

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, May 13, 1976

95th Year, No. 20



United Methodism's four-year priorities:

World hunger - ethnic minorities - evangelism

PORTLAND, Ore., May 8 (UMC) — Representatives of The United Methodist Church, meeting here April 27-May 7, charted the denomination's course for the next four years, pointing toward three priorities: world hunger, ethnic minority churches and evangelism.

For the U.S. and some 20 other nations around the world, the 986 delegates to the quadrennial General Conference established as the theme for 1977-80, "Committed to Christ — Called to Change." It encompasses all three priorities.

After long hours of committee work and plenary legislative sessions, with sometimes rigorous and emotional debate, the top legislative body of the church produced an extensive list of new or reaffirmed policies, structure and programs for the 9.9 million-member church and an annual budget of \$60 million.

Major actions during the ten business days included:

- Programs to strengthen ethnic minority local congregations, including stronger recruitment and training procedures for pastors and lay persons and provide scholarships funded by \$2 million per year in appointments and \$3.5 million in voluntary giving.
- Direct feeding for the world's hungry plus efforts to get at causes of hunger to influence government policy, backed by \$2 million annually in apportionments and \$3 million in voluntary giving.
- Plans for intensified evangelism and church school development to halt the erosion of members, some one million in the past decade. Funding of \$125,000 yearly is provided.
- Retention of a 1972 policy stand that the church "does not condone the practice of homosexuality."
- Authorization, unfunded, of a study of human sexuality by local churches. This follows a widely argued series of proposals for a special study committee with budgeting sought as high as \$75,000 per year. A broader study of family life was voted down.
- Maintenance of life tenure for bishops rather than election for a term, although the limit of their assignment to any one area of the church was reduced from 12 to eight years.
- The conference also adopted a basic benevolence budget (World Service) of \$24,980,000 per year, up some six percent from the present.
- Established two new special apportionments to be paid by local churches — \$4,125,000 per year for the "missional priorities" and \$600,000 for expanded communication efforts plus recommending goals for Advance Special giving of \$3.5 million for ethnic churches and \$3 million for hunger.
- Expressed support for negotiations between the United States and Panama looking toward Panamanian sovereignty over the canal.
- Requested removal of "felony penalties" for possession of small amounts of marijuana, though stressing that this action "in no way implies approval or encouragement of marijuana use."
- Affirmed Methodism's long-time recommendation for abstention from alcoholic beverages and warned of the dangers of the misuse of other drugs.
- Authorized permanent status for the Commission on the Status and Role of Women and increased its budget despite several attempts to eliminate or reduce funds for the four-year-old agency.
- Pleaded for openness and love in understanding and dealing with persons in the charismatic movement.
- Refused requests for the church to withdraw from the World and National Councils of Churches and increased contributions to them slightly.
- Endorsed the mutual recognition of membership among Christian churches in support of a statement adopted by the Consultation on Church Union.
- Replaced the national Council on Youth Ministry with a more broadly based youth organization representing all 73 annual (regional) conferences in the U.S.
- Moved toward voting rights in General Conference for representatives of Oklahoma Indian Missionary



Photographic overview of United Methodism's General Conference session in Portland.

Conference. This is a constitutional amendment which applies also to Alaska and Redbird Missionary Conferences, neither of which is ethnically based. It will require ratification by the church's annual (regional) conferences.

- Placed a new stress on the "ministry of all Christians" and created a "diaconal ministry" for unordained persons serving the church on a full-time professional basis.
- Supported "broad and unconditional amnesty" for Vietnam war resisters as part of a resolution which also deplored the international arms race, expressed concern for those living under oppression, urged a search for more equitable international economic structures and backed the United Nations.
- Required that executive staff members of denominational boards and agencies be members of The United Methodist Church.
- Condemned the growing legalization and statewide promotion of gambling.
- Encouraged church and civic leaders of Boston in their attempts to overcome the Boston school crisis and the community's breakdown of "law, freedom, justice, personal and public security."
- Supported the denomination's mission board policy of dismissing any missionary who "intentionally cooperates with Central Intelligence Agency intelligence gathering operations."
- Voiced "solidarity" with two of the United Methodist bishops in Southern Africa and their attempts to express the Christian faith in struggles for liberation of their nations, Rhodesia and Angola.
- Rejected a proposal for a 40 percent quota for women in the top staff of general agencies of the church.
- Elected four new members and one for a second term on the Judicial Council (supreme court).
- Rejected a plan to reduce the number of delegates to General Conference.
- Changed the retirement age for bishops from 68-72 year range to between 60 and 70 years.
- Referred to the General Council on Ministries a study of the quota policy under which church board's membership includes one-third each of clergy, lay men and lay women.
- Turned down petitions calling for specific prohibition of ordination of homosexuals and instead adopted a resolution affirming "our trust in the covenant community and the process by which we ordain ministers."
- Revised a Social Principles statement from "we do not recommend marriage between two persons of the

same sex" to "we do not recognize a relationship between two persons of the same sex as constituting marriage."

- Established a unit for United Methodist Men within the Board of Discipleship but rejected requests for a separate division for lay men or for a Commission on the Status and Role of Men.
- Recommended preparation of a supplementary contemporary hymnal.
- Authorized a study committee on Native American Ministry for the 1977-80 quadrennium, to be funded out of the missional priority fund approved earlier in the conference; the committee is to study, evaluate and research ministries to and of native Americans and "the basic philosophical and social basis of Native American concepts in The United Methodist Church."
- Approved establishment of a select committee with representation from the GCOM, GCFA and Board of Global Ministries to study the location of the mission agency currently headquartered in New York City, and bring recommendations to the 1980 General Conference.
- Recommended a "presentation from the laity on the state of the church" paralleling the Episcopal Address from the bishops at each General Conference.
- Substituted for a Bicentennial Resolution labeled "insensitive to Native American concerns," a revised statement urging United Methodists to rejoice in the nation's 200th year and to repent of maltreatment of racial minorities, immigrants and women.
- Referred to the Board of Church and Society a report condemning U.S. presence in countries where human rights are violated.
- Voted the church's support for licensing all gun owners and registration of all firearms but noted that licensing provisions should "provide basic standards with respect to age, absence of mental illness and lack of a serious criminal record." A recommended national ban on importation, possession, manufacture and sale of handguns would include as suggested exceptions the police, the military, licensed security guards, antique dealers and licensed pistol clubs.
- Ordered that no "board, agency, committee or commission or council" give funds to any gay caucus or group "or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality."
- Approved during the final minutes of the conference resolutions on South Africa, the Middle East, Indochina, Ireland and Lebanon.
- Approved, for the first time, legislation which provides maternity benefits to ministers.

North Arkansas Conference to feature Bicentennial service

A unique feature on the second night of this year's North Arkansas Annual Conference will be a campmeeting type of worship service in a frontier setting, planned by the conference Worship Committee. Dr. James Workman, a retired member of the Little Rock Conference who resides in Conway, will direct the service and serve as song leader.

There will be no formal Order of Worship or bulletins for the Tuesday, June 8 service, which is also billed as a youth service. Members of the conference Youth Council will serve as ushers. Diana Gaither, president of the council, will read the scripture and a Youth Choir and volunteer Conference Choir will sing.

Also involved in the service will be two of the older members of the conference, the Revs. I. L. Claude of Morrilton and Jeff Sherman of Gurdon, according to the Rev. Dick Haltom, worship chairman.

Conference-goers are encouraged to wear attire in keeping with the event — string ties, white shirts, overalls, et cetera. Hand fans and song sheets will be provided.

The Conference Committee on Worship has issued another request for

ministers and lay persons who would be interested in singing in the Conference Choir for this 7:30 p.m. worship service. Mr. Monty Bell, director of Music at First Church, Searcy, will direct the anthem entitled, "The Lord Is in This Place." There will be a rehearsal at 5 p.m. on the day of the service, at Staples Auditorium, Hendrix College, and a warm-up rehearsal at 7 p.m.

Persons interested in singing in the choir are urged to notify: Mrs. Elise Shoemaker, First United Methodist Church, 1610 Prince, Conway, Ark. 72032.

Aldersgate's Country Fair this weekend

The sixth annual Aldersgate Country Fair will be held this weekend, on Friday night, May 14 and all day Saturday, May 15. The event will begin with a family-style spaghetti dinner Friday evening from five to seven o'clock. An auction will begin immediately following the dinner and will be continued on Saturday.

Among features of the fair will be arts and crafts sales, auction, rummage sale, country store, plant sale, book sale, flea market, handmade items sale, food sale and numerous other booth and entertainment features.

Continued this year will be a "dunking booth" which will feature well-known political candidates and other "VIPS" who have volunteered to be "dunked."

The event will seek to raise \$12,000 to be used as matching money for Aldersgate's Senior Citizens program, Medical and Social Service camps and other year-round programs of mission and outreach to low-income and disabled persons throughout Arkansas. Chairpersons for this year's fair are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Williams of Little Rock.

Aldersgate is located at 2000 Aldersgate Road, Little Rock, three miles west of University Avenue off 12th Street. The camp site is four blocks south of 12th Street, just west of the new Baptist Medical Center. Parking will be available at the medical center and free shuttle-buses will provide transportation to the Aldersgate site. Fair visitors are urged to use the medical center's parking facilities as there will be no parking available on the Aldersgate grounds.

Dr. Keeley to return home

Mrs. Virgil D. Keeley, wife of Dr. Virgil D. Keeley, superintendent of the Pine Bluff District, who was hospitalized during the General Conference session in Portland, telephoned the Arkansas Methodist office Monday (May 10) and reported that Dr. Keeley would be able to return home this Friday, May 14. Mrs. Keeley said that Dr. Keeley, who suffered recurrence of a heart condition, was progressing very well. She expressed appreciation for the many cards, letters and phone calls.

Open house at Paragould

An open house will be held Sunday, May 23, at the new Paragould District office and parsonage. The new facility, occupied last December, is located on Barnhill Road in west Paragould, just off Highway 1 to Jonesboro. Paragould District Superintendent and Mrs. Ben F. Jordan extend an invitation to all persons to attend the event, which will be from two to five o'clock in the afternoon.

Pulaski Heights Church hosting Raney Lectures

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock once again presents The Raney Lectures, with Dr. John R. Claypool, pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church of Fort Worth, Tex., delivering the series May 17 through May 20. Dr. Claypool's lectures will focus on the general theme: Promise, Venture and Discovery.

The lectures, endowed and initiated in 1951 by the family of T. J. and Inez Raney, long-time devoted leaders of Arkansas Methodism, will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Monday evening through Thursday and each morning at 10:30 o'clock, Tuesday through Thursday.

Dr. Claypool, born in Kentucky and reared in Nashville, Tenn., received his B.A. degree from Baylor University and in 1959 earned the doctor of theology degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Dr. Claypool has served as lecturer at

Little Rock Conference youth set goals for '76

A goal of \$9,410.70 has been set by the Little Rock Conference Youth Council as the amount to be contributed by conference youth to the Youth Service Fund during 1976. Last year the youth of Little Rock Conference contributed \$6,127.77, which was 94 percent more than the previous year.

The council attributes the increase in last year's giving to more publicity explaining the uses of the fund, and consequent renewed interest by the youth in the projects served by their gifts, according to the Rev. Fred Haustein, conference coordinator of youth ministries.

The breakdown by districts for reaching the 1976 goal is: Little Rock — \$1760.70; Camden — \$1200; Monticello — \$750; Arkadelphia — \$1368; Hope — \$1226, and Pine Bluff — \$3105.

The Youth Service Fund is distributed three ways: At least one-third of all that is collected goes for local and world-wide projects; one-third goes for conference and district youth programs, and the remaining one-third is spent by the national youth organization in mission projects and programs. The fund represents second-mile mission giving by the youth of all of United Methodism.

The Little Rock Conference Youth Council is asking each United Methodist youth to contribute one penny a day to the fund, and requests each local church to encourage this "Fair Share" quota and make its remittance through the Conference Treasurer's Office on the regular remittance form provided for that purpose.

Dinner to honor Dr. James F. Upton

Dr. James F. Upton, who is retiring after 33 years of teaching at Hendrix College, will be honored May 28 at a dinner in Hulen Hall. The 6 p.m. event is being planned by several former students as an expression of appreciation for his faithful service to the church with 42 years in the ministry, and especially for his work as a professor of religion at Hendrix.

Reservations should be sent to James E. Major, Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. 72032, before May 24. The cost is \$5 per person, which includes a small amount for a gift. All friends of the Uptons are invited.



Dr. John Claypool

various Baptist seminaries, including: Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, San Francisco. He is the author of the book, *Tracks of a Fellow Struggler*, published in 1974.

Lecture topics in the order of their presentation will be: The Divine and the Human: Who Does What?; Creative Changing; The God-Reality; Creative Losing; The Self-Reality; Creative Loving, and The World-Reality.

The public is invited to attend all of the lectures in the sanctuary of Pulaski Heights Church at Woodlawn and Monroe Streets. Dr. James B. Argue is senior pastor of the host church.

Winfield Men Sponsoring 'Autograph Dinner Party'

Dr. Walter N. Vernon, author of "Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976," will be the speaker at an **Autograph Dinner Party** at Winfield Church, Little Rock on Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Vernon will be available to autograph copies of his new book on the history of Arkansas Methodism. Mr. Lyle Armstrong, president of Winfield United Methodist Men — the sponsoring organization, extends an invitation to members of other United Methodist churches and purchasers of the book to attend the event. Tickets are available at \$2 each from members of the club or the church office at 16th and Louisiana. Reservations must be made by 12 o'clock noon, May 18.

Arkansas Methodism's new history

Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976, will be published May 25. It will be the third volume to be officially commissioned by the church (the first was published in 1892, the second in 1935). It is authored by Dr. Walter N. Vernon of Nashville, Tenn., retired executive of the former Board of Education of The United Methodist Church.

The following comment by Dr. John L. Ferguson, State Historian of Arkansas, was prepared for use on the book's jacket, and is used here with permission.

"For more than 150 years Methodists have had a vital role in the history of Arkansas. Dr. Vernon's book traces and analyzes this role in superb fashion. The result is a major contribution both to the history of our state and to an understanding of the continuing importance of Methodism in the life of America. Every Arkansan is indebted to Dr. Vernon for this fine volume."

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

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A new sound, color filmstrip is available from Conference A-V Libraries and District Superintendents. Copies are \$4 from: United Methodist Communications, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, Ill. 60201 or Service Center, Board of Global Ministries, 7820 Reading Rd., Cincinnati, Ohio, 45237

Companion poster and leaflet, both titled **Land of Endless Mountains**, available from Service Center, Cincinnati.



Four-year budget set by General Conference

PORTLAND, Ore., May 7 (UMC) — A budget calling for \$60,937,000 annually in funds apportioned to local churches and "second mile" giving was approved by The United Methodist Church's top legislative body here today.

Included is \$24,980,000 in the basic World Service fund; \$4,125,000 in a new "missional priority" apportionment and \$6,500,000 in recommended voluntary giving; some \$11 million for ministerial education; \$6 million for 12 colleges serving mainly blacks, and \$600,000 for a new mass communications fund.

The total is some \$14 million higher than comparable askings in the current quadrennium, and about \$20 million more than actually was collected in 1975. This budget includes only the apportioned funds and two recommended voluntary goals which comprise about six percent of the total giving of the 9.9 million members of the denomination. Most of the remainder is spent at local, annual conference and jurisdictional levels.

Not included in the funds apportioned to individual congregations is the program of voluntary "second mile" giving known as Advance Specials. Income from this program totaled approximately \$15 million in 1975. In addition to all these apportionments and voluntary goals, the denomination has a number of "special days" when offerings are received.

Largest single item in the budget is \$24,980,000 for World Service, the basic program fund of the denomination. This is \$1,480,000 more than the annual askings for the current quadrennium, and about \$3 million more than was collected in 1975.

Other items include General Administration — \$1,442,000; Episcopal Fund — \$3,600,000; Interdenominational Cooperation — \$1,000,000; and Temporary

General Aid (a supplemental ethnic salary and pension assistance fund used in some annual conferences) — \$1,690,000.

In addition to the apportioned fund of \$4,125,000 for the "missional priorities" of helping ethnic minority local churches, minority scholarships, world hunger and evangelism, the delegates here recommended an additional Advance Special goal of \$3,500,000 for ethnic churches, and \$3,000,000 for world hunger. The Advance Special goals are finally determined by a committee of the denomination that will meet later this month. The funds are then raised by voluntary giving on the part of individual churches and members.

Major debate on the budget centered on where funds for "missional priorities" should be located. Divergent views of the denomination's ethnic minorities, the General Council on Ministries (GCOM) and the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA) were warmly debated at several different points during the conference.

The ethnic minorities wanted the entire \$5 million for local church assistance and \$500,000 for scholarships in the basic World Service Fund. Supporters of this position stressed the basic nature of the World Service fund and the fact that payments to this fund approximated about 90 percent of the goal during the present quadrennium, compared with a return of about 80 percent in some other apportioned funds.

GCOM recommended that \$2,000,000 in ethnic funds be in the World Service budget, and \$3,500,000 in Advance Specials. GCFA initially had recommended an ethnic minority apportioned fund of \$2 million with the remainder in Advance Specials.

For hunger, GCOM had recommended an apportioned fund of \$2 million with an additional \$3 million in Advance Specials. GCFA's initial recommendation for hunger put all \$5 million in the Advance.

The funding for the priority on evangelism was added during floor debate.

As finally approved, the apportioned fund of \$4,125,000 will be divided on the basis of \$1,500,000 for ethnic churches; \$500,000 for scholarships for Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, and American Indians; \$2,000,000 for world hunger; and \$125,000 for evangelism.

The \$600,000 for mass communications was added by a legislative committee after the initial recommendation of GCOM for such a fund had been turned down by GCFA. This money will be used by the Joint Committee on Communications to implement proposals growing out of a study conducted during the past year.

Defeated was an attempt from the floor to reduce by half the askings for the National and World Councils of Churches. The former is being raised from a goal of \$470,000 annually to \$500,000, and the latter from \$230,000 to \$300,000.

One effect of the action here is to terminate United Methodist Funding of Project Equality.

Debated briefly was the proposed salary scale for bishops of the denomination. As accepted, this calls for cash salary of \$27,000 in 1977 with an increase of \$1,000 each year during the quadrennium. The salary in 1976 is \$26,000. In addition to the cash salary, there is an annual \$3,000 housing allowance and various other pension, insurance and expense allowances.

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The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

On announcing pastoral appointments

How long to say 'good-bye' to a preacher?

While there may be more important matters before the church, the subject of how pastoral appointments are to be announced is one which, in our opinion, requires attention.

If some pastoral changes are going to be published through church bulletin and secular newspaper notices two months and more before the Annual Conference session, as has been done in a case or two recently, then all pastoral appointment changes should be afforded the same treatment.

We submit, rather, that all pastoral appointments should be announced at the same time: during the Annual Conference session and not before. We believe there are good reasons for such a uniform practice.

In the first place, conditions can change before an Annual Conference session arrives, conceivably necessitating some last minute rearrangement of appointments. Any one of a multitude of factors can happen which can require a shift of pastoral assignments. And when appointments are announced early, any subsequent changes create an embarrassing situation for all concerned.

Second, a "lame duck" pastorate of several weeks or months is not fair to the local church's program, to the congregation, or to the pastor. When it is known for that length of time that a pastor is moving, the work of the local church suffers. It shouldn't take eight weeks to say good-bye to a preacher.

In the third place, if the early announcement of a change of pastors is to be practiced in a few larger churches, why shouldn't it be practiced in all churches? The fact is, of course, that all appointments simply cannot be made early. That is understandable, and it is all the more reason why no appointments should be announced until all are made.

We suggest that it is more than nostalgia that argues in favor of having all pastoral changes announced at the same time — during the Annual Conference session. If the call that we "be more Methodist" in our ways is legitimate, it would seem that restoring order to the announcement of pastoral changes would be a simple place to begin. A uniform procedure would properly reflect the integrity of the system and, being one more evidence of our "connectedness," would strengthen the morale of both the ministers and the local churches.

Arkansas United Methodists were told a few months ago (issue of March 4) that no pastoral appointments would be announced this year before the Annual Conference sessions. We believe that is a good policy and that it should be adhered to. Pastors or others who do not comply with that policy make it more difficult for the others who do.

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Off the Top of the Head

Tea hee

Some leftover editorial correspondence

ABOARD AMTRAK #798, en route Portland, Ore., to Seattle, Wash., May 1 — Part, at least of what they say about the Amtrak train is true. The people who ride on them are very friendly. They have to be — they can hardly avoid it. I know, because I am well into my third hour of my first Amtrak ride ever and my first train ride in over 25 years.

(The last time I rode a train was in Korea. And come to think of it, that ride was very similar to this one — at least in the sense that both trains had climate control

problems. On the Korea ride the temperature was about ten degrees below zero and every window on the train was broken out and the wind and coal cinders whistled through like an icy sandstorm.

(On this ride the temperature outside is a very warm 78 degrees and on the inside, with every window intact and firmly sealed, they've got the heat on full blast. Oh, well. At least I've got a good hunch why they call it Amtrak. That must be Korean for "train.")

Anyway, I'm on my way to visit my brother and his family at Fall City, Wash., about 200 miles from Portland, and am enjoying the beautiful sights along the Columbia River and Puget Sound and every bump and bounce along the way.

But I was telling you about the people. How do I know they are so friendly? Two illustrations. One, when I went back to the dining car, which seats about 15 persons, they were feeding about 25 Girl Scouts. And Girl Scouts, who aren't very difficult to get acquainted with anyway, are much less so under such circumstances.

Two, when the red-uniformed young man delivered my ham sandwich he said he was sorry, sir, that they didn't have iced tea but they could do the next best thing. So he produced an ice-filled glass, a little green pot and a small paper envelope. I figured that the envelope must contain a secret message, like on the Orient Express. So before opening it I glanced about me and noticed, out of the corner of my eye, the mysterious, beautiful lady spy at the table across the aisle. Trying to shield the envelope's contents from her prying gaze, I opened it only to find that what it contained — I knew it all the time, of course — was a tea bag.

Now, you'll find this hard to believe, but in all of my almost half-a-hundred years I do not recall ever having to handle a tea bag before. So, when I put it on top of the ice in my glass and began to pour the contents of the pot on top of it, all kinds of very friendly people came to my rescue, telling me to put the little bag in the green pot, wait a bit, and then pour. I chuckled, red-faced, and told them that I knew that, of course, and that my actions were just a test to see if people would really come to the assistance of a total stranger who needed help heh, heh, heh.

So — whatever else you say about Amtrak, be sure to say that the people are very friendly.

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JSW

Arkansas Methodist

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General Conference 1976:

Portland, Oregon,
April 27-May 8



Portland's Memorial Coliseum was the setting for the conference.



Little Rock Conference delegates had the advantage of second-row seats.



North Arkansas Conference delegation enjoyed first and second-row seats.



Bishop Eugene M. Frank presided at Monday evening session.



Legislative subcommittees met in hallways. North Arkansas delegate Rev. Earl Carter is at far left.



North Arkansas delegates (from left) Gene Brand, Dr. Charles McDonald and Bob Cheyne in an early session of the conference.



Commission member Carl Hall of Little Rock was instrumental in designing of official conference emblem.



General Treasurer Dr. R. Bryan Brawner in his Coliseum office.



A Little Rock Conference delegate, the Rev. James E. Major, listens to legislative committee report.



Music was an integral part of worship services.



World Council of Churches' President Dr. Phillip Potter addresses conference.



Mrs. Eugene M. Frank watched conference proceedings from Bishops' wives' section.



Dr. Walter Vernon (left) shows Bishop Eugene M. Frank first volume of new history of Arkansas Methodism.



Chaplain (Col.) Robert B. Howerton (right) Command Chaplain, U.S. Army, Alaska, member of the North Arkansas Conference and Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Wayne L. Bouck Vallejo, Calif., sit together in visitors' section.



At right: One of many working sessions.



Arkansas Methodist editor reported on legislative committees for Daily Christian Advocate.



Arkansans (from left) Mrs. Homer H. Fulbright, Mrs. Joel Cooper and Mrs. Gene Brand observe conference happenings from visitors' section.



Little Rock Conference delegate, the Rev. John Walker, watches proceedings from reserve delegates' section.



Reserve delegates the Revs. Wayne Jarvis (left) and Jim Beal await turns to sit with delegation.



The Rev. Joe Kennedy, Danville pastor, served as official page at the session.

Arkansas Methodist



To Direct Summer Youth Programs

Students from the University of Central Arkansas and Hendrix College in Conway who anticipate working as summer youth directors, met at the Wesley Foundation Center at UCA for a study of the church school curriculum for youth. Directing the event was Steve Williams (left), a student at UCA and director of youth activities at Markham Street Church in Little Rock. The Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, associate director of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries, led the study.

From Our Readers

WHAT SEMINARY STUDENTS ARE ASKING

To the Editor:

In a recent class session (United Methodist Polity and Discipline), the following questions were asked by seminary students of a visiting district superintendent: 1) What is considered in placing a pastor "right out of seminary"? 2) How does a district or a conference make a student (Probationary Member) feel like they are a part of that community? 3) What means of correspondence are there between the home conference or district with the probationary member? 4) Are the seminary students recognized in any way other than a name at Annual Conference? These questions and others are coming from seminary students who are concerned about their connection with their home conference.

So, if you are wondering what has happened to those students who were ordained Deacon last year — wonder no longer! Let those who will be your future leaders in the district and conference know that they are thought of at times other than those weeks preceding Annual Conference.

It is a known fact that many seminary students change conferences because of

a lack of communication on the part of their home conference.

A Concerned Deacon,
Walter "Bubba" Smith
St. Paul School of Theology
Kansas City, Mo.

FRESH FROM THE HAYLOFT ITSELF

To the Editor:

I read with great interest and enjoyment in the **Arkansas Methodist** your "Off the Top of the Head" comments about the recent rejuvenating experience you had with NABISCO Shredded Wheat. After 40 years, welcome back!

Other consumers share, and have tried to express, your feelings but have never succeeded as eloquently.

In grateful appreciation for your kind words about our miniature haystacks, I have enclosed a couple of coupons good for your next purchases of those little stringy wheat things we affectionately refer to as NABISCO Shredded Wheat, the original Niagara Falls cereal.

S. G. Wilkerson
Group Brand Manager
NABISCO, Inc.
East Hanover, N.J. 07936

NOTE: Enclosed were two (2) coupons reading, "Your grocer will give you ONE PACKAGE of NABISCO Shredded Wheat FREE of CHARGE upon presentation of this coupon." Hot dog!
—the editor.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

Dr. Franklin H. Littell, professor of religion at Temple University, delivering the keynote address at a Bicentennial Conference on Religious Liberty in Philadelphia, said that toleration is not the same thing as religious liberty. "Religious liberty," he declared, "is a right and a truth which is not government's to deny or to grant; government may only recognize and protect it, for it stands on higher ground." As Americans "we have a special responsibility not only to affirm our devotion to liberty but also to identify and resist attacks and subversion of liberty — whether abroad or at home," said Dr. Littell.

Dr. T. H. Bell, U.S. Commissioner of Education, addressing a parenting conference sponsored by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the National Foundation, March of Dimes, said: "Nothing could be more crucial for the growth and development of the individual infant, or for the future of society, than to assure that parents have the skill and understanding to meet the social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of their youngsters."

Dr. Donald G. Dawe, a United Presbyterian theologian, told an interfaith seminar gathering at Washington and Lee University (Lexington, Ky.) that "Christianity is a religion that combines the claim to being universal in scope with the demand for being exclusive in belief." Dr. Dawe asserted that modern secularity is now forcing world religions to be "more honest" about their beliefs. The theologian commented that for Christians "this means that either they give up their claims to universality or they have to be substantiated by some new vision that shows the reasonableness of its claims."

Harold Hughes, the former Iowa governor and U.S. Senator who gave up his political career for a lay ministry, told some 1,200 persons attending the 15th annual Minnesota Governor's Prayer Breakfast that Christianity "turns off more people than it turns on because they see us as walking hypocrites." He said the nation can rightfully call itself "a nation under God" only when Americans "hear God's word and obey it."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity), charged while speaking to reporters in Charleston, W. Va., that the abdication of parental responsibility is at the root of "a spiritual decadence rampant in the land." The civil rights leader said that parents in aiding their children to get a good education "must set and enforce regular study hours with the radio and TV off." He urged that parents be required to pick up their children's report cards in school and discuss their children's grades with teachers.

Countering a trend of recent years, a slight increase in the total membership of religious bodies in the U.S. is reported in the 1976 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. Figures in the Yearbook, published by Abingdon Press for the National Council of Churches, show a gain of 1,042,311 members in 223 religious bodies last year — or 0.8 percent over the previous year. Some groups that may be considered quasi-religious, such as the Church of Satan and the Unification Church, are not listed. Editor Constant H. Jacquet Jr. warns against drawing hasty conclusions about comparative church growth, since church statisticians use different categories.

Dr. Gerald Anderson, associate director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center in Ventnor, N.J., and a former United Methodist missionary to the Philippines, addressing the interfaith seminar, asserted that Christians should only approach other religions "in the name of Jesus as God." He expressed the view that the concept that God has separate covenants with each faith could be turned against Christianity to deny the divinity of Christ.

Archbishop Jaime L. Sin of Manila has, following his recent appointment by Pope Paul VI, been added to the U.S. block of Roman Catholic cardinals. Not only is his name "Sin" but the new appointee, 47-years of age, is also the youngest of the thirteen cardinals.

Concordia Publishing House, a Lutheran agency, will release in August an innovative series of children's books entitled, "I Can Read A Bible Story." "The series is exciting," according to Ann Hildebrand of the Department of English, Children's Literature at Kent State University. "I hope these can be marketed at a price that the average family can afford," said Dr. Velma E. Schmidt of North Texas State University.

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Proceeds from the country Fair will go for support of year round programs to help children, youth and adults.

Bring Your Entire Family and Have a Great Time!



International Students Present Program

Some of the 12 international students at The College of the Ozarks who — representing six countries — presented a recent Sunday evening program at First Church, Clarksville. Left to right: Parviz Kazemi, Parvin Taheri, Shahrock and Shahla Negit from Iran, Oanh Vu from Vietnam, Emmanuel Ajala from Nigeria and Huong Dang from Vietnam. Other countries represented were Ethiopia, Japan and Thailand. The program included prayers and songs in the different languages. (Photo by Anna Joe Weatherton)



The Problems of Drugs and Alcohol

Scripture: I Corinthians 6:9-20, Galatians 5:13-26.

Foreword: As I write this article, pipe clenched between my teeth and third cup of coffee at my finger tips, I would be less than honest not to admit from the outset that I am a drug user. But like millions of other Americans (and Christians) I am prone to act and think as if "the drug problem" is something that always happens to somebody else.

The typical stereotype of the drug user is that of some down-and-out slum dweller nervously worrying about where the next fix is coming from and engaging in theft, prostitution or some other illegal activity to support the habit. While addiction to "hard" drugs (opium derivatives, such as heroin and morphine) constitutes one aspect of drug dependency, it is by no means the largest or fastest growing part of the problem. Like other "iceberg problems," the great bulk of drug dependence remains hidden. The drug problem today involves wide abuse of alcohol (still at the top of the list), barbiturates ("sleeping pills"), amphetamines, tranquilizers, and hallucinogenic drugs, such as LSD and marijuana.

In 1964, the World Health Organization's Committee on Addiction-producing Drugs recommended that a single concept, "drug dependence," replace the previous distinction between "drug addiction" (physical and psychological dependence on narcotics) and "drug habituation" (psychological dependence on other drugs). This new terminology reflects the recognition that the same root problem — unhealthy dependence on a self-prescribed drug — is present in both narcotic addiction and non-narcotic habituation.

Drug dependence is no respecter of social or economic class. Narcotic addiction is still found primarily among disadvantaged minority groups in coastal cities. In contrast, non-narcotic drug abuse is prevalent in middle and upper socio-economic, as well as lower class groups. It occurs frequently in suburbia and exurbia, as well as the decaying heart of the city. It invades all parts of the country — villages and county seat towns, as well as major cities. Although the drug problem seems to hit every age group, including the aged who get hooked on sleeping pills, it has become prevalent on college campuses and in high schools. In other words, drug dependence is much closer to home and church than it has ever been.

What is the drug problem?

Several years ago I participated in a state-sponsored drug abuse workshop. The leader of the workshop made a statement that I will not soon forget. He said, "We do not have a drug problem; we have a **people** problem."

What he meant was that drugs in and of themselves are not bad. As a matter of fact, many people literally depend daily upon medically prescribed drugs to keep them alive and healthy. Most of us from time to time rely upon a drug to relieve our sniffles or a nagging headache or "the blahs." We are a drug using society. But we also abuse drugs.

We need to recognize that the problem is not drugs as pharmacological agents; the problem is people. It is a personal problem, a social problem, a political problem, not only of people who use certain drugs but of people who make judgments about drugs and about people who use those drugs. We need to distinguish between use and abuse.¹

We are living in an environment increasingly dominated by chemicals. These include not only an increasing number of medicines and "narcotics" but an increasing variety of substances which, in our wisdom

we prefer to call beverages, cigarettes, food additives and preservatives, agricultural and industrial chemicals, household chemicals, pollutants, even food.

In addition, we are bombarded by media advertisements which assure us that our slightest discomfort can be eliminated by popping a pill, smearing on ointment, inhaling vapors, or squirting drops into ourselves. And we believe what the patent medicine ads say because we spend billions on over-the-counter drugs. In effect, we have created a drug dependent society which believes that there is no ill which a chemical cannot cure. "Relief is just a swallow away."

The real drug problem is how to live in a chemical environment.

The Christian and Drug Dependency

How should the Christian view the problem of drug dependency?

We would all do well to begin by recognizing the complexity of the issues involved. It is simply not enough to be "against" drugs. We seem to be unable to live without them. The question is **how** we live with them. The issues of drug use and abuse illustrate the intricate interrelation of bio-chemical, psychological, cultural, and spiritual factors in many human problems. For example, we may insist upon punishing through imprisonment a teenager who pushes dope, but have we really tackled the social disease that fosters drug dependence?

For purposes of discussion, "drug abuse" is here defined as any use which contributes to the harming of persons — physically, psychologically, spiritually, or in their relationships.²

It is the Christian faith that persons are of inherent worth in the sight of God and therefore of highest value to those who seek to live in harmony with his nature. In the light of this, it follows that Christians must strive to avoid abuse in their own use of drugs, and to prevent such abuse in society.

In the Christian perspective, any use of drugs is right which contributes to the welfare, strengthening, and growth of persons toward fulfillment of their God-given potentialities. Conversely, any use of drugs is wrong which contributes, directly or indirectly, to the blocking of such fulfillment of personhood, or to otherwise damaging personality or relationships.³

Obviously, the Christian would question the use of any drug, including alcohol, which prevents human function in constructive ways.

Other cases, however, are not so obvious. The young widow, severely traumatized by bereavement, who becomes dependent upon sleeping pills or tranquilizers in order to cope with her necessary responsibilities as a parent and breadwinner is a case in point. A physician may rightly prescribe a drug to assist the suffering woman to function effectively, but if the blunted awareness from heavy and prolonged sedation prevents her from working through her grief and growing into a self-sufficient person again then the prescription facilitates drug abuse.

Applying the norm of harm to persons, the evidence is clear that practically all of the widespread, chronic dependence on self-prescribed drugs constitutes abuse and is inconsistent with the Christian view of life. The kinds and degrees of harm vary from drug to drug and from person to person.

1. **Physical damage.** Excess in the use of almost any chemical eventually leads to body damage. Alcoholism often leads to malnutrition diseases; barbiturate dependence may result in toxic psychosis and liver damage; nicotine is associated with lung cancer and food addiction to a host of arterio-cardiac problems; and

Sunday School Lesson for May 23

By VICTOR H. NIXON,

Pastor, Huntington Avenue
United Methodist Church, Jonesboro

prolonged use of amphetamines overtaxes the entire human organism. For the Christian, life is a gift and a trust, to be lived to its fullest under the rule of love. Damaging one's body is incompatible with the stewardship of life.

2. **Personality damage.** The largest single category of prescriptions in the past few years is for drugs that alter feeling and mood. When chemical comforters are used increasingly as a substitute for coping with the problems and challenges of living by means of personality resources, then the person's ability to cope atrophies through disease.

A full-color pharmaceutical ad, in a medical journal listed these "typical situations" for which a particular tranquilizer is indicated: "family problems; financial worries; loss of work; retirement problems; death of a loved one; fear of cancer; pre- and post-operative fears; post-partum despondency, and many other stressful situations." (I wonder why they did not include political elections and ministerial appointments!)

While chemical tension-reducers can allow a person to cope better in difficult or anxiety-producing situations, they can also allow that person to avoid facing and struggling with the problem. Such a pattern is destructive of God-given personality resources.

Psychiatrist Karl Menninger declares:

The public reads eagerly of new drugs to bring about temporary serenity; some of us would be more interested in drugs that would evoke aspirations or spur a desire for learning or increase displeasure in wastefulness and self-preoccupation. We cannot be enthusiastic about chemical methods to produce a state of *sans souci*; what the world needs and what more human beings need, for their own mental health and that of their universe, is not to care less but to care more. For this we have no chemicals. There are no drugs "to keep the soul alert with noble discontent."⁴

The Christian must always ask himself, Am I abusing the God-given body and personality I have? Or does drug use result in the fruits of the Spirit — "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control?" (Gal. 5:22). Or, put in other language, does my use of drugs produce greater personality health, new integration, heightened awareness of reality, resolution of crippling conflicts, and more constructive relatedness to oneself, others, nature, and God?

Drug Abuse: Symptom of a Need

We should look at drug use as a symptom, not of a disease, but of a need. The reasons people use legal drugs as well as illegal drugs are many — to relieve boredom; to have fun; to get "high"; to relieve fatigue, tension, and anxiety; to find meaningful social relations; to solve personal problems; for self-exploration and understanding; even for religious experience.

The recovery of greater spiritual vitality within our churches is imperative if we are to meet the needs of those who search for peace and transcendence through chemicals. God must be a living presence for those who search for a stable way of life in the quagmire of our society.

Consequently, the church's ministry becomes all-important and many-faceted if we are to meet the needs of those who would succumb to drug-dependency.

¹Helen H. Nowlis, "Drugs and the Drug Problem" (engage, Oct., 1969), 10-14.

²Howard J. Clinebell, *The Pastor and Drug Dependence* (New York: Council Press, 1968), 10.

³*Ibid.*, 10.

⁴The Vital Balance (New York: The Viking Press, 1968), 294.

Council Directors to Local Churches

WHEN: Right NOW . . . as early in the year as possible!

HOW: Call a meeting of your Council on Ministries, a task group, or other planning committee to:

DIAGNOSE NEEDS: Who should be served? Children, youth, adults, young adults, older adults, others. What are their needs/interests? How can your church best serve these persons?

SET GOALS: Be specific! Set a target date for accomplishment, by whom it is to be done, ideas for how to do it.

DECIDE ON PROGRAMS/EVENTS: Look at the possibilities and decide which will meet your needs.

SET DATES — AT LEAST TENTATIVELY: You may want to suggest a time for each event, i.e. early summer, evenings, weekend, etc. — then let the

Page Six

Planning Your Summertime Ministry

committee or task force for each event set firm dates.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES: Decide who will be responsible for each program/event. Enlist cooperation of individuals and/or standing committees. The committee responsible for each event meets to make detailed plans.

Planning for a Vacation Church School

GETTING READY TO START: Set a date for the VCS Committee to meet.

MEET TO MAKE PLANS: Decide who will be involved in your Vacation Church School: nursery through junior high, all ages (a family school), only children, etc. Set the dates for your VCS: Keep in mind other programs/events which your church or community has scheduled to avoid conflicts where

possible. Plan for recruiting and training leaders: How many will be needed? Who is available? How can they be trained? Decide what printed resources you will use. Think about how you will publicize your VCS.

ORDER MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES: Estimate the number of students in your VCS and order a student resource for each one. Are additional teacher/leader guides needed? Teaching packets?

Recommended Materials

NURSERY: (3 and 4-year-olds) "I DISCOVER" — A new unit planned to help children as they find their places in God's World.

KINDERGARTEN: (Five-year-olds) "GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME" —

Through the resources and suggested activities it is hoped kindergartners will learn respect for themselves and others.

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY: "OUR FAMILY IN THE COMMUNITY" — In this unit they will explore ways families respond to God.

MIDDLE ELEMENTARY: "THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS" — To be a Christian means to participate with God in his mission to all mankind.

OLDER ELEMENTARY: "CHRISTIANS AND CONFLICT" — This unit will help students understand and use Christian principles in dealing with conflicts in their world.

(Small churches may wish to use only two groupings for elementaries: YOUNGER ELEMENTARY and OLDER ELEMENTARY. Larger churches would want to use all three.)

Arkansas Methodist

From the Churches

ALMYRA United Methodist Church announces a homecoming service to be held Sunday, May 23. Present and former district superintendents, pastors and members are invited to share in the celebration which begins with the 10:45 a.m. worship service to be followed by a potluck dinner.

A PASTORAL CARE WORKSHOP for ministers of the Fort Smith region will be held Saturday, May 22 at Sparks Medical Center, in Fort Smith. Dr. Myron Madden, director of pastoral care at Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, will lead the day-long session scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Subjects will include: "Ministry to Special Needs: Heart Disease, Cancer, Radical Surgery, Children," "Dealing With Feelings in Pastoral Care" and "The Conflict Between Healing and Caring." The workshop is under sponsorship of the Department of Pastoral Care at Sparks, directed by Chaplain Jack Pollard.

A LAY SPEAKING WORKSHOP, conducted by Conway District, has recently been completed. Dr. Olin Cook, district director of lay speaking, announces that 23 persons from nine churches in the district completed the course requirements and have been recommended to their Administrative Boards for certification as lay speakers. They will be recognized at a special service of consecration at the Conway District Conference.

THE GRAND PRAIRIE Sub-district UMY elected at its April meeting the following officers to serve during the next conference year: President, Karen Nix; Vice President, Russell Stew; Secretary-Treasurer, Hal Hillman, and Reporter, Jeffrey Palsa. Bethlehem won the attendance banner with 17 members present. A total of 78 youth attended the meeting which concluded with a spaghetti supper. The next meeting will be held at Lonoke at 6:30 on May 9.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY has announced this year's honors and awards winners. Included in the "Honors" list are two Arkansans, Kurt W. Wulfekuhler, senior from Paragould, and C. Robert Hasley, middler from Magnolia.

THE REV. WILLIAM A. CHEYNE, Ashdown pastor, led the adult section of a recent workshop at Hardy Memorial Church in Texarkana, Tex., and Mrs. Darrell Bone of Fairview Church, Texarkana, Ark., led the children's section.

DR. EDWIN B. DODSON, pastor of First Church, Texarkana, was the guest preacher for recent Spiritual Enrichment Services at Prescott United Methodist Church. The Prescott Singers presented the musical, "This Land — Our Land," at the Prescott church on a recent Sunday evening, under the direction of Mrs. Jim McKenzie and Organist Mrs. Roland Culp.

THE REV. M. E. SCOTT of Malvern, a retired member of the Little Rock Conference, was the evangelist for Holy Week services at Tigert United Methodist Church, Hot Springs. Miss Jill Howard, of Hot Springs, was a featured soloist. The Rev. E. S. Wagner is pastor.

TWENTY UMY members of Waldron United Methodist Church and their sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Will Harris and Mr. and Mrs. Butch Johnston, spent a recent weekend in a retreat at Shoal's Creek Camp near Paris.

Obituary

OREN HINSON

Mr. Oren Hinson, a member of Hunter United Methodist Church, Little Rock, died at a Little Rock hospital on April 10 at age 69. Survivors include his wife, Carlene Hinson; three daughters, Mrs. Lenora Blaylock, Mrs. Sherry Brickey, and Mrs. Barbara Goins, all of Little Rock; a sister, Mrs. Floyd Goode, and two brothers, Heiman Hinson of North Little Rock, and Leroy Hinson of Pine Bluff.

Mr. Hinson, a retired employee of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., was regarded as a stalwart in his church, having served in virtually every area of leadership. He was instrumental in the relocation, several years ago, of Hunter Church to its present site on Romine Road. He continued a long-time ministry of visitation in the homes of church members and administered communion to shut-ins on a regular basis until ill health prevented. On Feb. 15, the Hunter congregation had honored him with a special "Oren Hinson Day."

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Nick Evans, pastor, and the Rev. Fred Arnold Sr.

Daily Bible Readings

May 16—Sunday Isa. 49:5-13
May 17 Acts 10:30-48
May 18 Acts 14:21-27
May 19 Acts 16:6-15
May 20 Acts 16:16-34
May 21 Romans 10:1-13
May 22 Eph. 3:1-13
May 23 Gen. 32:24-30

FAYETTEVILLE District United Methodist Women sponsored a recent Mission Tour to Fort Smith in which 25 UMW members from Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale, Siloam Springs and Fayetteville participated. Transporting the group was the Central Church (Fayetteville) bus. The tour began at Mallalieu Center where the Rev. Robert Felder and Mrs. Hazel Pegues, staff members described the work of the center, where the group also had their sack lunches. From there the Rev. Pryor Cruce, Midland Heights pastor, directed a tour of three other projects — the Interfaith Center, a branch of the Children's Home, and the Methodist Nursing Home and Village. Mrs. Maurice Lanier of Fayetteville was chairperson for the tour.

THE RECEPTION of 18 new members, ten of whom were members of the Confirmation Class, and a christening, highlighted the Easter morning worship service at Des Arc. New Bethel Church received one new member, a father, whose young son was christened during that church's Easter service. The Rev. Don Eubanks is pastor at Des Arc and New Bethel churches.

MINISTERS' WIVES ANNOUNCE CONFERENCE LUNCHEON

Little Rock District Parsonettes, hostesses for this year's Little Rock Conference Ministers' Wives Luncheon, announce that the event will be held Wednesday, June 16 at 1 p.m. at the Lake Hamilton Holiday Inn. Tickets for the luncheon, which will follow a Bicentennial theme, will be on sale at Conference at \$4.25 per person in the Book Room, and must be purchased by 2 p.m. on Monday, June 14. (Bicentennial dress is optional.) Tickets may be secured prior to Conference by sending the money and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. Robert A. Regnier, 42 Broadmoor Drive, Little Rock, Ark. 72204. The hostesses urge ministers' wives throughout the conference to take advantage of this once-a-year opportunity for fellowship.

THE REV. FERRIS W. NORTON will receive the Doctor of Ministry degree at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in ceremonies at the Dallas campus May 15 and 16. In a note of thanks to Arkansas Methodist readers, Mrs. Norton writes "We rejoice that Ferris is no longer ill and that your love and caring contributed to his getting well." Mr. Norton, a former member of the Little Rock Conference, has been on emergency leave from his pastorate in St. Louis. During his leave he has studied at Perkins. Mrs. Norton invites friends to a celebration dinner on Sunday evening, May 16. RSVP to: Apt. 103, Hawk Hall, Perkins School of Theology, SMU, Dallas, Tex. 75275.

CONWAY DISTRICT PARSONETTES held a "Spring Fling" April 30-May 1 on Petit Jean Mountain. The 13 participating ministers' wives who shared fun, fellowship, inspiration and relaxation concluded the event with dinner at Mather Lodge.

FIRST CHURCH, Conway, hosted ecumenical noontime services during Holy Week, with ministers from various churches in the city delivering the messages. Guest clergymen were: Father Joseph A. Behr, St. Joseph's Catholic Church; the Rev. John Shell, First Presbyterian; the Rev. Jack Dell, First Nazarene; the Rev. Richard Bradley, associate pastor, Central Baptist, and the Rev. James M. McKay Jr., pastor of Salem United Methodist Church and Wesley Foundation minister at the University of Central Arkansas at Conway. Dr. Harold Eggenberger is pastor of the host church. Soup and sandwiches were served following the Monday through Friday services.

AD RATES

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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.

FOR SALE: 16 church pews, 13 feet 9 inches long; 2 pews, 10 feet long. Padded seats and racks for books, pencils and envelopes. May be seen at First United Methodist Church, Norphlet. Call 546-2577 or write P.O. Box 28, Norphlet, Ark. 71759.

POEMS WANTED

The ARKANSAS SOCIETY OF POETS is compiling a book of poems. If you have written a poem and would like our selection committee to consider it for publication, send your poem and self-addressed stamped envelope to:

ARKANSAS SOCIETY OF POETS
610 Rock Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

DYER United Methodist Church will celebrate with a Bicentennial Homecoming on Sunday, May 16, with Dr. Charles McDonald, Fort Smith District superintendent, speaking. Mr. Ralph Jennings will lead the singing. Following the 9:45 a.m. worship service, new stained glass windows and other memorial gifts will be dedicated. At 2 p.m. there will be a memorial service at the Dyer Cemetery where five Methodist ministers are buried. Pastor Dorothy Collier and the congregation invite former members and friends to join in the day's activities.



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United Methodists in Arkansas



Camden District United Methodist Women Meet

Dr. Noe Gonzales (second from right), president of Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Tex., was the guest speaker for the service of installation of Camden District United Methodist Women at their recent meeting in First Church, El Dorado. Shown with him (left to right) are the Rev. John Walker, Smackover pastor; Mrs. Prothro and husband, the Rev. David Prothro

of Sparkman; the Rev. Howard Williams, pastor of First Church, Camden; (Dr. Gonzales); and Mrs. Walker. CENTER PHOTO: District officers installed, left to right, were Mrs. Sula Burnham, Sybil Cole, Trebie Shaw, Sissy Burton, Joyce Walker, Margaret Cannefax, Sharron Rammack, Marguerite Branch, Augusta Dumas, Tabbie Moore and President Oma Lee Anthony. PHOTO

AT RIGHT: Joyce Walker (center), district coordinator for Christian Personhood, was the coordinator for a recent prayer retreat for Camden District UMW's. "Everything you wanted to know about prayer and was afraid to ask," was the theme of the event held at Marysville Church. Shown also are other district officers who attended.



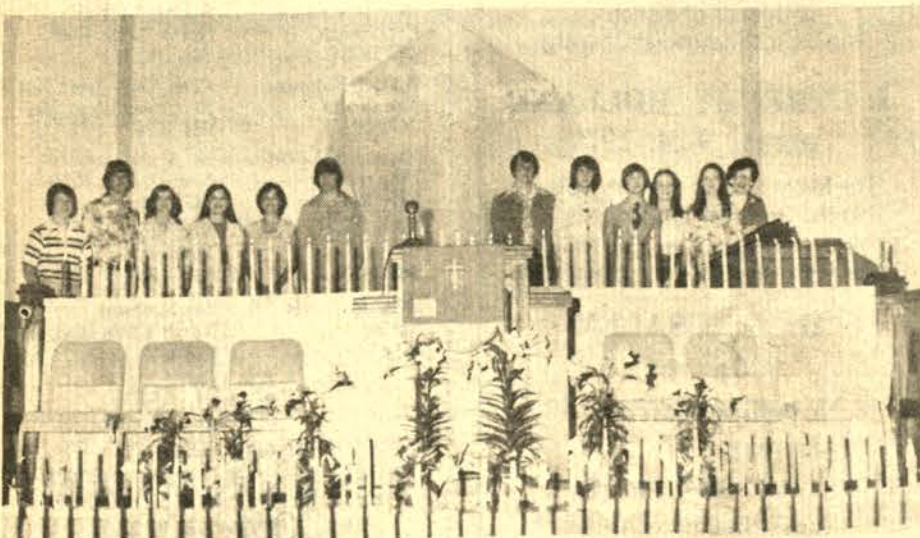
Some Washed Dishes . . . And Some Hunted Eggs

United Methodist Men of Hamilton Church served breakfast to the congregation following an Easter Sunrise Service at which the Rev. Alfred DeBlack, pastor of the Carlisle-Hamilton Charge presented the message. Shown above, right, are the children following the traditional Easter egg hunt held after the Sunday School hour.



Class Confirmed At Mt. Carmel

The Rev. Charles Nance, pastor of Mt. Carmel Church at Jonesboro, received this class into full membership on Palm Sunday.



Piggott Youth Led Holy Week Services

Worshippers gathered at Piggott United Methodist Church from 7:30 to 7:55 o'clock each morning during Holy Week for Candlelighting Services conducted by the senior high youth. Three rows of white tapers were lighted by persons of all ages as they arrived at the church. A lily-covered cross, shrouded in white net was spotlighted to form the focal point, as the youth presented scripture, poems, vocal numbers and prayers. The sacrament of Holy Communion and a breakfast for the youth, sponsored by United Methodist Women climaxed the week-long activities. The Rev. Ellsworth Watson is pastor at Piggott.

District Vacation Church School Workshops In Little Rock Conference



Little Rock District Workshop

Dr. Jamey Dial, a member of St. James Church, Little Rock, and children of that congregation, take part in a demonstration of learning skills. Mrs. James L. Pitts is district coordinator of Children's Ministry.



Camden District Staff

Mrs. Marie Tucker (seated right), Little Rock Conference coordinator of Children's Ministry, coordinated the district workshops held during the period between April 19-27. Mrs. A. L. Gathright (standing at center) presided over the Camden District event in the absence of Coordinator Mrs. James R. Brown.



Pine Bluff District Staff

Mrs. Larry Williams (right) is coordinator of children's work in Pine Bluff District.



Monticello District Staff and Representatives of Churches

Mrs. N. G. Garrett (seated second from right) coordinates the ministry to children in Monticello District.



Hope District Staff

Coordinator for Children's Ministry in Hope District is Mrs. Darrel Bone (seated at left).



Arkadelphia District Staff

Coordinator Sue Stone (second from right) of Gardner Church, Hot Springs, called on her pastor, the Rev. Vurl Bland (right), to assist other members of the staff (shown here) in the Arkadelphia District workshop.