference.

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Martin Marty: Many regard the Church as 'local Sears & Roebuck store'

PHILADELPHIA (RNS) — Church historian Martin Marty told the annual convention of the Religious Public Relations Council that many people believe the church is a "local Sears and Roebuck store where all employees get to work, lock the doors and sell to each other."

The associate editor of the Christian Century also suggested that "the more religious looking religion gets, the harder it is to communicate because the less people it draws."

He said people conventionally described as religious are "disapproving, pious and less involved with the people around them."

Yet religion, he said, has to do with meaning, salvation, purpose, value and community. "Never were so many so lonely," he added. "You can kill a person with an apartment as well as with a gun."

Keynote speaker at the gathering of about 120 communicators for religious organizations was Norman Cousins, editor of Saturday Review. He said America's founders "would agree with Pope John that the next war will be man against God and that it is within the means of man to pulverize that which is God's."

He suggested that the U.S. foun-

ders would be "utterly appalled" at recent U.S. foreign policy, "appalled at the notion that Americans would be involved in assassinations, subversive activities and a war in Vietnam . . ."

"They would ask why we are not more mindful of our heritage and of the problems facing us," Mr. Cousins added. "They would say human interests are ignored and national interests are put ahead of people."

General Manager A. Kenneth Curtis of Gateway Films of Valley Forge, Pa., suggested that television commercials are replacing teachers, parents, and churches in "teaching what it means to be masculine, feminine, alive, happy, successful, etc."

Mr. Curtis said the church cannot "operate in the world without recognizing that the shaping of reality is in the hands of media managers." He said the church should use films to "entertain, educate, and evangelize."

Introduced at the convention was an RPRC educational project to improve religious public relations at the congregational and other local levels. It includes a handbook, film-strip and resource list.

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Federation of Methodist Women to meet in Dublin

NEW YORK (UMC) — Some 300 women from six continents will attend the quinquennial assembly of the World Federation of Methodist Women at St. Patrick's College, Dublin, Ireland, Aug. 19-23.

[Attending from Arkansas will be Mrs. Harold D. Womack of North Little Rock, president of the North Arkansas organization of United Methodist Women; Mrs. James E. Nix of Lonoke, president of the Little Rock Conference UMW, and Mrs. Zenobia Waters, vice president of Little Rock Conference UMW.]

"Women in Christ's Redeeming Work" is the theme for the meeting which is on the eve of the World Methodist Conference to be held in Dublin. Mrs. Alvin B. Pfeiffer, Aurora, Ill., is president of the world women's organization which has units in 57 nations.

Dr. Nelle Morton, Claremont, Calif., pioneer in feminist theology and former professor of Christian Education at Drew University, will speak on "Education for the Whole of Life." Another prominent U.S. woman, Ms. Dorothy Height, New York, Y.W.C.A. official, president of the National Council of Negro Women, and vice-president of National Council of Churches, U.S.A., will speak on "Women and the Use of Power."

In addition to Bible study and the three major program topics, the assembly will make program recommendations for the coming quinquennium for the organization.

Representatives from member units in North America include delegates from the United Methodist Women and women's units of the African Methodist Episcopal, African Methodist Episcopal Zion, and Christian Methodist Episcopal churches. Mrs. C. Clifford Cummings of Dixon, Ill., president of United Methodist Women, and Mrs. Harold Quickel, Lancaster, Pa., vice-president and head of the Committee of Ecumenical Relations of the Women's Division, Board of Global Ministries, are among the official representatives from the United Methodist Church.

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UMW's launching campaign to save 'the family farm'

By the Rev. Elliott Wright, United Methodist clergyman, New York City

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — United Methodist Women are mounting a campaign to help save the U.S. family farm and to promote wise use of agricultural land in light of the world food shortage.

The Family Farm Project was planned here at a four-day workshop, attended by 55 farm women from 20 states, representing United Methodist Women in 29 of the denomination's 76 annual conferences. Brought together by the Women's Division of the Board of Global Ministries, the participants themselves determined the goals and scope of the project.

The intent of the workshop was not to supply immediate answers to the multiplicity of problems confronting the U.S. family farm, but to provide a forum for the farm women to focus on their major concerns. As a result, the participants identified a number of issues for study and action — land use, tax structures, farm income, labor supply and cost, government regulations, U.S. food policies and quality of life.

Jane Johnson, a Wisconsin poultry farmer who is project coordinator, said most of the work will be done through annual conference task forces.

The project purpose, as agreed upon by workshop participants, is "to promote the survival of the family farm and the values it contributes to society, and to encourage stewardship of land and resources, for the present and future generations."

High on the list of concerns is the threat to family farms posed by the increasing take-over of American agriculture by corporations. Another priority is the education of urban and suburban residents on the

importance of land conservation and the strengths of independent family farming.

Every woman present said she could relate stories from personal experience to illustrate one speaker's comments, "Millions of people have lost touch with agriculture." And the majority of participants agreed with an implied disparity underlying a question voiced by another speaker, "Why do farm people build and create while urban people destroy — property and souls?"

The workshop members — from farms raising everything from apples to succine — did not have to be told that family farms are threatened. They gave examples from their own lives: gaps between production costs and sales revenue, soaring prices of fuel and fertilizer, drought, uncontrolled urbanization, strip mining, high estate taxes and complex and often contradictory government rules.

As a result of the workshop, United Methodist Women within their home conferences are expected to become involved in determining who owns the land upon which Americans depend for food and how such land is managed.

The Family Farm Project also affirmed efforts to persuade Congress to revise estate tax laws on farm land.

Under current law, farm land valued at more than \$60,000 become subject to a stiff estate tax when a husband dies. There are presently 98,600 widows adversely affected by the estate tax, according to Carol Forbes, legal counsel to the Subcommittee on Family

Farms and Rural Development of the House Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C.

"The members of Congress often do not know what is happening out there," Ms. Forbes told the workshop. She appealed to farm women to contact their representatives in support of a measure which would raise the estate tax exemption ceiling on farm land to at least \$200,000 and possibly to \$300,000.

Because of recent increases in land valuation, especially near cities, farm widows frequently must sell their land to meet taxes, she explained.

Before turning to ways to assure the survival of family farms, workshop participants delved into the biblical bases for the church's concern with land, food and hunger. Dr. Bruce Birch of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C. lead a discussion on what "faith resources" say about responsible use of material resources.

One of the challenges to the church, Dr. Birch said, is to realize that the use of resources is a long-range problem which cannot be solved by relief programs to feed those now hungry.

Dr. Birch suggested the church lift up the biblical themes of the fullness of life, human responsibility and God as sustaining Creator as it seeks to help individuals, societies and nations share material resources.

The Family Farm Project is expected to renew United Methodist Women's emphasis on rural life. A progress report on the project and proposals for on-going programs will be made at a second workshop in November.

Arkansas Methodist

From Our Readers

'FLOWERS REQUIRE CULTIVATION'

To the Editor:

We have in Arkansas a Girl's Training School at Alexander. The ages of these girls are from 10 to 17 years. They have been sent here by the courts, many for their own protection. Unfortunately, there are no state funds for a chapel. In good weather they have worship services in the open on the campus grounds, otherwise in the gymnasium.

This school was founded in 1917, and records at the school show a very large percentage of these girls have never attended church in their lives, which may be the reason they are there in the first place. In a few short years these girls are going to establish homes of their own. Spiritual training they would receive now, by having a chapel, would doubtless improve their standard of living and their home life.

The seeds of weeds and flowers cannot thrive if allowed to grow together . . . Weeds grow by themselves, flowers require cultivation. Let us make available at Alexander a place for cultivation, in the form of a chapel, a place for worship, meditation and prayer . . .

If every adult in this state would read Matthew, 25th chapter . . . I feel sure all will wish to have a part in this most worthy cause.

Our Governor has promised to issue a proclamation, May 16th, stating that May 23rd, "a special offering for the Chapel Fund at the Girl's Training School" . . . (Please stress the importance of this drive) . . . Suggest pastors make reference to it from their pulpits and mention it briefly in their church bulletins, on May 16th, the day of the proclamation and again on May 23rd.

We trust and pray every citizen in this state will be wholly involved in this most worthy project.

Mrs. Chase G. Stephens
State chairman, Chapel Fund
207 North 8th St.,
Gurdon, Ark. 71743

'A THANK YOU' AND REQUEST

To the Editor:

Letter of appreciation for the renewal of my gift subscription:

. . . Now, for the present, just a few lines to thank you profusely for the one-year gift subscription to your **Arkansas Methodist** (A.M.) weekly church paper you arranged for me and which, alas, I understand expires this month (March, 1976). Alas!

I would very much like to continue to receive and read this blessed paper, but as I cannot because of limited finances, strict foreign exchange regulations at present in force in this country and also the financial hardships that have always been the lot of the low-income persons here, pay for my own subscription, I would be very, very grateful if you would graciously renew my subscription for a further one-year gratuitously, ensuring a continuous receipt of A.M. by me here.

Trusting that you will gladly comply with my request for a gratuitous one-year renewal of my expiring gift subscription, I thank you very much in advance for your munificence and remain always,

Mr. A. Bashiru
Box 2073
Accra, Ghana
West Africa

'ORGANIZATIONALISM' VS. EVANGELISM

To the Editor:

Today in the Methodist Church the greater emphasis seems to be on organization and structure rather than on evangelism.

The Methodist Church is concerned and rightly so over the loss of 1,100,000 members and the few members being received on profession of faith.

The answer expressed in layman terms is quite simple, the "product is super, the merchandizing is faulty."

To the sentiments expressed by the good Dr. Cheairs, I say, amen, amen, amen.

A warning: If the Methodist Church ever becomes so over-organized, methodical, or self-satisfied that we discourage or refuse to accept constructive criticism, God help us. It may be later than you think.

Wade L. Bryant
Leachville, Ark.

'WHATEVER IS WRONG OR RIGHT'

To the Editor:

Whatever is wrong (or right) with the Methodist denomination is the responsibility of the clergy. Any member of many years experience knows that the congregations have no voice in policy-making.

Changes have gradually and stealthily occurred over a period of years.

The congregations are blameable for apathy.

Christine Cook
Augusta, Ark. 72006

'SCARRITT HAS OPENED MY EYES'

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following came to us accompanied by a note from Mrs. R. K. Bent of Clarksville, a past president of the North Arkansas Conference WSCS. Over the past several months a number of individual United Methodist Women and others in several churches have contributed to the support of the author of the letter below. Persons interested in participating in such support may send their gifts through Mrs. R. K. Bent, 615 Hill St., Clarksville, Ark. 72830.

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for making my school year as good as it has been. Scarritt College has opened my eyes to so many things of which I am very grateful. I have done very well so far. (As far as my courses are concerned.)

I didn't get involved in too many extra curricular activities on campus, simply because I wanted to concentrate on my school work. I am a member of the college choir which I enjoy with pleasure. I also teach Sunday School at my church. Now and then someone may invite me to speak or sing for a church group.

On the whole this has been a great year. I thank God for the dark valleys he brought me through, "Though my outer man perish my inner man is renewed daily."

I would appreciate your continued prayers as I try to find God's will for my life. I would also appreciate your support again this coming school year. I am hoping to graduate in the spring of 1977, after which I'll be going home. May God richly bless each of you.

Yours in His service,

Cordella Donaldson
Scarritt College
P.O. Box 947
Nashville, Tenn. 37203

WYE DAFFODILS DRAW THOUSANDS

To the Editor:

We at Wye Church wish to thank everyone who visited our seven acres of daffodils during the last week of February and all the month of March. So many could not believe there was a place where you were free to pick flowers.

We had 3603 people to register and gave an offering which totaled \$3,164, an estimated several hundred who picked and didn't say thanks.

Thanks to Bishop and Mrs. Frank and Bishop and Mrs. Martin, and everyone who found the Wye Church and daffodils.

Places have been made to fix a park and tables where people can have lunch next year. We are in great need of a full time pastor. I am enclosing a picture of the North Little Rock Methodist Church bus load — also Kindergarten class and two teachers from Bigelow. We must get Wye on our highway maps. Thanks.

Mrs. Austin Harmon
Route 1, Wye Mtn.
Bigelow, Ark. 72016

TOO LATE TO ENJOY IT?

To the Editor:

. . . I, too, feel Methodism has long neglected the evangelistic side of its calling while leaning very far towards the social needs. I am reminded of a scene I saw recently in which a copperhead snake lost its head to a crow who then flew off with it as a prize.

This snake was literally "high on old crow" but it was too late for him to know it. Could it be the Church will realize its need to get "high on Jesus Christ" in our time after its too late?

Mrs. John Anselm
Rt. 4, Box 263F
Rogers, Ark. 72756

NOTE TO READERS CONCERNING PICTURES

Again, we must request that persons or organizations submitting pictures for publication enclose postage if they wish the pictures to be returned. Pictures will not be returned by mail unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope or postage.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

Professor Dorothy Nelkin, a Cornell University research scholar, has stated that the growing number of persons criticizing the way high school science textbooks are written should not be dismissed as "ignorant, irrational or crackpot." Writing a major article in the monthly magazine, *Scientific American*, Miss Nelkin observes that a nationwide movement of objection to the concept of evolution has gathered new impetus for the first time since the historic Scopes "monkey trial" in 1925.

Scattered reports from South Vietnam indicate that one year after the takeover by Communists pressures imposed by the new government have restricted church attendance. Often, the government finds things for church people to do during church hours. Re-education programs are required that "just happen" to be scheduled at regular worship times, a spokesman said, and the government is attempting to place all Protestant churches under one umbrella organization for easier governmental control.

About 75 percent of all suicide attempts in West Germany are made under the influence of drugs, according to a church-directed study.

Ireland's four major religious leaders, including Dr. Hedley W. Plunkett, president of the Methodist Church in Ireland, issued a joint Easter message, appealing for a "new life," a "new future," and a "new hope" for embattled Northern Ireland. The churchmen said they saw "new hope" in the existence of "many community groups (in Northern Ireland) working for reconciliation . . ."

"Ride! Ride!" a new musical based on an incident in the life of John Wesley, is receiving a warm reception from church people as it tours England in advance of its London opening on May 20. The story portrays how the founder of Methodism rescued a young Lancashire woman from a lunatic asylum, where she had been sent because of her religious "enthusiasm." Wesley took the woman to her home on horseback. The **Yorkshire Post** praised the musical's "authenticity."

Israeli police and soldiers were out in large numbers to help smooth the passage of religious processions as some 8,000 pilgrims from abroad joined Jerusalem Christians in Palm Sunday observances in the Holy City.

In recognition of the U.S. Bicentennial, Britain's Federal Council of Free Churches has adopted a resolution paying tribute to American liberties. "Free Churchmen recall with satisfaction the support given by nonconformists to the colonists in the 18th century and believe that their forebears were right in thinking that the successful defense by Americans of their liberties helped to preserve and extend the tradition of freedom and democratic government in this country," the resolution said.

"The world is sick unto death of atheism," Cardinal Leo Joseph Suenens, primate of Belgium, told the audience as he accepted the 1976 Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. The cardinal said a strong and visible unity of the world's Churches "is needed, particularly among those who are impatient with prayer, contemplation and worship . . . and who look to the service of God solely in social and political action, and those who turn rather to mysticism, prayer and contemplation."

The presidents of four universities in Washington, D.C., three of them church-related and including United Methodist-related American University, say they will refuse federal funds if acceptance brings "unwarranted interference in university affairs." In a joint statement the presidents said: "Recent government policies and behavior toward education . . . have threatened . . . valued independence and have shaken the foundations of our system of higher education in this country."

Clayton Barbeau, widely-known author and lecturer on marriage, speaking at a church-sponsored family life meeting in New York, expressed the view that "commitment" and "creative fidelity" marriage are coming back into style and that the "anti-marriage propaganda" is dying. Mr. Barbeau, author of the new book, "Creative Marriage: The Middle Years," recommends the Marriage Encounter program, family workshops, retreats and weekends for married couples as aids in the strengthening of marriage commitments.

Living in the Christian Family

Scripture: Ruth; Ephesians 4:25-6:4; I Peter 3:1-12.

Foreword: In the passages from Ephesians and I Peter the primary subject is the marriage relationship in Christian faith. It appears that marriage for the New Testament writers was an important area of Christian faith and practice. Paul in particular, compares the husband-wife relationship with that of Christ and his Church. While we may have some difficulty in these days of emphasis upon sexual equality with the Pauline mandate, "Wives, be subject to your husbands . . ." (Eph. 5:22), I cannot help but admire the lofty theology of holy matrimony which he expounds.

In our age the church is very quick to speak out against all of the forces which threaten the institution of marriage, as it rightly should. However, it seems to me that there is very little coming out of the church which speaks meaningfully to the sad predicament of marriage. Almost every magazine and newspaper runs advice columns, feature articles and pop psychology panaceas on "How to Get the Most Out of Your Marriage." The bookstores are full of marriage manuals with the latest technique in human relationships, some of them reliable and some reprehensible. But regardless of quality, all are selling.

It appears that the rapidity of marriage failure is matched, at least, by the speed with which persons snatch the latest volume on marital bliss off the press. People are starved for information and help. Aside from a weak lament over the sad state of matrimony, the church is almost silent.

This week I would like to be so bold as to propose that the church reconsider its role and practice in three important areas of marriage: (1) Preparation for marriage; (2) the wedding ceremony; and (3) the on-going marital relationship.

Preparation for Marriage

While more and more couples are opting for civil ceremonies, the majority still turn to the church and its ministry for the wedding event. Whatever the reasons for this prevailing choice it seems to indicate that some religious significance is still attached to this important event in the life of a couple. Regardless of the outcome of a marriage over the long haul, it is still important how it is begun. Most people want a "church wedding," or a minister to perform the vows.

Usually, an appointment is made with the minister well in advance of the wedding date for planning the details and pre-marital counseling. The importance of this time between the minister and the couple cannot be overstressed as a period of preparation.

Methodist ministers are "enjoined diligently to instruct those requesting his offices for their prospective marriage in the Christian significance of the holy estate into which they seek to enter."¹ This means that some time must be spent discussing the theological foundation for marriage. What place does God occupy in the event about to take place? What part does personal faith play in the vows to be said? What does it mean to wed "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?"

In the course of pre-marital interview one prospective groom asked that I remove all the references to God in the ritual because, as he explained he didn't know whether he believed in God or not. While I admire that

person's honesty, I could not grant his request without denying the whole purpose and existence of the church. God is at the center of the church and its liturgy. Those who cannot accept that would do well to engage the services of a justice of the peace.

The privacy of the minister's study affords the opportunity not only to discuss matters theological but personal and relational. The minister should encourage the couple to talk about their relationship in an honest and open way, listening for strengths and weaknesses, pointing out bad habits of communication, helping them to work through any problems or doubts they may have about marriage. Often such an intimate self-revelation is a first for the couple and they may find it somewhat threatening.

However, the purpose of getting them to open up is not to pry into the intimate details of the relationship but to let them know that the pastor is someone whom they can trust with their feelings. It also gives the pastor some insight into the kind of relationship the couple has and whether there are difficulties which need some work prior to the wedding.

The church does a young couple no favors by blessing a problematic relationship which in all likelihood will end in failure. A period of extensive counseling may be indicated in which the church can be of great help if the couple is willing to spend the time and effort.

For this reason I seriously question quickie marriages where an unknown couple may call a minister wanting to get married the following day. If the church takes holy matrimony seriously then to consent to such a request is the worst kind of irresponsibility for which we must share the blame when it ends in divorce. Marriage is one of the few monumental decisions a person makes in his lifetime. As such it deserves careful planning and preparation.

"Dearly beloved, we are gathered . . ."

With these words the ritual of Holy Matrimony begins.

The Christian faith affirms that the wedding service is a celebration of the Gospel, that is **Christian worship**. It is not a celebration of romantic love between the bride and the groom, though love is essential; it is not merely a legal ceremony, though the law of the state is involved; it is not a floral display, though flowers can be used to enhance the marriage setting; and it is not the bride's show, though she is an integral part of the event. **Holy Matrimony is God's show.** It is nothing less than the celebration of God's love through the covenant of marriage by the community of faith.

If the wedding service is a celebration of the Gospel (i.e. Christ Worship), then the context of the wedding service is the Christian community. The congregation in attendance is not a "group of spectators" but rather are participants in "the uniting of this man and this woman in holy matrimony through the Church of Jesus Christ our Lord." The wedding service is not a private act between two people, but shared by the Christian community which accepts the corporate responsibility for nurture and fellowship.²

Yet, in many weddings those in attendance are mere spectators whose only opportunity to participate is the praying of the Lord's Prayer — and that is often stolen by a soloist!

I, for one, am ready to recover the sense of worship in the context of the wedding by adding some of the

necessary ingredients of Christian celebration: hymnody (not "popular" songs, but **Christian music**), corporate prayers; an affirmation of faith; the reading of scripture; and even a wedding homily. Flowers and other decorations should be kept at a minimum and certainly should not obscure the symbols of our faith, such as the altar, the cross, and the paraments.

Weddings have a way of degenerating into a kind of sideshow symbolized by the popping of flashbulbs. If we recover the sense of God's presence in the wedding service we have gone a long way toward the restoration of some foundational meaning in Christian marriage.

Post-Marital Enrichment

The responsibility of the church and its clergy does not end with the wedding service. It should be an on-going relationship where couples can find pastoral care and counseling in times of need, opportunities for growth and enrichment through study, and support for this vital relationship through the community of faith.

For some reason married persons are reluctant to discuss marital problems with pastors until the relationship has degenerated to the point that it cannot be saved. As early diagnosis of cancer can mean the life or death of a person, so prompt attention to marital discord can mean the difference between a healthy and dying marriage. Couples should be encouraged to return to the pastor at the first sign of difficulty. Often it is desirable to schedule a post-wedding counseling session to give young marrieds an opportunity to discuss the progress of the relationship. This sets a pattern of reliance upon the church as a supportive community and keeps the channels of communication open.

Married members of the church should also be encouraged to participate in marriage enrichment workshops or study groups as a means of preventing the stagnation which can come after years of marriage. Good marriage relationships don't just happen; they are developed conscientiously.

I am not naive enough to assume that if the church takes these three phases of married life seriously that marital bliss will be the instant result. But is it too much to assume that many of the difficulties with marriage in our society may be improved if we practice these concepts? Is it silly to assert that preparation for marriage, worship of God as central to the marriage covenant, and preventative maintenance of marriage relationships through on-going support is not only the business of the church but perhaps the salvation of marriage itself? I think not.

Carl Rogers, reflecting upon his own marriage of forty years, has said: I suppose the most profound statement I could make about our marriage — and I can't explain it adequately — is that each has always been willing and eager for the other to grow. We have grown as individuals and in the process we have grown together.³

I believe that perhaps one of the greatest ministries the church has to offer to persons getting married or already so is the opportunity for growth together in God's love.

¹Michael R. Clayton, "Toward a Theology of the Wedding," *Guidebook For Weddings*. Prepared by the Little Rock Conference Commission on Worship, May, 1971, 3-4.

²*Ibid.*

³Carl R. Rogers, *Becoming Partners: Marriage and its Alternatives* (New York: Delacorte Press, 1972), 28-29.

Council Directors to Local Churches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — United Methodists are being invited by the Section on Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship to take a trip.

With the assistance of a "Time and Talent" road map, travelers are encouraged to begin their journey in the community of Buried Talent which is located in the state of Ignorance.

From there, they can go through the cities of Hope and Theologia in the state of Alpha. Next come the cities of Talent, Resource, and Personna in the state of Progress.

With care, the travelers can proceed through the community of Nurture and reach their ultimate destination of Eureka in the state of Fulfillment.

However, if the travelers are not careful and take unmapped short-cuts, they may find themselves in the community of Apathy in the state of Despair

'Time and Talent' roadmap for identifying skills

or the community of Inadequacy in the state of Frustration.

More than 2,000 road maps have been ordered by United Methodists who are contemplating the journey for their congregations. The novel stewardship program, developed by Dwight Newberg, was launched at a Congress on Evangelism in Philadelphia in January. Mr. Newberg is a staff member of the Board of Discipleship's Section on Stewardship.

The roadmap is included in an introductory kit along with a 32-page handbook, one personal talent bank record card, one each of five talent quest interest cards, and one each of five opportunity cards. These opportunity cards indicate possibilities for service in the community as well as in the local church.

Purpose of the program is to help United Methodists recognize and utilize

their God-given talents within and through their local churches.

"In this plan the emphasis is on the person, not the job in a church which needs to be filled," Mr. Newberg explained. "Too often we try to get jobs filled with little sensitivity and awareness of the interests and talents of individual persons. Each United Methodist has something distinctive to offer but not necessarily through a church job."

Talent cards, using banking terminology, allow persons to make deposits and withdrawals to find fulfillment in and through the church.

"We want persons to identify their skills, talents, and abilities, but more important we want them to appreciate, understand, develop and use them," Mr. Newberg said. He hopes that at least 10,000 churches will use the program within the next three years. Elements of

the program which involve the entire congregation include a talent inquiry, a talent fair, and a color-coded filing system which is maintained by "talent tellers."

A church will not need to repeat the program within three years, Mr. Newberg said. Advantages are long range and are of particular assistance to the Committee on Nominations and Personnel charged with matching persons and responsibilities.

The personal talent "deposit-withdrawal" card should be sent to the church to which an individual's membership is transferred. The church thereby acquires an immediate understanding of the talents, interests and activities of the new member.

The introductory kit for the program may be ordered from Cokesbury or Discipleship Resources (#911419) for \$2.25.

From the Churches

MT. PLEASANT United Methodist Church on David O'Dodd Road, Little Rock, announces a Bicentennial Homecoming celebration to be held Sunday, May 2nd. All past and present members and friends are invited to attend the day's activities. Morning services begin at 9:30 a.m. Group pictures will be made at 12:30, followed by dinner on the grounds, games and singing. The Rev. Paul Barrington is pastor.

BEARDEN United Methodist Church announces a New Life Revival with the Rev. Kenneth Kinard of Wilmot presenting the messages Sunday night, May 2 through Thursday night, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. Morning services will be held at 10 o'clock. The Rev. Tom Nation is pastor.

FIRST CHURCH, Jonesboro, will host a free concert to be presented by the Oral Roberts University Concert Choir on Saturday, May 8, at 8 p.m. The choir, under the direction of Raffaele Catanzariti, professor of voice at ORU, will tour Europe following a 10-day concert tour in the states.

FIRST CHURCH, Trumann, has conducted a series of special events during the month of April, including an interdenominational three-night study of The Prophets, led by the Rev. Frank Jones, pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church, Brookfield, Mo. The Rev. Merle Johnson, pastor of First Church, Forrest City, was the preacher for a four-evening pre-Easter revival. Maundy Thursday evening and Good Friday evening services were conducted by the Rev. Bill Williams, pastor. The Easter Sunrise Service, sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance, was held at First Church and the sermon was delivered by Pastor Williams. An overflow crowd attended morning worship services.

A **PALM SUNDAY** evening Music Benefit Concert was presented at First Church, Searcy, with eight choirs participating. Presenting anthems and other music to portray the last forty days of Christ's life on earth were the following choirs: Chancel, Men's Chorus, Youth, Junior, Children's, Annie Cowen Handbell, Jane Rand Handbell, and the Ringleader's. A free-will offering was presented toward the purchase of new robes for the Chancel Choir. Director of Music, Monty R. Bell, presented special awards to Miss Ruth Walker and Mr. Clark Wiseman as the music department's Outstanding Seniors.

OVER 200 United Methodist Women of Paragould District attended cluster meetings in Tuckerman, Pocahontas and Rector. Leaders included Mrs. Robert Shannon, district president; Mrs. Pat Chaney, vice president; Mrs. W. L. McDowell, secretary of program resources, and Mrs. L. D. Robinson, membership chairperson. Information and suggestions concerning programming, program resources and membership highlighted the meetings.

FIRST CHURCH, Monticello, announces the sale — at \$4 each — of commemorative plates with a picture of the church. Persons having ties with the church may obtain plates postage free by submitting the above amount with their request to First United Methodist Church, Jackson at Main St., Monticello, Ark. 71755.

CHOIR MEMBERS SOUGHT

The Committee on Worship of the North Arkansas Conference is seeking ministers and lay persons who would be interested in singing in a choir at North Arkansas Annual Conference for a Bicentennial Campground type of worship service to be presented, June 8. Interested persons are requested to notify: Mrs. Elise Shoemaker, First United Methodist Church, 1610 Prince, Conway, Ark. 72032. The anthem will be, "The Lord Is In This Place."



Christian Storytellers Visit Clarksville

The Christian Storytellers group of Amboy Church, North Little Rock, presented a program at Clarksville United Methodist Church at which women of the Presbyterian Church were guests. Shown, left to right, are: Marguerite Bent, vice president of the hostess unit; Audrey Van Marion, president of Amboy United Methodist Women; Storytellers Beverly Watts, Sue Anderson, Fran Moyer, and Rowena Turnbow, chairperson.

CORRECTION

Our report on the North Arkansas Annual Meeting of United Methodist Women which appeared on page one of the April 15 issue of our publication stated that Mrs. Kay (Jack) Wilson is Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the conference organization of United Methodist Women. Mrs. Wilson is a member of that committee. However, we should have said that Mrs. Wynona McClain is the newly elected Chairperson.

Church Musicians Meeting Date Changed

The charter meeting for the Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians in the North Arkansas Conference has been changed from Saturday, May 1, as announced earlier, to Tuesday, June 8 at 2 p.m., during the Annual Conference sessions. All local church music leaders within the conference are invited.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED of Central Arkansas North will celebrate May Fellowship Day, Friday, May 7 at 10:30 a.m. at First Christian Church, 2803 East Kiehl Ave., North Little Rock. Mrs. Roger Cornelison will lead the program entitled, "Valiant Women of American History." Reservation for the luncheon must be made no later than Monday, May 3 (Cost \$2). If planning to attend, call: Millie Fredericks, 374-3547; Lota Peacock, 753-4874 or Eva Campbell, 753-2662.

THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS of Cave City Church conducted a service on Easter Sunday to honor the memory of the late Mr. W. E. Carpenter, who taught the class for 20 years, and served the community as Postmaster for 30 years, until his retirement in 1968. As a memorial to Mr. Carpenter the class is having the classroom carpeted and is placing a plaque naming the class, "The Will Ed Carpenter Class."

UNITED METHODIST MEN of the Bentonville Church held their third annual Scholarship Banquet recently with wives and other guests of the members in attendance. The program benefited a scholarship program the group has for worthy students. The program was given by the Rev. John S. Workman, Arkansas Methodist editor, who spoke and showed slide pictures of the work of Heifer Project International in Tanzania. Over 120 persons attended. Jim Crabtree is president of the Bentonville UMM group.

Personalia

MR. C. RAY TRIBBLE, executive director of Aldersgate, Inc., Little Rock, was elected to serve during the next quadrennium as vice president of the South Central Jurisdiction Deaconess and Home Missionary Association. Mr. Tribble was one of about 40 home mission workers from the jurisdiction who recently gathered at St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Mo., for a period of fellowship, spiritual and professional enrichment. The group visited three United Methodist missional projects in Kansas City — Spofford Home, Goodwill Industries and Della C. Lamb Neighborhood House.

DR. E. BROOKS HOLIFIELD, a member of North Arkansas Conference and associate professor of American Church History at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta, is the recent recipient of a prestigious fellowship award from the National Endowment of the Humanities. The award entitles Dr. Holifield to a year of study in Germany. He is currently working on a book, the subject of which is "The European Context of Nineteenth-Century American Theology." He will leave in August, with his family, for the year in Germany.

SUSANNAH ELIZABETH LIVINGSTON was baptized Sunday, April 4, in the Chapel of First Church, Little Rock, with Bishop Eugene M. Frank and the Rev. Edward W. Harris, her maternal grandfather, officiating. Susannah Elizabeth, born Oct. 21, is the daughter of Elizabeth and Richard Livingston of Little Rock. Her father is a student at the University of Arkansas School of Medicine.



Pastor Honored

The Rev. Harold Hansford (left) fastens robe presented him at recent morning worship service on behalf of his congregation at Saint Andrew Church, Arkadelphia, by Mrs. Larry Alderman, Worship chairperson.

Financial Report

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE December 31, 1975 to March 31, 1976

RECEIPTS:	
Pledge to Missions	\$27,924.06
Special Memberships	525.00
In Remembrance	58.00
World Thank Offering	266.00
TOTAL CREDIT ON PLEDGE	\$28,773.16
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	3,562.21
Supplementary Gifts	1,362.01
Elizabeth Thornburgh Workman Fund For Youth	538.95
TOTAL receipts from Districts	\$34,236.33
Interest Savings Certificates	64.23
TOTAL RECEIPTS:	\$34,300.56
Balance in Savings and Checking Accounts Dec. 31, 1975	22,001.71
TOTAL TO ACCOUNT FOR	\$56,302.27

DISBURSEMENTS:

Pledge to Missions	\$23,735.45
Special Memberships	525.00
In Remembrance	58.00
World Thank Offering	266.10
TOTAL CREDIT ON PLEDGE	\$24,584.55
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	3,562.21
Supplementary Gifts	2,862.01
TOTAL SENT TO DIVISION	\$31,008.77
Operational Expense	432.73
District Administration and Membership Development Fund	5,700.00
Connectional Work	66.05
Conference and Committee Meetings	200.73
Christian Social Involvement	144.89
World Methodist Conference	50.00
Contingency	85.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$37,688.17
Balance in Savings and Checking Accounts Mar. 31, 1976	18,614.10
TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR	\$56,302.27

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.

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED: Winfield United Methodist Church is in need of a General Church Secretary. Interested and qualified persons are asked to make application. (1601 Louisiana, Little Rock; Telephone: 375-1266)

FOR SALE: Wurlitzer Concert Organ with two manuals and 32 pedals, nearly new. Sounds like pipe organ. Contact Clear Springs Missionary Baptist Church, Route 2, Box 403G, Benton, Ark. 72015 (Phone: 778-8869)

GROUPS — RESERVE NOW FOR AMERICA'S NO. 1 DRAMA — THE GREAT PASSION PLAY! Tickets, lodging, recreation & meals only \$11 a person at **KELLER'S COUNTRY DORM RESORT** Rt. 1 — Eureka Springs, Ark. 72632 Phone (501) 253-8418

Don't Wait Buy Now!

Heavy duty steel folding chair	\$ 3.90
Children's 10" x 12" plastic stack chair	4.95
8 Ft. folding table, formica top	25.95
6 Ft. folding table, formica top	23.95

(These are factory blemished)

Shown and sold by appointment only. Call after 6 p.m.

753-6348 or 835-1227

NORTH LITTLE ROCK TABLE & CHAIR CO.

508 Main, North Little Rock

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...

TRAVEL AND STUDY

Under auspices of Advisory Committee for Educational Opportunities (An ad hoc committee of Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church)

I: UTRECHT, HOLLAND August 9-24, 1976

'The Movement of the Holy Spirit in the Developing Churches' \$799 from Atlanta, Chicago, New York (Additional tour of Holland available)

II: JERUSALEM (Two trips)

November 22, 1976
January 17, 1977
(11 days each)

'Jesus: His Life and Times' \$799 from New York

Inquire concerning details and scholarships to:

Mr. Winfred D. Polk
P.O. Box 72
Corning, Ark. 72422
Phone: (501) 857-3562 or 857-6854

United Methodists in Arkansas



Nawake Conference Center Gets New Sign

United Methodist Men of Newport constructed and donated the highway marker (shown at left) to North Arkansas United Methodism's Nawake Conference Center. Displaying the old marker for the Center, formerly known as Myers Ranch, are: (left to right) T. C. Roberts, Newport Pastor Jim Beal, Larry Pankey, the Rev. Wayne Clark, conference coordinator of camping and Ed Madison. The men of Newport Church erected also a bulletin board which complements in design the marker shown here. The North Arkansas Conference purchased the 96-acre tract of land in 1969 at a cost of \$65,000. The erection of the road marker and the bulletin board is a first step in the development of the property following the final payment in 1975 on indebtedness.



Membership Classes At Western Hills

The Rev. Robert W. Robertson, pastor of Western Hills Church, Little Rock, is shown with the Youth Membership Class (above). Below is the Membership Class confirmed on Palm Sunday, with teachers, Mark and Diana Myklebust, and the pastor.



Class Plans Service

The training of the Confirmation Class at Asbury Church, Batesville, included the selection and writing of parts of the Palm Sunday worship service. The Rev. Marc Cooper (left), pastor, directed the training sessions and received the class into full membership on Palm Sunday.



Batesville Student Receives Schisler Award

Mary Jane Pierce of Central Avenue Church and a student at Scarritt College has received the John Q. Schisler Graduate Award. Miss Pierce, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Greenway Pierce, holds a degree in Guidance and Personnel Services from Memphis State University. She will work as a Graduate Assistant in the Children's Center at Scarritt during 1976-'77.



Batesville District UMY Holds Spring Rally

The program for the April 17 event held at Central Avenue Church, Batesville, focused on organizing and developing youth groups in the local church. Program participants included, left to right, the Rev. Bill Williams of Trumann; Terry Hedden of Central Avenue, district president; the Rev. David Moose of Shiloh at Paragould; the Rev. Wayne Jarvis, host pastor, and the Rev. Floyd Villines, district superintendent. (The Rev. Keith Goza, pastor of Kensett-McRae Charge is district youth coordinator.)



Des Arc Children In Drama

A recent "children's sermon" at Des Arc Church was presented by the Junior Choir in a short drama entitled, "The Wish of the Beggar." The group is shown with Mrs. Martha Harrell and Mrs. Shirley Greenwood who directed them in presenting the story of blind Bartimaeus, the beggar.

Easter Celebration At Mt. Ida

The Mid-South Boys (shown at right) presented inspirational music at Easter worship in Mt. Ida United Methodist Church, following the choir anthem. After worship the Easter celebration continued with a fellowship dinner, and gospel music by the Mid-South Boys.



Wesley Foundations Share Weekend Retreats

Students from four Wesley Foundations in the Little Rock Conference met with their directors in Magnolia on Saturday, April 3 for a leadership retreat. AT RIGHT: the Rev. William Stokes, director of the Wesley Foundation at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, serves as resource person. Assisting him were five students from Tech. LOWER RIGHT: Directors and others at retreat. Participating Wesley Foundations from the Little Rock Conference and their directors were: Henderson, the Rev. Bob Trieschmann; the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Rev. Sam Jones; Southern State at Magnolia, the Rev. Bob Van Hook, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, the Rev. Tom Abney. About 50 students and leaders from the four Methodist Student centers attended a camping retreat at Shady Lake (near Mena) during the past weekend.



Student Retreat At Tannenbaum

Eighteen students from the Wesley Foundations at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, and the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, met at Tannenbaum on Greer's Ferry Lake for a Retreat on April 2, 3. The event began with a cooperative snack supper, followed by fellowship and singing led by UCA students. The ASU group shared the film, "A Thousand Suns," and Friday evening activities ended with recreation and fellowship. Directors Jim Randle of ASU and Jim McKay of UCA prepared breakfast. Hiking, individual meditation in the woods, group worship, Bible study and discussion were all a part of the Saturday activities.