

# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
76  
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## Release of new volume is historic event in Arkansas Methodism

**Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976**, by Dr. Walter N. Vernon, the long-looked-forward-to new volume of the history of Methodism in Arkansas, was officially released this week. Its publication marks the culmination of three years' work by the author and five years' planning by the book's publisher, the Joint Committee For the History of Arkansas Methodism. The volume is the third officially commissioned by the church since its founding in Arkansas approximately 160 years ago.

At a May 20 meeting of the Joint Committee (of the two Annual Conferences in Arkansas), of which Bishop Eugene M. Frank is honorary chairman and Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, pastor of Little Rock's Winfield Church is chairman, it was announced that 1350 orders for the book had been received, surpassing the goal of 1200 set for the publication date of May 25. Some 1000 volumes remain available for sale.

Speaking to the approximately 25 members of the committee present at the May 20 luncheon meeting, Bishop Frank hailed the new volume as one which is "not just a story of the people and the Church, but an account in considerable depth about the issues before Americans and the world, revealing how the people of Arkansas responded to them." He called the book "a significant contribution which researchers across the country will value."

Bishop William C. Martin of Little Rock, retired, who was named an official consultant to the committee upon its organization in May, 1971, spoke to the group saying it was "a very exciting experience" to see the project develop.

He said he hoped that many congregations and groups across the two Conferences would utilize the book in perpetuating the consciousness of their church's history.

Dr. Vernon spoke briefly, expressing gratitude for the aid given him during his research for the volume. He said that many lay persons, pastors, local churches and agencies had given valuable assistance in the project. Chairman Hozendorf expressed the committee's appreciation to Mrs. Vernon, present with her husband, for her valued assistance given throughout the volume's preparation.

The committee extended the pre-publication date price of the book (\$7.95) to June 17, the adjournment date of the last of the two Annual Conference sessions. After that date the price will be \$9.95, or as determined by the Finance Committee. Volumes may be purchased at the North Arkansas Conference Council Office, 715 Center St.,

### ORDERED A VOLUME? HERE'S HOW TO GET IT

The Joint Committee For the History of Arkansas Methodism announces that person who have ordered copies of the new history volume may pick them up at the North Arkansas Conference Council Office, 715 Center St., Little Rock, or at the book display at the Annual Conference sessions in June. Pastors are urged to pick up copies for persons in their church who will not be attending the Conference sessions.

Little Rock, or at the Annual Conference sessions in June. (See boxed item for information on how to secure volumes which have been ordered.)

### New history third in Arkansas Methodism

The new history of Methodism in Arkansas, published this week (see article, this page), is the third volume to be officially commissioned by the church since its founding in the state. The first, **History of Methodism in Arkansas**, by the Rev. Horace Jewell, was published in 1892. The second, **Centennial History of Arkansas Methodism**, by Dr. James A. Anderson, was published in 1935.

The volume released this week covers the period from the beginning of Methodism in Arkansas (approximately 1816) through the year 1975. Its publication marks the 140th anniversary of the organization of the Arkansas Conference and the approximate 160th anniversary of Methodism in the state, and coincides with the nation's Bicentennial Year celebration.

The new 490-page volume, entitled **Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976**, authored by Dr. Walter N. Vernon of Nashville, Tenn. (see interview, this page), contains a prologue, 21 chapters and an epilogue. The chapters are divided into five sections, the subject of which are The Church on the Frontier, The Church in Years of Turmoil, The Church Develops its Institutions, The Church Develops Widening Concerns,



Author, Dr. Walter N. Vernon and Dr. C. Ray Hozendorf, chairman of the Joint Committee For the History of Arkansas Methodism with new volume.

and The Church and Changing Times. The prologue is entitled A New Nation — A New Church, and the epilogue, Being a Methodist in Arkansas. The volume is manufactured by The Parthenon Press, Nashville, Tenn., and is copyrighted by the publisher, the Joint Committee For the History of Arkansas Methodism. It was produced at a cost of approximately \$21,000.

Dr. John L. Ferguson, state historian and executive of the Arkansas History Commission, called the new volume "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." He said "for more than 150 years Methodists have been a vital role in the history of Arkansas," and that Dr. Vernon's book "traces and analyzes this role in superb fashion."

## Arkansas Methodism: 'The pioneer spirit is still there!'

An interview with Dr. Walter N. Vernon

Dr. Walter N. Vernon of Nashville, Tenn., is author of the new volume, **Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976**, published this week (see related items, this page.) A retired former executive of the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church, Dr. Vernon is a widely published author. Among books he has written are **William Stevenson, Riding Preacher**; **Methodism Moves Across North Texas**; **Forever Building, the Life and Ministry of Paul E. Martin**; **United Methodist Profile**; and **Guidelines for Local Church Publications**. He is currently at work on volume two of **The History of The Methodist Publishing House**.

At the time of his retirement in 1972, Dr. Vernon was serving as executive editor of General Publications of The United Methodist Church and administrative associate in the Division of Curriculum Resources of the Board of Education. He is a ministerial member of the North Texas Conference, for which he serves as official historian. He is chairman of the South Central Jurisdiction's Commission on Archives and History and is president of the Texas United Methodist Historical Society.

Dr. and Mrs. Vernon, the former Ruth Mason of Paris, Texas, make their home at 4013 Dorcas Drive, Nashville, Tenn.

On May 7, the Arkansas Methodist interviewed Dr. Vernon concerning his experiences in writing the new volume. Portions of that interview, conducted at the recent General Conference in Portland, Ore., are reported here.

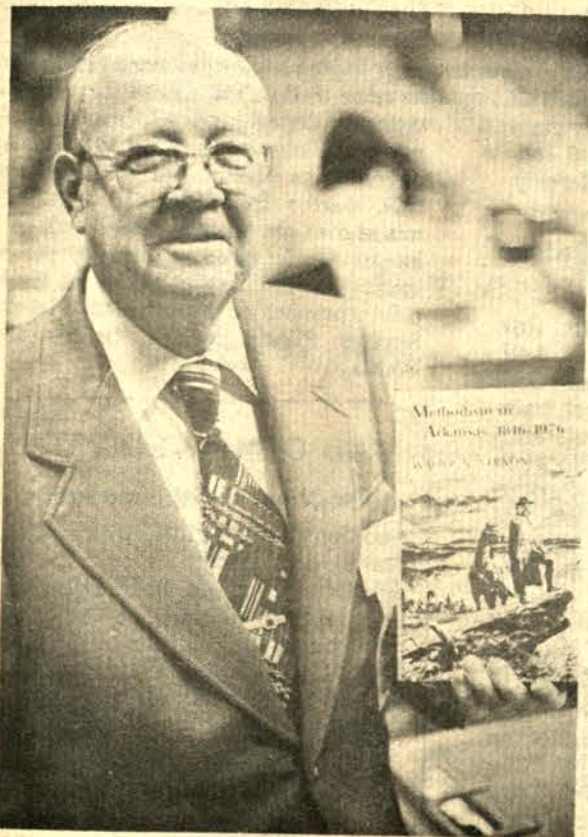
**Arkansas Methodist:** After three years of research into the 160 years of Methodism in Arkansas, and writing about your findings, what major impressions do you hold about Arkansas Methodists?

**Dr. Walter N. Vernon:** Well, it's been a fruitful experience indeed! I have been able, I think, to get pretty well inside the thinking of Arkansas Methodists and see how they have faced problems across the years, and how they have worked out solutions to various issues.

And the feeling that comes to the fore is that Arkansas Methodism has been very vital! It has been basic in its approach and in its commitment. For example, it has, from the early years, had an interest in the outreach of the gospel. One illustration of this is the way that so many Arkansas preachers went into the work with the Indian people.

And this vitality is also illustrated by the large number of outstanding persons who have served in both overseas and home missions. The names that stand out are such as John W. Cline, O. E. Goddard, A. W. Wasson and others. There are some more recent and some contemporary names which would have to be listed also.

And you have to say that Arkansas Methodism has supplied a great many outstanding churchmen to so many areas of the Church. It's dangerous to begin listing names, but among such would be people like John Score, Paul Quillian, W. C. Martin, Marshall Steel,



Dr. Vernon with a copy of his completed volume.

(Continued on page four)



### Collector's Item At North Arkansas Conference

At the Tuesday evening Bicentennial Worship of the North Arkansas Annual Conference a few treasured items will be distributed destined to add prestige to those fortunate enough to receive one.

Five hundred (inscribed) hand fans will be distributed recalling earlier days when they were all the air-conditioning worshippers had.

String ties will also be given out to adorn the dress of men inappropriately attired for the occasion.

These items will be distributed by the aggressive, strong, youthful and persuasive ushers, all members of the Conference Youth Council.

Dr. Jim Workman, worship leader, has said that "no drinking or lola-gagan, or rowdiness will be permitted or tolerated near the church-house."

—The Rev. Dick Haltom, Worship Chairman

### 'Upton dinner' to be held as scheduled

In light of the recent illness of Dr. James F. Upton, inquiries have come regarding the dinner planned for May 28 in his honor, marking his retirement after 33 years of teaching at Hendrix College. The committee reports that the dinner will be held as planned and that Dr. Upton hopes to be in attendance. The event will be at 6 p.m., Friday, May 28, in Hendrix' Hulen Hall.



### Brookland Church Plant Consecrated

Officials of Brookland United Methodist Church and Dr. J. Ralph Hillis (left), Jonesboro District superintendent, who officiated at the recent consecration service for the church's new sanctuary and education building. They are, left to right, Mr. Mickey Neff, Church School superintendent; Mr. Wilson Shipman, Administrative Board chairman; the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, pastor; Mrs. Luna Coy, president of United Methodist Women; Mr. Terry Rackley, lay leader and Mr. Alva A. Neff Sr., Trustee and Building Committee chairman.



Constructed at a cost of \$120,000 only \$40,000 remains to be paid on indebtedness for the new facility which seats 190 persons. In addition to the sanctuary, the building houses a fellowship hall and kitchen, pastor's five restrooms.



### Consecration Service At Foreman

Bishop Eugene M. Frank preached at the May 16 morning worship service at Foreman United Methodist Church and presided over a Service of Consecration for the new building shown here. The Rev. Fred Arnold, a former pastor at Foreman — now pastor of Asbury Church, Little Rock, was the preacher for a revival series which began the evening of the consecration ceremonies. Choirs from neighboring churches provided special music. The Rev. Guy Downing, pastor at Foreman, has given leadership to the building program. Mr. Kelsey Moore served as Building Committee chairman and Mr. Leon Newman is Administrative Board chairman.



### LAY PASTORS' BREAKFAST, NORTH ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

Lay pastors and their wives/husbands will breakfast together at the North Arkansas Annual Conference, Wednesday, June 9, 7 a.m., at the King's Inn in Conway. Dr. Charles McDonald, delegate to the General Conference, and the Rev. Jon Guthrie, chairperson of the conference Board of Ministry, will speak informally about legislation passed by the General Conference as it affects lay pastors.

All full-time, part-time, retired and student lay pastors and their spouses are invited to attend, inasmuch as all are members of the Board of Ministry. Cost of the breakfast will be \$2.85. Reservations should be sent to the Rev. Dorothy Collier, 145 North 59th Street, Fort Smith, Ark. 72901.

### Laity Dinner tickets available

Tickets for the dinner sponsored by the Council on Lay Life and Work at the North Arkansas Conference session, to be held at 5:30 Monday, June 7 in Hendrix' Hulen Hall, are available through the seven District lay leaders, District superintendents, or by writing the Conference lay leader, Mr. Bob Cheyne, 307 Crestview, Bentonville, Ark. 72712. The dinner is for all Conference delegates, lay and clergy. Price: \$3.75.

## Hendrix convocation to honor faculty, students

CONWAY, Ark., May 24 — At its annual Honors Day convocation on May 28, Hendrix College will inaugurate its academic dean to the first endowed professorship in the history of the institution, grant awards to high-ranking students, and recognize two faculty members who are retiring.

To be inaugurated as the first Willis H. Holmes Distinguished Professor of Religion and Philosophy will be Dr. M. Francis Christie, dean of the institution since 1965. Named to the new academic chair last December, he has been succeeded as dean of the college by Dr. John R. Merrill, director of the Center for Educational Design and associate professor of physics at Florida State University.

In announcing Dr. Christie's new responsibilities, Hendrix president Dr. Roy B. Shilling Jr. cited the growth and academic program development achieved under Dean Christie's leadership.

### Arkansans Attend Training Workshop at Perkins

The Rev. Bob Edwards and the Rev. David Driver (center and right), both members of the North Arkansas Conference, participated in the first training workshop for Annual Conference consultants in Continuing Education resources, an event held at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas last month. Shown at left is Richard Murray, director of the program. The Arkansans were among 15 persons representing eleven annual conferences who looked at 100 different programs and plans and studied in detail some 15 major ones, which will be interpreted among ministers of the participating conferences. The training event is a part of Perkins' "New Directions" program for Continuing Education.

The endowed academic chair is named in memory of the late Mr. Willis H. Holmes of Little Rock, who prior to his death in January, 1975, was a senior partner in the law firm of House, Holmes and Jewell. A 1921 graduate of Hendrix, Mr. Holmes received the college's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1971.

Faculty members retiring, who are to be recognized at the May 28 convocation, are Dr. Margaret E. Fitch and Dr. James S. Upton. Dr. Fitch, professor of psychology and chairperson of the psychology department, came to Hendrix in 1965 and assumed her present duties in 1972. A native of Chicago, she earned the B.A. degree from Bucknell University and the Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.

Dr. Upton has served since 1943, when he came to Hendrix, as chairman of the college's department of religion. A native of Plainview, he received the B.A. degree from Hendrix in 1931 and the B.D. degree from SMU in 1934. A ministerial member of the North Arkansas Conference, he served, before coming to Hendrix, as pastor of Methodist churches in Fort Smith, Eureka Springs, Siloam Springs, Osceola and Conway.

### MAD CAMP AUDITIONS

#### For "Jesus Christ Superstar"

Auditions for principal roles in this year's production, "Jesus Christ Superstar," will be held Saturday, June 12, from 10 until 2 at Methodist Headquarters, 715 Center, Little Rock. Orchestra auditions may also be held at this time. For more information — contact:

Carr Dee Racop Jr.  
715 Center, Room 202  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501/374-5027



From the Bottom of the Heart

# Economic development, Yes! Liquor stampede, No!

An issue is taking shape in our state which promises to confront Arkansans with some decisions of significant import in regard to how alcoholic beverages are to be regulated. On May 17 the Economic Development Study Commission recommended that state laws should be changed to allow beverage alcohol to be served at public and private overnight recreation facilities located in dry counties. The proposal would exempt such facilities, which include all state-owned park lodges, from present laws prohibiting such sales.

The commission, created by the 1975 legislature to seek ways to improve the state's economic development through the next 20 years, was reported in a May 18 story in the *Arkansas Gazette* as stating that the change would enable such facilities to compete for conventions and business group meetings whose requirements "generally include several cocktail parties as well as the sale of alcoholic beverages on an individual basis." The commission's recommendations are to go to the governor and the General Assembly by Oct. 1. A two-thirds vote of the elected members in each house of the legislature (24 in the Senate, 67 in the House) would be required to change current laws governing local option elections.

The newspaper account reported that the commission's recommendation was made "unanimously and with little discussion." In challenge to that unanimous expression, we submit that the commission's recommendation demands wide and serious discussion in that it represents a radical change in the laws under which Arkansas' citizens have long determined such matters, and, in our opinion, represents what we choose to call an issue of no small moral dimensions.

We submit that the proposal is highly objectionable and should be denied for a number of reasons:

- It would put the state officially in the liquor business, opening the way for liquor outlets at other state-owned facilities (such as on college and university campuses, as is currently done in some states);

- The recommendation represents a presumptuous disregard for the will of the people in the 44 of the state's 75 counties who for 34 years have voted — and in numerous instances repeatedly — that their counties remain dry.

- The proposal would, in effect, see the business community and the legislature accomplish — and this without letting the citizens vote on the matter — what the liquor industry has not been able to achieve in these 44 counties for the past 34 years.

- The recommendation is made in the name of economic development — a premise we believe is arguable. While we are happy for legitimate efforts to enhance the economic well-being of our citizens, we challenge the contention that the recommendation will insure economic benefits. We believe that a convincing case can be made to the contrary; that beverage alcohol is a proven economic, as well as social, liability — not an asset — to the total community. We urge the commission and all other interested parties to make a full, fair and unbiased examination of that position.

We applaud the efforts of individuals in seeking to improve our state's economic status, but we disagree that this recommendation is in that category. We are strongly opposed to it and urge its denial by the Governor and by the legislature.

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## Has Methodism lost its voice on the 'number one drug issue'?

Any consideration of the liquor question must soon acknowledge that the issue of beverage alcohol constitutes our nation's number one drug problem. In a recent interview in the *Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine*, Dr. Weldon Vogt, professor of psychology at Ouachita University, was quoted as saying that alcohol is the third leading cause of death in this nation, that it is much harder on the body than heroin is, that the physical effects of heroin are not as harmful as alcohol's, and that the withdrawal pains of heroin are shorter and usually not as dangerous as those of the socially acceptable number one drug, beverage alcohol.

It is a telling indictment that given what we now know about alcohol, if beverage alcohol were to have been discovered or developed today, its use and manufacture would be outlawed by an enraged citizenry.

But what has happened — though we occasionally see glimmers of hope that this attitude is changing — is that beverage alcohol, because of its widespread

social acceptability, has gained an immunity from the vigorous attacks which the other notorious but less socially damaging drugs are experiencing today.

Regrettably, a conspiracy of silence has too often greeted the alcohol issue. Socially sensitive persons, many of them members of the Church, who are bold in their stance in regard to many other social ills, are strangely silent or ambivalent when it comes to dealing with the nation's number one drug.

Perhaps as much as any other single issue, the manner in which many in the Church — including many United Methodists — respond to the beverage alcohol issue, is painfully revealing of the degree to which the Church has accommodated itself to the nation's social opinions and practices. It would almost seem that on this issue the Church, rather than having sought to transform the world, has conformed to the world.

It appears, in the issue now taking shape (see editorial above), that United Methodists in Arkansas will have the challenge and opportunity to make a witness where it counts in regard to a vital issue relating to the alcohol drug problem. There are some who say that United Methodism has lost its voice on this issue. We don't believe that. Events may soon give us the opportunity to make our own response to such an indictment.

†

## Off the Top of the Head

### Eye bawl

She won't especially appreciate my blabbing this to you, but my wife hurried me out of bed the other morning with the alarming report that she had just lost one of her contact lens down the drain in the bathroom sink, and would I come, real quick, and see if I could "catch up with it" before it was too late, which I almost broke my toe trying to do, running half asleep toward the bathroom, missing the sharp left turn and almost breaking our full length mirror, which I don't like anyway and wouldn't have minded breaking if it wouldn't have meant busting my toe in the process.

"Catch up with it?" I said, after banging my head on the underside of the sink and coming full awake. "How in the world do you 'catch up' with a contact lense that is racing at the speed of water down the drain pipe?" She didn't answer that, but the \$50 signs in her good eye — the one that had the other contact in it — let me know pronto that I'd better get my tools and stuff and try to catch up with that lens no matter what the odds.

And try I did, and after about 30 minutes of bumping and scraping my knuckles and head and sifting and resifting water through our vegetable collander with no success, I finally gave up and told my loved one to go ahead and order another eye and we'd check the whole happy time off to experience.

Just as I finished cleaning up the mess — another 30 minutes — the thought struck my sweet wife that "Maybe it fell on the rug here," and she reached down, gave the bathroom mat a shake, and sure enough, out fell the lost lens!

To be frank, I didn't know whether to be happy or enraged about that. But Liz was quick to point out the economic benefits of the situation so I quickly decided to be happy.

She didn't tell me until breakfast was almost over that it was a good thing that we found that other lens, because she couldn't find her regular glasses. I think I broke a tooth on my bananas and Nabisco Shredded Wheat when she told me that. And I told her that if it was okay with her we'd look for them in the morning, but I don't think she heard me because her car was roaring full speed in reverse out of the driveway, headed toward her school. So I doubt, too, if she heard me when I yelled to her to "Have a good day!"

†

*John*

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# Methodism in Arkansas: interview with author

(Continued from page one)

Paul Galloway, Bryan Brawner — and there are so many others that should be named!

**A.M.:** Is Arkansas unusual in making such a contribution? How do you account for it?

**Dr. Vernon:** Yes, I think Arkansas is unusual in the number of leaders it has produced. As to accounting for it, it may be that the state, in its earlier era, was the scene of missionary movement from back east, in Tennessee. It took daring men who were willing to pull up roots, to go out across the Mississippi River to Arkansas, across the wilderness — which it really was then — and go and preach to the people, to serve them. And when they did, others from among them would push on further. It is a pioneer spirit that is still in the state!

Incidentally, something Bishop (Kenneth W.) Pope said on this is relevant. He said that he was impressed with the sense of freshness in matters of church life in Arkansas. He said that Arkansas Methodism is "not tired," that it hasn't been disillusioned by life and the world around it. He said there is still a strong element of "the centrality of the Church and the wholeness of the gospel" in the Church in Arkansas. I thought that was a high tribute.

**A.M.:** What have you seen to be the strengths of Methodism in Arkansas?

**Dr. Vernon:** One of its greatest strengths, without question, is the basic loyalty to the Church which has been demonstrated by Arkansas lay people. Marshall Steel comments on that (in the book). He said that the lay people of Arkansas will respond and rally to the right kind of leadership. And they have demonstrated that in a number of ways, of course.

Another strength has been shown in your efforts to keep in touch with the rural areas, where so many people are moving. You've tried to keep the Church there to serve them. I think Arkansas can take pride in trying to revive and keep alive their rural churches! This is important, because it looks like the nation is going back to the rural areas now, more than in recent years.

Another strength has been the educational leadership

you've had for the local church. This comes through clearly in such people as John Schisler, Clem Baker, Ira Brumley and others since them. These three gave such long terms to educational work that they are outstanding in the whole denomination.

And, too, I think Arkansas has made great improvement in its understanding of and practices of worship. I have found a vitality of worship in the Annual Conferences. And this influences the local church, too. I've been greatly impressed with the depth, the earnestness and vitality and the right use of new forms of worship which have been demonstrated in both the North Arkansas and Little Rock Conference sessions I have attended in these last few years.

**A.M.:** What have you observed to be the weaknesses of Methodism in Arkansas?

**Dr. Vernon:** One weakness would be a rather slow recognition of the social dimensions of the gospel. That is certainly not unique in Arkansas. It is typical of the whole Church in many ways. And (compared to the present day) it is simply a comment on how much the Church has moved across the years.

This "slow recognition" is illustrated in the book in references to at least two experiences the Church had with labor issues. One was in regard to a railroad strike in north Arkansas where a Methodist layman was lynched because he was on the side of labor, and in eastern Arkansas when the Southern Tenant Farmers Union was being organized. The Church simply had not trained its people how to deal with such issues.

Another weakness — and this, too, could be said about the Church in many states — is that there is not as thorough a grounding in basic theology as we would perhaps like to have. But, on the other hand, Arkansas did a unique and excellent job a few years ago, and is still doing it to some extent, of having a series of Bible conferences, bringing in outstanding scholars who have helped our lay people to better understand the Bible. This has been very helpful and has helped Arkansas avoid going off into some excesses which might have otherwise been the case.

**A.M.:** Reflecting on our 160 years' history, is there a

"high water mark" that you see as especially outstanding?

**Dr. Vernon:** I think that one of the outstanding movements would be the effort to bring together into one school all the higher education concerns. This was a very difficult task because of the various colleges that you had. And they naturally had strong devotees. And it was traumatic for some of those schools to be discontinued! And yet the leadership of the Conference felt that in order for Methodism in Arkansas to have a first class college, they had to center on one. The book traces that story.

And I think that (the result) has been that Arkansas has, in Hendrix College, a fine — and I think you would say great — college, with continuing efforts to make it one of the finest senior colleges in the nation.

**A.M.:** Having looked so closely at the Church's past, how do you feel about its future?

**Dr. Vernon:** The Church in the future is going, I think, to go through difficult days. It is not as popular now as it was ten or 12 years ago, even, to join the Church. The last chapter in the book touches on this some. The Church went through a period of popularity, then through a period of questioning, where Church people — especially some leaders — were very critical of the Church. Then, I think we've now come to a time of reaffirmation of the Church and its values.

But it's not the accepted norm today that the Church speaks and everybody in business and politics just falls in line. In the days to come people will not just automatically rush to the Church. I'm basically an optimist, but I think you have to be a realist and not be Pollyannish. You must really face the issues as they are and the real odds that, I think, are against the Church today.

The Church is going to have to win its way! It must have lay people and ministers who will be followed because they are people of integrity and wisdom. The Church needs people who will give of themselves unselfishly for the cause of Christ!

†

## More than you wanted to know about 'that book'

Some rummagings by the editor

It weighs two pounds (on our Arkansas Methodist office scales), measures 6¼ by 9¼ inches, or 37 by 55 picas (according to the ruler on the editor's desk), contains 490 numbered pages plus ten other blank or unnumbered leaves, has a pretty red hard-binding cover with an embossed emblem (a descending dove with olive branch, the Holy Spirit symbol) on its front — the donated work of Holland Leavitt and Associates, Inc., Miss Susan Kittrell, artist, and has a black-and-white book jacket with artwork depicting a "circuit rider (taking) the gospel to the frontier," the work of artist Robert Addison (copyright 1963 by The Methodist Publishing House), which jacket also contains introductory and review comments plus a brief biographical statement about the author.

The volume contains a table of contents, an "About this Book" statement by the author, a prologue, 21 chapters (grouped in five sections), an epilogue, an extensive listing of footnote references (41 pages), three Appendices (Arkansas Missionary Roster, Organization Dates of the Churches, and Names of Conference Members), and a complete index (12 pages) compiled by the author's wife.

According to Dr. Walter N. Vernon, the book's author, the volume was researched and written over a three-year period and required 1024 handwritten pages ("I never learned to compose on the typewriter"),

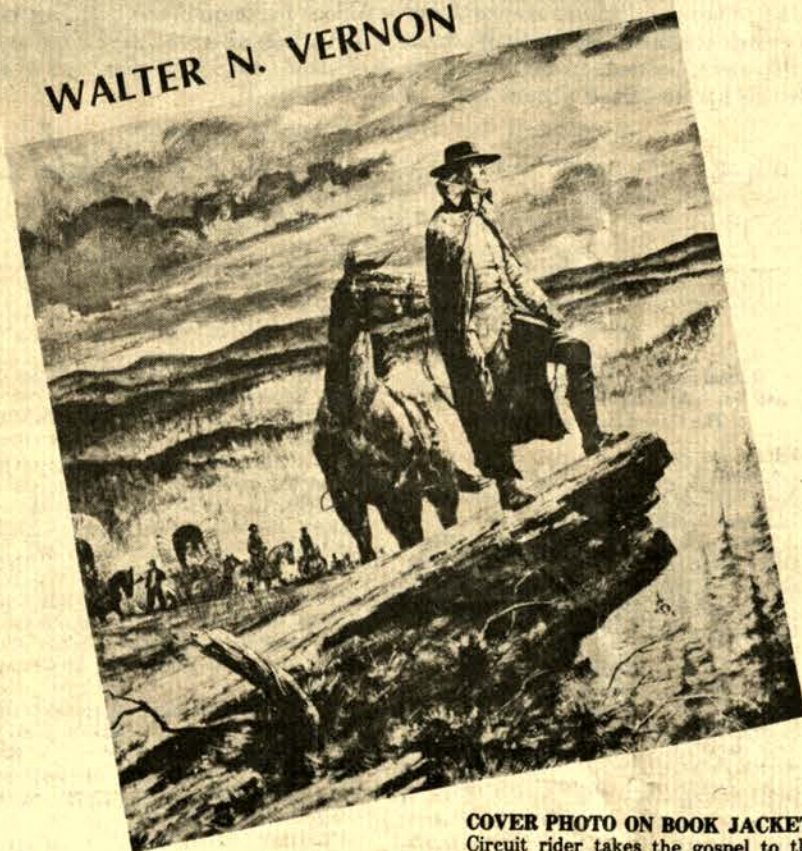
"dozens" of ballpoint and other pens ("The nylon-tipped ones are better"), a "whole bunch" of pencils, at least ten trips from Nashville, Tenn. to Arkansas, and "more than \$55 in dimes" spent at the Hendrix College Library's copy machine during a full month spent there in the most extensive period of research on the volume.

Noting that some secular historians in Arkansas had "taken a rather dim view" of earlier histories of the church in the state, Dr. Vernon stated that he was determined to do as much research in original sources as possible. "These earlier writers did the best job they could with what they had, but unfortunately they did not always adequately identify their sources," he says. "So I set out to try to get as much original data as I could from primary sources." To do this he utilized diaries, journals, back volumes of the Arkansas Methodist, the Arkansas Gazette and other publications. He calls such sources "indispensable."

Dr. Vernon acknowledges one other invaluable aid in writing the volume: his wife. Mrs. Vernon accompanied her husband on many of his trips to Arkansas, gave assistance in the research and was responsible for compiling the book's extensive index, which lists every name mentioned in the volume and gives the page or pages on which it appears.

## Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976

WALTER N. VERNON



COVER PHOTO ON BOOK JACKET: Circuit rider takes the gospel to the frontier. Art by Robert Addison. Copyright 1963 by The Methodist Publishing House. Reproduced here by permission.



## From Our Readers

### ON ANNOUNCING APPOINTMENTS

To the Editor:

I like what (was) said in (the editorial in the issue of May 13) about the time and place for the announcements of ALL ministerial appointments. Treat every church and every minister fairly. This can be done only when the appointments are finalized at Annual Conference, and the appointments are officially read at the last session.

According to the *Methodist* of March 4, and repeated May 13, the Bishop and his cabinets have agreed to wait till Annual Conference this year to publish the appointments. I am confident that they will keep that promise. Then, I hope that this proven practice of success will prevail for decades to come.

Herston R. Holland  
P.O. Box 42  
Beebe, Ark. 72012

### LOUDER THAN WORDS

To the Editor:

Much has been said about the need for evangelism throughout the United Methodist Church in recent years and I concur with the bishops' appeal for a special emphasis on evangelism in their "state of the church" address on opening day of General Conference. There could be a reason, however, why so little has been accomplished in the field of evangelism, after so much has been said.

While a concerted effort is being made in the current General Conference to change the Discipline to conform to some pet social situations that are irrelevant to the Church's Christian mission in the world, it may be good reason for many people to become disenchanted with the United Methodist Church and go to some other church. While this question is one that is being heard throughout the entire church, there are situations at our own front door in Arkansas that merit careful attention . . .

. . . What those in places of leadership do in their own conferences speaks much louder than what they say in General Conference.

G. D. Priest  
Waldron, Arkansas 72958

### Council Directors to Local Churches

## 'Continental Walk'

Since Aug. 6, 1945, with the atomic bombing of the people of Hiroshima, the great powers have talked about disarmament. They have called for disarmament while planning new weapons. They have denounced each other while budgeting more funds for death. They have talked to us of arms control while making their bombs and missiles more deadly. Today the nations of the world are more heavily armed than ever.

Thirty years have passed and it is still not clear to all that war has become a crime against humanity. These thirty years of steady military escalation have meant another kind of war on our neighbors. It is the death of sickness for which there is not enough medicine. It is the death of starvation because there is not enough food. To prevent nuclear war lies within our power. But what of those who are dying now because we attend to military matters before we heed the cries of human suffering?

In the spirit of this country's 200th anniversary the American Friends Service Committee, Catholic Peace Fellowship, Catholic Worker, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Fellowship of Reconciliation,

## Gardner Memorial going 'all out' for celebration

Weeks of careful planning and co-operative effort by the congregation of Gardner Memorial Church in North Little Rock will culminate in a Bicentennial Weekend this Friday, Saturday and Sunday — May 28, 29 and 30 — which will include a wide assortment of nostalgia-filled events.

The Friday evening "opener," to begin at 6 p.m., will be an old timey Box Supper Social, complete with auctioneer, followed by a "Community Sing," according to Bettye French, general chairperson for the celebration.

The Saturday billing calls for a Fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. featuring all types of booths, a snack bar, memorabilia exhibit, cake walk, a UMW Corner, fishing pond and candid pictures. The oldest man and woman who have been active in the church for the greatest number of years will be chosen to reign as "King and Queen." Such competitive games as horseshoes, checkers, dominoes, dodge ball, marbles, weight guessing and many others will test the skill of participating fair-goers. A series of afternoon contests for persons in all age brackets will include an "over and under relay," cracker eating, a potato sack race, and such. The day's activities will climax when the congregation comes together at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck supper, an old-fashioned vaudeville and a style show featuring both modern and Early American fashions.

Gardnerites have been requested to attend Sunday morning church school and worship in costumes typifying early American attire, and to park their cars far enough from the church to have the experience of walking to services as did their forefathers. As worshippers gather, a "town crier" will be in evidence "ringing out the news."

Sack lunches followed by a simulated "Ole Time Church Meeting" under the direction of the pastors, Dr. Charles Casteel and the Rev. Shelton Kilgore, will complete Gardner's Bicentennial celebration. The public is invited to participate in the event at 18th and Schaer Streets.

Sane, Southern Leadership Conference, War Resisters League, War Tax Resistance, Women Strike for Peace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, are sponsoring a CONTINENTAL WALK for disarmament and social justice.

The main Walk is now in Arizona with feeder walks from New Orleans, Colorado and Texas in progress.

### OUR PARTICIPATION

The Southern Region's feeder walk left Houston in early April and will arrive in Norman/Oklahoma City by June 10th. The Walk will leave Oklahoma City on June 15th. Our Arkansas car caravan will link with the feeder walk on June 13th in Oklahoma City.

It is the hope of the national sponsors that local communities will use the time that the Walk is in their area to question their local community's priorities. Perhaps these questions will help bring about a realization that great goals and priorities change are reached slowly, and that fundamental and lasting change must begin in our neighborhoods and our communities.

During the week of June 13th various cities throughout the state of Arkansas

## NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

**Dr. Robert C. Seamans Jr.**, who heads the U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration, told a gathering of Christian press leaders: "If we don't conserve energy and fail to develop new energy sources, we could face an 'energy-dark age' in the early years of the 21st century." Dr. Seamans stressed that it would be "unethical and immoral" not to move ahead on energy development.

**A major study** of Holocaust survivors living in the U.S. has found that they "do not share the cynicism and loss of faith in American institutions that pollsters found in their fellow citizens in the '60s and '70s," according to a report prepared by American Jewish Committee's William E. Wiener Oral History Library.

**One of 250 Holocaust survivors** who participated in more than 1000 hours of interviews conducted over a two-year period was cited as presenting a comment typifying the attitude of the survivors: "I was overwhelmed first by the kindness to us strangers, and secondly by a city and country nearly without boundaries. There is the respect of the Constitution and the belief in the democratic process. Again and again I am stunned at how democracy works. I experience tolerance. America gave me a chance to start a new life."

**The College of Bishops** of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church has declared in a Bicentennial statement that the struggle of American blacks "has brought to this nation insights and lessons in democracy that not even the founding fathers dreamed of." The bishops said, "We do not enter into this observance without recognizing the fact that when the Declaration of Independence was written, it did not include the yearnings for freedom of nearly 500,000 slaves and approximately 50,000 so-called 'free' Negroes. The Declaration of Independence was a declaration of white men for the independence of white men."

**Michael C. Newman**, a Roman Catholic newspaper editor in San Diego, told the Catholic Press Association at its annual meeting that the Catholic press must deal with "points of pain" in the Church if it is to accurately reflect the Christian message. "He said, 'We . . . have to present to the world a Church in its holiness and its defects, its saints and its sinners; the deposit of truth in the world.'"

will be offering education programs on different social issues that face Arkansas. These social issues range from the United States spending priorities to Nuclear Power Plants. But all of these programs will underscore issues that are not being dealt with because national priorities spend 54 percent of the national budget on military related expenses.

The Southern Region, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma have chosen Nuclear Energy Plants as a special issue that needs on-going information and intensified action in all three states. We are therefore going to have a public discussion on the topic: "Nuclear Power Plants, Asset or Liability" during that week.

Other activities during the week of June 13th will include education about one or more of the following issues:

1. Robert Pollard, Union of Concerned Scientists, speaking about Nuclear

Four irregularly ordained Episcopal women priests have initiated an "Episcopal Church in Exodus" at the Dumbarton United Methodist Church in Washington, D.C. The four, who were among 11 women irregularly ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in Philadelphia in 1974, will alternate at services of Holy Communion on Sunday evenings, and host discussion sessions following worship, a spokesperson said.

**Americans United for Separation of Church and State** has charged that more than \$300,000 in federal, state and local public funds has been used in the past four years to teach or promote Transcendental Meditation (TM) in this country. In February the agency joined other plaintiffs in a suit in New Jersey to halt the TM program in schools. Staff members said: "If TM, a variation of Hinduism, can be taught or promoted at public expense, then public funds could be used to aid or promote any other religion, and every citizen's right to support only the religious institutions of his or her free choice would be destroyed."

**The National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has approved the use of a \$260 million satellite for a Christian broadcasting experiment called Project Look-Up. Broadcasters from some 49 participating Christian organizations will use the satellite to beam community service programs to South American countries beginning in January. Programs will deal with the whole man, spiritually, physically and intellectually, a spokesman said.

**The Rev. Billy Graham**, speaking to an overflow luncheon of the Seattle Rotary Club, commented on the need he sees for the teaching of moral values to young people. "My suggestion has been . . . that we hang up the Ten Commandments in every school room in America," the evangelist said.

**The Rev. Donovan Cook**, pastor of University Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash., said the New Testament Gospel is "a very dangerous commodity when it is mishandled by cults and sects that interpret it in a dogmatic manner." He cited two bizarre and almost identical, but separate incidents in which two young men, taking a Gospel passage literally, cut off their right hands. The Rev. Steve Hayner of University Presbyterian Church in the same city, commenting on the self-mutilations, said: "There is a movement in our day, which I think is somewhat dangerous, where people get carried away with the demands of God and don't see the love of Jesus Christ."

Power Plants June 14th, Hendrix College, Auditorium, Conway.

2. Public showings of Lovejoy's award winning documentary "Nuclear War."

3. Car Caravan June 12th to Oklahoma City, Walk with National Walkers June 13th, return to Little Rock that afternoon.

4. Women as Peacemakers.

5. Distribution of and hearings on the Peace Ballot as a public referendum.

6. Students as Peacemakers.

Anyone interested in participating in or having more information is urged to contact: Sr. Cheryl Nesbitt, Fort Smith (501-782-7341); Mary Baier, Fayetteville (501-782-1553); Sr. Leona Hoelting, Little Rock (501-664-0340); Marilyn McCray, Little Rock (501-225-2428); Regional Director: Mary Robinson, 1713 W. 11th, Austin, Tex. 78703.

Contact your Council on Ministries Office, 715 Center, Little Rock, if you are concerned and interested.



# Days of Beginning

By DR. WILLIAM C. GENTRY  
Professor, Henderson State University  
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Scripture: Acts 1:1-2; 2:22-32.

## Why Study Church History?

In this unit we shall be studying the history of the Christian Church. Some people may ask, "Why study church history when we have so many contemporary problems in church and society which demand our divided attention?" This is a good question. We do indeed have problems today to which we should address nothing less than our best thought and effort. And to concentrate our attention on things which happened two thousand years ago might conceivably be a distraction.

But the value of studying church history depends in large measure on the purpose we have for doing so. There have been numerous movements in the subsequent history of the church to recover the forms and practices of life and worship of the earliest Christians (see *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, March, 1976, Vol. XLIV, No. 1). Among these so-called "restitution movements," the most famous in this country was of course that headed by Alexander Campbell in the 1800s.

A restitution movement within the church may not be entirely without value. But if contemporary Christians should wish to study the earliest days of the church in order to try to live and worship today exactly as did Christians in the first century, the effects could be reactionary. We might come to feel quite satisfied in the belief that we are doing things precisely as we think the first Christians did them. We may believe that we are thereby fulfilling all the obligations of our calling. And, in the process, our concern for dealing with the new situations and genuinely unique issues of the late twentieth century may be diluted.

If, however, our motive is not to try to imitate the details of ancient practices but is rather to discover the unchanging principles of faith on the basis of which the Christian Church should order its life in all ages, the study of church history is not only worthwhile, it is essential.

## The Birth of the Church

The followers of Jesus had been shocked by the death of their leader. They were frightened by the prospect of suffering a fate similar to his. They felt deserted and were tempted to despair. Jesus had been such an inspiration to them. They had pinned their hopes on his promise to bring them to the fulfillment of their deepest longings. Then, suddenly and cruelly, he was gone.

Some among those who had been closest to Jesus were convinced that they had seen him alive after the

crucifixion. They testified that he had been raised from the dead. But undoubtedly many of those who had followed Jesus as he had traveled around preaching and teaching were skeptical about these accounts of his resurrection.

Then the strange events of Pentecost took place (Acts 2:1-4). Our scripture lesson includes part of one of Peter's sermons in which he is explaining what transpired on that day to reinvigorate the community of Jesus' followers. He must first defend them against a charge of being drunk and disorderly, for that was a possible reason for what appeared to outsiders to be babbling and other frenetic activities (Acts 2:13). The disciples had not been drinking this early in the day, Peter replies (Acts 2:15). Rather, he claims, the events were the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

From the experiences of the company at Pentecost and Peter's sermon we can discern the very foundation upon which the life of the Christian Church is built. It is, first of all, the shared conviction that Jesus of Nazareth is God's promised Messiah, the Christ. The Apostle sees Jesus as the descendant of King David who will fulfill all that Israel expected through the Messiah (Acts 2:30). Jesus' remembered teachings and his commission to his disciples to preach and baptize (Matthew 16:18, 18:20, 28:10-20) lie at the very base of the church's self-understanding. Moreover, that Jesus is the Christ can be known, Peter argues, from the fact that he had done "mighty works and wonders and signs" while he was in the flesh (Acts 2:22).

But he had been crucified. How can that fact be reconciled with the belief that Jesus is the Messiah? To be sure, Peter admits, Jesus was crucified. But the crucifixion was not a defeat for God. In fact, it was fully in accord with God's intention. God's invincible purpose is to demonstrate that Death has been overcome. And God has raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 2:24) just as the Old Testament had foretold (Psalm 16:10).

Death, which confronts us daily in so many forms to threaten our hopes and to frustrate our sense of what ought to be, has been overpowered in and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ lives as the present and unfailing power of God's love for those who accept him.

"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear" (Acts 2:33). When Christ was crucified his followers were not left alone to fumble around searching vainly to discover God's will for their lives. "I will pour out my Spirit," God promised through Joel (2:28-32), and he has done so (Acts 2:17-18).

The Holy Spirit is the resurrected and living Christ in our midst. Inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, the church was born. Without the Holy Spirit the church would be a lost and hopeless institution. With the continuing inspiration and guidance of the Spirit, the church lives, grows, and serves until the moment its earthly mission is completed.

## The Holy Spirit and the Church

The doctrine of the Holy Spirit has been a troublesome one for the church throughout its history. That it would be could have been anticipated by the immediate responses to the events of Pentecost.

The difficulty with developing a clear, agreed-on doctrine of the Holy Spirit stems from the fact that the Spirit is not some sort of inert principle. Because the Holy Spirit is the living Presence of God in Jesus Christ within the historical church and world, his activities are not entirely predictable. The Holy Spirit is free, more free than are we human beings.

But the writers of the New Testament and the theologians of the later church have found it necessary to make an effort to speak in a meaningful way about the Holy Spirit. The church must discover some criteria for deciding when it is really being led by the Holy Spirit and when it is not.

Van Harvey notes the various emphases of writers of the New Testament concerning the Holy Spirit.

In general it may be said that the Holy Spirit (1) is the motivating power in the birth, life, and resurrection of Christ; (2) is believed to be a miraculous power, so that miracles and other extraordinary phenomena are attributed to it; (3) is given to man with faith in Christ and is, therefore, not a natural possession but a gift empowering the faithful to live free from the compulsion to sin; (4) is continuous with the "spirit of Christ;" (5) is something that manifests itself in a new form of life characterized by joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; (6) is the author of special and diverse gifts, such as prophecy, teaching, ecstatic utterance (*glossolalia*); but, above all, (7) is that which is active in the love of the neighbor (*agape*) and, hence, is the basis for the unity of the church. (*A Handbook of Theological Terms*, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1964, 228-229)

The activities of the Holy Spirit are not capricious. They are rooted in and proceed from the character of God, just as an individual human being's actions reflect his basic character. God has shown us the basic outline of his will in the revelations of the Bible. And he has also been constantly at work in the life of the church for almost two thousand years.

Therefore, while the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst will continue to be disconcerting, it will not lead the church off onto side-roads or dead-end streets. Some persons claim that the Holy Spirit directs them to believe and to do things which are sometimes strange and bewildering to other Christians. It may be that they are really being led by the Holy Spirit. But if there appears to be a striking incongruity between such testimony and the inspired wisdom of the Bible and the historical witness of the whole Christian Church, there is reason to be cautious.

The church's life and witness, including the Bible, do not constitute a straight-jacket for the Holy Spirit, but they do provide a dependable rudder to hold the church on course.

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## Crime prevention measures advocated

PORTLAND, Ore. (UMC) — The United Methodist General Conference voted the church's support for licensing of all gun owners and registration of all firearms.

Speaking for the denomination, the General Conference also approved a statement calling upon the U.S. government "to establish a national ban on the importation, manufacture, sale and possession of handguns and handgun ammunition with reasonable exceptions."

The action on gun control came after 11:30 p.m. in the closing session of the General Conference. There was no debate on the "Policy Statement on Gun Control," which was part of an extensive resolution on "Ministries in Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and Conflict Resolution."

"We do not believe there is any Constitutional personal right to bear arms," the gun control statement says. It calls upon United Methodism's member churches to take "vigorous efforts to curb gun violence."

"Licensing provisions should require

adequate identification of gun owners and provide basic standards with respect to age, absence of mental illness and lack of a serious criminal record."

Suggested exceptions to the handgun ban would include "the police, the military, licensed security guards, antique dealers who maintain guns in unfireable condition, and licensed pistol clubs where firearms are kept on the premises under secure conditions."

In a section of the extended resolution dealing with "Police Firearms Policies" the statement calls "for the formulation of more clearly defined written firearms policies by every agency of law enforcement in the country."

The resolution also contains United Methodist statements on the police, courts, penal reform, juvenile justice, repression and the right to privacy.

In passing the resolution the General Conference reaffirmed the church's opposition to capital punishment. It urged abolition of the death penalty which, the statement says, "gives official sanction to a climate of violence."

Discussing the courts, the resolution puts the church on record as supporting "the general proposition that negotiated pleas of guilty (plea bargaining) be abolished." It also notes the need for change in penal codes, calling for adoption of speedy trial provisions "which the Constitution guarantees," and urges the scaling of fines "to the magnitude of the crime and the ability of the offender to pay."

The resolution also calls upon United Methodists to support a number of reforms in the penal system. Among these are: greater use of alternatives to pre-trial detention; use of alternatives to incarceration such as fines, social service sentences, and probation; promotion of rehabilitation instead of punitive confinement; "development of maximum interaction between citizens of the community and offenders who are incarcerated."

The church, through the resolution, also urges elimination of all status offenses "from the juvenile codes and from the processes for determining

juvenile delinquency." Status offenses specifically named are truancy, incorrigibility, and stubborn altercations with parents.

Noting the encroachment by various private and governmental agencies and citing the Fourth Amendment which protects citizens against unreasonable searches seizures, the church's resolution, requests the U.S. Congress to insist that the Armed Services do not engage in surveillance of citizens. It also urges Congress to limit demands by government agencies for personal information about citizens, to oppose wiretapping and to eliminate "no-knock" entry provisions from crime bills.

A final section of the resolution calls members of The United Methodist Church to "ministries in the midst of social conflict as expressions of the reconciling love of God in Christ. It urges members "to be actively present in those settings where the grievances of the powerless are thrust before those who have influence, authority and control."

Arkansas Methodist



## From the Churches

**ST. PAUL CHURCH**, Fort Smith, will celebrate its Golden Anniversary with a special observance on Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, and in keeping with the nation's Bicentennial is preparing a history covering the years 1926-1976 entitled, *This Is Our Story*. Saturday activities will include a reception and period of recognition, 2-4 p.m.; fellowship dinner, 6 p.m. and an old-fashioned sing. On Sunday charter members will be recognized during morning worship which will also feature a brief memorial service, a Bicentennial Salute and special music.

### North Arkansas Conference Ministers' Wives Annual Luncheon

This year's luncheon for ministers' wives of the North Arkansas Conference will be held Wednesday, June 9 at 12:30 p.m. in Hulen Hall on the Hendrix Campus with the Forrest City District Ministers' Wives organization serving as hostesses.

Tickets sold at conference will be available on Monday, June 7, during registration ONLY. If you have not purchased your ticket from your district superintendent's wife, please have your husband get it for you as he registers. Or, you may send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a check for \$4.25 to Mrs. James M. Meadors Jr., Ridgemont Road, Helena, Ark. 72342.

We have planned an enjoyable program and look forward to seeing each of you at the luncheon.

Forrest City District  
Ministers' Wives

A SERIES of four activities involving the congregations of First United Methodist and First Presbyterian Churches in Dardanelle climaxed recently with an ecumenical celebration of Christian Unity with the Rev. Frank Clemmons, pastor of First Methodist and Mrs. Virginia Barksdale, Presbyterian pastor, exchanging pulpits. On Maundy Thursday the two congregations celebrated with an Upper Room Communion Service. A concert by the "Join 76 Singers" of the College of the Ozarks provided another opportunity for fellowship. Early in May First United Methodist held a Bicentennial potluck supper with David Vance of Russellville showing slides depicting the early history of the Pope-Yell County area. Prizes were awarded to children and adults most authentically attired in the styles of 1776.

**ST. PAUL Church**, Jonesboro, has recently purchased a lot on which a new parsonage will be built. It will contain three bedrooms, two baths, dining, living and family rooms and a two-car garage. Proceeds from the church's recent annual Bar-B-Q will be used to purchase new furnishings for the parsonage. The Rev. Charles Nance is pastor.

**DELL and Luxora United Methodist Churches** participated in the May 16 North Arkansas Conference "Pulpit Exchange Sunday" with the Rev. Raymond A. Dorman, pastor, preaching at Luxora Baptist Church, and that church's pastor, the Rev. Bert Thomas, preaching for the morning worship services both at Dell and Luxora.

**LINCOLN United Methodist Church** in Fayetteville District recently sponsored its 45th Annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. Mrs. Beulah Backman emceed the program which included a skit entitled "Playmates," special music, and presentations to the oldest and youngest mothers present. Eighty-four year-old Mrs. Frank Long and 25-year-old Mrs. Lou Ann Bradley were the recipients of these honors. Mrs. Edna Luginbuel and Mrs. Mary Shannon received honorable mention for having attended all 45 of the annual banquets.

A **STARVATHON** in which 14 youth and sponsors of the Berryville Church participated netted \$450 for Heifer Project International. Friends, family and church members paid various amounts per hour for each youth who fasted during the 24-hour period between 9 a.m. on Saturday until 9 a.m. Sunday. The youth spent Saturday morning and into the afternoon cleaning the church. Their work completed, they engaged in such recreation activities as volley ball, singing, a ping-pong tournament and a trip to the bowling alley. Ms. Ann Jackson is youth coordinator.

### Daily Bible Readings

May 30—Sunday ..... Psalm 147:1-11  
May 31 ..... Prov. 4:10-19  
June 1 ..... Ezek. 34:22-31  
June 2 ..... John 4:27-38  
June 3 ..... John 6:27-40  
June 4 ..... Romans 8:26-39  
June 5 ..... II Cor. 1:3-11  
June 6—Sunday ..... Psalm 30:1-12

**MARTINDALE United Methodist Church**, located on Highway 10, west of Lake Maumelle, announces its annual Homecoming to be held this Sunday, May 30, in celebration of more than 100 years of continuous service. The observance will begin at 10:30 a.m. with old-fashioned gospel singing. The Rev. Jimmy Corder will be the guest speaker for the 11:20 a.m. worship service which will be followed by a potluck lunch on the grounds. Several neighboring churches will participate in a special musical program during the afternoon. Records show that a Rev. Mitchell was pastor in 1876. The Rev. Sam Jones, Wesley Foundation director at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, is the present pastor of the Martindale and Mountain View Churches.

**SALEM CHURCH**, Benton, honored its 1976 high school graduates with a Sunday morning breakfast. Parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends of the honorees were guests. Mr. Bob Wolley "presided over the pancake griddle," assisted by Pastor Loyd Perry.

**RECENT EVENTS** at Ashdown's First Church have included the presentation by the Nicene Creed Choir a musical entitled "The Spirit of '76," under the direction of Mrs. Diane Pickett. In a separate event the church's 11 graduating seniors were honored at a banquet sponsored by United Methodist Women of the church. The grads included Ashdown High School's valedictorian, Miss JoAnn Biggs, and the salutatorian, Bert Nelson.

**RADIO STATION KCCL** in Paris, Ark., carried a "hotline" report from General Conference on its Religion in the News broadcast May 8. Host of the weekly program is the Rev. Lester M. Bickford, pastor of the city's First Christian Church.

**NINE GRADUATING SENIORS** of Vantrease United Methodist Church, El Dorado, their parents and counselors were honored recently by United Methodist Women of the church with a "pick-up-supper." Mrs. Joe Sanders, UMW president, presided over the program and presented Pocket Prayer Books to each of the high school seniors. The program included guitar music and table decorations were in purple and white.

**FIRST CHURCH**, DeWitt, recently held an Arts and Crafts Festival which included in the display a silverware carrying case used for many years by the church's women's organization, and a Little Rock Daily News dated April 8, 1918, Vol. 1, No. 181.

## Personalalia

**THE REV. Aaron F. Barling**, associate minister at First Church, Fort Smith, has been elected president of the Fort Smith Ministerial Association for the 1976-'77 term.

**THE REV. Woodrow W. Smith**, a former member of the Little Rock Conference, was honored at recent Commencement exercises held at Wiley College, Marshall, Tex., with a doctor of divinity degree. Dr. Smith is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and Perkins School of Theology. Pastorates in Arkansas included Grand Avenue Church, Hot Springs, associate at Pulaski Heights, Little Rock, and Mineral Springs. He presently serves as associate at St. Luke's United Methodist in Houston.

**DR. ROBERT L. (BOB) MOORE**, a member of the Little Rock Conference and professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Western Illinois University, is the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment Foundation for the Humanities to participate in the 1976 Summer Seminar at Yale University, New Haven, Ct. The stipend will be \$2,000 plus travel and housing allowance. Dr. Moore is the son of Mrs. Margaret Moore and the late Golden F. Moore Sr. of Lonoke.

### Little Rock District Parsonettes Rehearse

In preparation for the annual Little Rock Conference Ministers' Wives Luncheon to be held Wednesday, June 16 at Lake Hamilton Holiday Inn, Hot Springs, members of the Little Rock District organization which will host the event rehearse for the program. Left to right, Imogene Knox, Hazel Hankins, Mildred Faucett, Kay Cross.

### International Women's Year Celebrated

United Methodist Women of Central Church, Fayetteville, sponsored a Christian Sisterhood Tea on a recent Sunday evening. Mrs. Mar-vest Lawson presented the program on Christian Women, with special emphasis on International Women's Year. Pictured are Nancy Huddleston, UMW president, and Margaret Christie, vice president, with posters depicting the program theme in background.



## 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.

### 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...

### Jonesboro District Ministers' Wives Meet

ABOVE: Hostesses for the quarterly meeting of ministers' wives at the parsonage home of Mrs. Lowell Eaton in Wilson are, left to right, Lora Taylor, Anna Brooks, Margaret Dorman, Barbara Eaton and Mrs. Alberta Conyers. Seventeen wives attended the salad luncheon event. Following a brief business session conducted by Suzanne Gibson, Freddy Nixon sang, "This is the House I Live in," and Linda Harrison read a poem entitled, "The Tapestry of Life." BELOW: Six retired ministers' wives were honored and each presented a corsage and an embroidered Bicentennial plaque in appreciation for their many years of dedicated service. They are, left to right, Lora Taylor, Gayle Bierbaum, Eva Patton, Ella Patty, Bernice Hall and Naomi McGehey.



## 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

## 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



# United Methodists in Arkansas



## Earns Eagle Scout Award

David Ray Tribble, age 14, and a member of the Scout troop sponsored by Markham United Methodist Church, Little Rock, received the Boy Scout of America Eagle Award in recent ceremonies at the Church. Scoutmasters are Mr. Don Hearn and Mr. Jim Syler. David, a 9th grader, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Ray Tribble. His father is executive director of Aldersgate, Inc.

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## Fairview Children's Choir Performs

The Children's Choir of Fairview Church, Texarkana, photographed on the steps of Ogden United Methodist Church where they recently presented a special program of music for morning worship. Shown with the boys and girls are directors Mrs. Darrel Bone and Mrs. George Corbett Jr. The "wee-est" member is Bryan Greathouse whose mother is Mrs. Joe Greathouse, president of United Methodist Women at Fairview Church. The UMW provided the "T" shirts which bear the church's name and United Methodism's emblem.



## Dermott Church Observes Film Anniversary

Jerry Atchley (above) was featured speaker for the 25th anniversary family night celebration at Dermott United Methodist Church of the production in 1951 of an original movie version of The Easter Story by members of that congregation. The speaker, son of the Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Atchley, the church's parsonage family at the time was one of the principal child characters in the film. He is now engaged in full-time radio and television production in Dallas. All living members of the film cast were invited for the celebration. Present also were Mr. Atchley's parents, now serving First Church, Benton, and the Rev. Howell Richardson, pastor of Hawley Memorial Church in Pine Bluff, who was principal of Dermott High School and played the part of one of the 12 disciples when the picture was made. The program included a rerun of the film.

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## Lakewood Confirmation Class

Upon completion of a seven-week course of study at Lakewood United Methodist Church, North Little Rock, this class of 25 members was received into full membership in the church and welcomed into the United Methodist Youth Fellowship program. The Rev. Jim Southerland (right, back row) was instructor for the study course. Dr. Clint Burleson (left) is senior pastor at Lakewood.

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## Teaching Clinic At Trumann

Staff persons who provided leadership for a recent clinic at First Church, Trumann. (Standing, left to right) The Rev. Bill Williams, pastor; Mrs. J. Ralph Clayton of Searcy, Dr. Matt Ellis of Conway, (seated) Mrs. Ben F. Jordan of Paragould, Miss Bonda Sue Deere of Jacksonville, and Mrs. Walter Lindley of Jonesboro. The Rev. Arvill C. Brannon of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries assisted with the event and presented the message for the Sunday morning worship service at Trumann.

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## Arts and Crafts Show

Shown are some of the items displayed at the recent Arts and Crafts Show presented at First Church, Foreman. The three divisions of artwork — elementary, youth and adult — included objects representing many crafts and arts. Mrs. T. S. Capps served as chairperson.

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## Annual Choir Festival At Central

Five choirs at Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, comprising 130 voices, recently presented the church's annual Spring Children's and Youth Choir Festival. The choirs are under the direction of Mr. Kenneth R. Davis.