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Laity Dinner, First Event At Conference Session

"A Laity Report on the 1976 General Conference" was the theme of the Laity Dinner last Monday evening at the North Arkansas Annual Conference session. Mr. Bob Cheyne (right) of Bentonville, Conference lay leader, presided at the dinner, the first event of the Conference. Among program participants were (from left) Mr. Dick Fikes of North Little Rock, who led the singing, Mr. Jim Lane of North Little Rock, Conway District lay leader, who gave the benediction, Miss Mildred Osment of Jonesboro, General Conference delegation head, one of four persons reporting on that Conference, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, who spoke of his appreciation for the delegation and briefly addressed the gathering, and Mr. Cheyne. Approximately 320 persons attended the dinner, held in Hendrix' Hulen Ballroom.



Before Opening Worship Service

Among worship leaders at the North Arkansas Annual Conference's Opening Celebration of Worship, last Monday evening, were (from left) the Rev. William C. Haltom of Walnut Ridge, Worship Committee chairman, who served as a liturgist; Dr. William K. McElvaney of Kansas City, president, St. Paul School of Theology, Conference preacher; Bishop Eugene M. Frank, celebrant at the service of Holy Communion, and Dr. Joel A. Cooper of Fayetteville, Central Church pastor, a liturgist.

Arkansas Methodist



Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, June 10, 1976

95th Year, No. 24

A salute to two native sons



Dr. R. Bryan Brawner

After three careers, a 'time to come home'

Dr. R. B. Brawner, distinguished church leader, returns to Arkansas

After almost 25 years of professional service with the church and 23 years as an administrator in the public schools, Dr. R. Bryan Brawner has come home to Arkansas. The former chief fiscal officer of The United Methodist Church returned to North Little Rock last week, where he and Mrs. Brawner will make their home. His retirement, which became effective last May 8, crowned a "third career" in almost 50 years of service to the church and the community.

While United Methodists throughout the world have known "R. B." Brawner as the general secretary of the Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) and treasurer of the 9.5 million-member-denomination, few outside his home state (and Texas and Illinois) have known that he came to that responsibility after distinguishing himself in two "other careers," one also related to the church and the other as a public school administrator.

A native of Clay County, Brawner was trained in public school administration at the then Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway and at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. For 13 years he was principal

(Continued on page four)

When the last gavel sounded . . .

When the last gavel sounded at the recent General Conference in Portland, Ore., at 2 a.m. on May 8, it signaled a special moment for two Arkansans. One was retiring as the chief fiscal officer of The United Methodist Church; the other was succeeding him.

We can be excused, we believe, in viewing that unusual circumstance as another significant confirmation of a frequently-noted characteristic of Arkansas Methodism: that across the years the church in our state has produced an unusual number of leaders who have given distinguished service to the church at large.

In the article beginning on this page and the interview on page four, we report on visits recorded in separate interviews with these two native sons during the recent General Conference session in Portland.

—the editor

New CFA chief says . . .

'I'm optimistic about the Church!'

On May 8, Dr. Ewing T. Wayland, a ministerial member of the North Arkansas Conference, began his duties as General Secretary of the Council on Finance and Administration and Treasurer of The United Methodist Church. Elected to the office on July 30, 1975, he succeeds another native Arkansan, Dr. R. Bryan Brawner, who last week returned home to North Little Rock (see article, at left). Prior to assuming his new office, Dr. Wayland served for four and one-half years as associate general secretary of the agency. In the new position he serves as chief fiscal officer of the 9.5 million-member-denomination.

Born in Heber Springs, Dr. Wayland is the son of a celebrated family in Arkansas Methodism, Dr. and Mrs. Edward T. Wayland, retired minister and wife now living with their son and his family in Mt. Prospect, Ill. Both the elder and younger Waylands served as editor of the *Arkansas Methodist* and *The Louisiana Methodist*.

The new CFA chief earned the B.A. degree from Hendrix College (which later awarded him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree) and the B.D. degree from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He was pastor at



Dr. Ewing T. Wayland

Prairie Grove during 1941-44 and at Central Avenue Church, Batesville, during 1944-45. He served as a chaplain in the Navy for two years.

Following his service in the chaplaincy, Mr. Wayland served as associate editor and co-editor with his father of the *Arkansas Methodist* and *The Louisiana Methodist*. He was appointed editor of those publications upon his father's retirement in 1957.

In 1960 Dr. Wayland was named editor of *Christian Advocate*, the church's general periodical for pastors and church leaders. In 1963 he was appointed editorial director of general periodicals of The United Methodist Church, an office he held until his assignment to the CFA on Jan. 1, 1972.

Dr. and Mrs. Wayland, the former Frances Stewart of Little Rock, have three sons, Ewing Tatum Jr., Fred Stewart and George Burden, and two grandchildren.

The *Arkansas Methodist* interviewed Dr. Wayland on April 30 in Portland, Ore., during the recent General Conference session.

(See INTERVIEW on page four)

Little Rock Annual Conference

**First United Methodist Church
Hot Springs, Arkansas**

June 14-17, 1976

AGENDA

Monday Morning		Conference Board of Pensions	3:40 p.m.
Boards, Commissions, and Committees as called		Committee of the Annual Conference — Courtesies	4:00 p.m.
Cabinet Luncheon		Board of Pensions Dinner — Grand Avenue Church	5:30 p.m.
Monday Afternoon Session		Tuesday Evening Session	
Opening Celebration — The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	11:30 a.m.	Organ Concert	7:00 p.m.
Call to Order and Opening Remarks — Bishop Eugene M. Frank	2:00 p.m.	Worship Service — Bishop Robert E. Goodrich Jr.	7:30 p.m.
Organization of the Conference	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Morning Session	
Adoption of the Agenda	3:45 p.m.	Devotional — United Methodist Youth Council	8:30 a.m.
Roll Call		Committee on the Annual Conference — Minutes	9:00 a.m.
Nomination of the Secretarial Staff		Conference Council on Youth Ministries	9:05 a.m.
Designation of the Bar of the Conference		Conference United Methodist Women	9:15 a.m.
Nominations from the Conference Nominating Committee		Conference Board of Lay Men	9:25 a.m.
Welcome to First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs	4:30 p.m.	Blue Ribbon Committee on Making Merger Effective	9:35 a.m.
Conference Board of Ministry — Report No. 1	4:45 p.m.	The Arkansas Methodist	9:45 a.m.
Monday Evening Session		Conference Committee on the Lay Worker	9:55 a.m.
Lakeside Handbell Choir — Mrs. Edward Matthews, Director	7:00 p.m.	Report on Camp Tanako	10:05 a.m.
Worship Service — Bishop Robert E. Goodrich Jr.	7:30 p.m.	Recess	10:15 a.m.
Tuesday Morning Session		Report on General Conference — Delegates	10:30 a.m.
Devotional — The Reverend J. W. Lofton	8:30 a.m.	Concert by Children's Choir Camp	11:30 a.m.
Committee on the Annual Conference — Minutes	9:00 a.m.	Presentation of Chaplains	12:00 Noon
Special Committee on the Journal	9:05 a.m.	Committee on the Annual Conference — Courtesies	12:05 p.m.
Council on Finance and Administration	9:20 a.m.	Lay Delegates' Luncheon — Royal Vista Inn	12:30 p.m.
Council on Ministries		Chaplain's Luncheon — Ramada Inn	12:30 p.m.
Director's Report	9:40 a.m.	Ministers' Wives Luncheon — Lake Hamilton Holiday Inn	1:00 p.m.
Proposed Program for 1977	9:50 a.m.	Wednesday Afternoon Session	
Conference Council Board of Missions	10:05 a.m.	Conference Committee on Archives and History	2:00 p.m.
Conference Council Board of Church and Society	10:20 a.m.	Conference Board of Trustees	2:10 p.m.
Christian Civic Foundation	10:30 a.m.	Conference Committee on Insurance	2:20 p.m.
Conference Council Board of Stewardship	10:40 a.m.	Conference Board of Ministry	2:30 p.m.
Committee of the Annual Conference — Courtesies	10:50 a.m.	Conference Joint Committee on Disability	3:00 p.m.
Recess	10:55 a.m.	Conference Committee on Equitable Salaries	3:10 p.m.
Service of Commemoration — The Reverend John B. Hays	11:15 a.m.	Recognition of Retiring Ministers	3:20 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Session		Wednesday Evening Session	
Council on Ministries — Continued	2:00 p.m.	The Ordination Service — Bishop Robert E. Goodrich Jr.	7:30 p.m.
Conference Council Board of Education	2:10 p.m.	Thursday Morning Session	
Hendrix College	2:15 p.m.	Devotional — Bishop Eugene M. Frank	8:30 a.m.
Philander Smith College — Black College Fund	2:20 p.m.	Committee on the Annual Conference — Minutes	9:00 a.m.
Perkins School of Theology — SMU	2:25 p.m.	Report on General Conference — Delegates	9:05 a.m.
St. Paul School of Theology	2:30 p.m.	Conference Committee on Review and Evaluation	10:00 a.m.
Conference Council Board of Ecumenical Concerns	2:40 p.m.	Conference Statistician	10:15 a.m.
Arkansas Council of Churches	2:45 p.m.	Conference Treasurer	10:25 a.m.
Conference Council Board of Evangelism	3:00 p.m.	Where will the next session of the Conference be held?	10:35 a.m.
Conference Council Board of Worship	3:10 p.m.	Committee on the Annual Conference — Resolutions	10:50 a.m.
Conference Council Committee on Communications	3:20 p.m.	Adjournment	
Conference Council Commission on Religion and Race	3:30 p.m.		
Conference Council Committee on Campus Ministry			



Dr. James S. Upton Honored

Dr. James S. Upton (center) was guest of honor at a dinner given May 28 in appreciation for his 42 years of active ministry, 33 as chairman of the Department of Religion at Hendrix College. The Rev. Earl B. Carter (above), pastor of First Church, North Little Rock, was emcee for the event, sponsored by former students of Dr. Upton. The honoree, who plans to retire this year, was presented a bound volume of letters of appreciation and a radio. Persons expressing tributes were Dr. Charles Casteel, Dr. Francis Christie, the Rev. F. Gladwin Connell, Dr. Myers B. Curtis, the Rev. John B. Hays and Dr. George W. Martin. Mrs. Upton, shown above, gave a response. Dr. Upton, who had been hospitalized a few weeks prior to the dinner, had progressed to the point where he was able to be present for the event, held at Hendrix' Hulén Ballroom.

Camp for youth and adult leaders at Tanako, June 21-25

The annual Conference Camp of the Little Rock Conference will be held June 21-25 at Camp Tanako. Designed for youth who, in the fall, will be in grades eight through 12 (including this year's high school graduates), the camp's major purpose is to provide leadership training for local church youth leaders and adult workers with youth.

Prior to last year the camp was limited to youth who had received written invitations only. This is the second year in which the invitation has been openly extended to all youth in the age category, in the Little Rock Conference, who are involved in youth ministry.

The Rev. Fred Haustein, pastor of St. Andrew Church, Little Rock, and conference coordinator of youth ministry, will serve as director of the camp.

Mr. Haustein reports that a highlight of this year's camp will be a series of seven workshops, from which the youth and adults may choose four workshops in which to participate.

Workshops and their leaders are **Basic Biblical Concepts**, the Rev. and Mrs. Charles Settle of Grady; **All Questions You Always Wanted to Ask About The UMC But Were Afraid to Ask**, Dr. Negail Riley of New York, associate general secretary for minority concerns, Board of Global Ministries, and the Rev. John Dill of Murfreesboro; **Leadership Training**, Mr. Terry Everitt of Little Rock and the Rev. Bill Elliott of Monticello; **"Guess What?"** (drama workshop), Covenant Players of Reseda, Calif.; **Simulation Games**, the Rev. Kent Kinard

of Portland and Mrs. Tony Roebuck of Pine Bluff; **Innovative Program Planning**, the Rev. Don Eubanks of Des Arc and Mrs. Rusty Johnson of Magnolia, and **Innovative Worship and Music**, the Rev. Carr Dee Racop of Little Rock.

Among other activities during the week will be meetings of the Conference Youth Council, the election of new council officers, the selection of projects to be aided by Youth Service Fund monies and the appointment of youth representatives to Annual Conference boards and agencies.

Miss Michelle Campbell of Camden is the current president of the Youth Council.

Alumni institute at Hendrix College

Hendrix College's first Alumni institute will be held June 10-13 on the campus in Conway. The event, the first in what is planned as an annual occasion, will combine seminars, other learning opportunities and recreation.

Resource persons from the college and business community will give leadership in sessions on economics, environmental issues, literature, art and politics.

Participation fee for the institute is \$35. Participants will be housed in air-conditioned dormitories and eat on the campus. For registration forms or information, write or call Rodney Todd, treasurer, Hendrix College, Conway, Ark. 72032.

Coming: Tools for interpreting Church's financial programs

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — A variety of materials designed to help interpret United Methodist financial programs for the 1977-80 quadrennium as adopted by the 1976 General Conference are coming from the presses this summer.

The Rev. Howard Greenwalt, an associate executive secretary of United Methodist Communications, said the interpretative tools will include charts

and posters in various sizes showing the total financial program and division of the basic World Service dollar; a new edition of "Our Answers" which supplies information about the programs and this year carries the subtitle of "Christian Ministry to a World in Need;" a leaflet entitled "A Ministry of Love;" tabular charts for benevolence funds; and a booklet entitled "Financial Commitment

of The United Methodist Church."

In early autumn The Interpreter, national program journal of the denomination, will carry a major section on general church funds. Other resources will be available later.

Nearing completion is a new film devoted to World Service, the church's basic program fund, entitled "A Part of Something Big."

All of these materials, with the exception of the "financial commitment" booklet produced by the General Council on Finance and Administration, are developed by the Program and Benevolence Interpretation division of United Methodist Communications.

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The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

Annual Conference 'Program Priorities'

Some good news, some bad news

When our two Arkansas Annual Conferences meet this week and next, they will have submitted to them by their respective Councils on Ministries a set of recommended program priorities for the year 1977. In one conference 14 such priorities will be submitted. In the other, five.

Aside from the individual significance of these priorities, the lists are noteworthy in at least two respects. One, they represent not only the combined thinking of the lay and clerical leadership of the conferences, but are the result, in large measure, of input from the various district Councils on Ministries, and consequently reflect the thinking of local churches throughout the respective conferences. Because of the new structures now in operation in both conferences, local church input is probably stronger than has ever been the case in determining Annual Conference program priorities. This is a significant and welcomed development.

Second, the priorities are noteworthy in that they reflect, in a remarkable and encouraging way, what must always be the basic stance of the Church: they are directed outward, toward the world, to the needs of persons. This characteristic is reflected in a random sampling from among the two lists: World hunger, ethnic minorities, evangelism, ministry to the aging, support and interpretation of the Social Principles, women in the Church, innovative ministries, small membership churches, worship, and preaching.

The recommended priorities are commendable in that they reflect these two significant characteristics.

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But we confess to a twofold concern in regard to the recommended priorities. One, a concern over the dangers inherent in the very concept of prioritizing. And two, a concern over what we submit is a major omission from each of the lists.

In the first instance, it sometimes happens that one of the greatest disservices which a group can render to a concern is to make it a priority. Too often — so far as the mass of individuals is concerned — when that designation is given, the effect is that the issue is lost sight of. In such instances it seems that many individuals assume that there will be plenty of others to carry the load. We recall a mid-year meeting of one of our Conference Councils on Ministries in which no one present could recall all of the program priorities for the year. A Journal had to be sent out for in order to complete the list. (Before we smile at that, how many of us could list the current program priorities of our Conference?)

It doesn't have to be this way, of course. Our point is that too often it has been. The answer is not that we stop selecting issues to be classified as priorities. But

issues which are worthy of being prioritized are worthy of continuing attention by the entire body concerned.

In the second instance, we submit that a vital area of concern was omitted by both Councils on Ministries in their listing of priorities: a "Christian Lifestyle Emphasis" — the intentional developing of those facets of the Christian lifestyle which are relevant to the radical demands increasingly being made upon our accepted ways of life in this affluent nation.

Specifically: What does it mean to be Christian in this rich nation — this "island of affluence in a sea of poverty"? What does the Christian lifestyle say to our patterns of consumption, of distribution, of waste? What of our attitudes to have-not peoples and nations? What is the meaning of "Christian lifestyle" in regard to what we spend on food, on clothing, on entertainment, and on ourselves generally?

Some might insist that such concerns are a "given"; that it is assumed they will receive due attention from all United Methodist local churches in Arkansas. We believe they should. But we don't see this happening in light of our current inattention to such issues. Would making a "Christian Lifestyle Emphasis" a priority have the effect of making such concerns "everybody's business and therefore nobody's business"? Other priorities have suffered such a fate in the past. Or would such a designation give these concerns the attention they demand?

We don't know. But we see no reference whatever to these issues in the recommended priorities submitted by the two Councils on Ministries. In our opinion it would be an unfortunate oversight or a sad omission to enter this first year of a new program quadrennium without official attention, as United Methodists in our two Arkansas Annual Conferences, to what is a major issue facing contemporary society.

How we choose to deal with such concerns — by making them "program priorities" or in some other manner — is open to debate. Whether or not we choose to deal with them is, it seems to us, an issue which was settled for the Church long, long ago.

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Off the Top of the Head

If the shoe squeaks, pay for it

or

Grandmothers always know best

I've got some apologizing to do to at least two grandmothers out there somewhere — and possibly a bunch more — and I don't even know who they are.

Some months back I published a report about my new shoes squeaking. A couple of friends were quick to inform me that there was only one thing I could do to stop that kind of racket. And that was to "pay for the shoes!" Just like that they gave me that counsel.

Taken aback, naturally, by the rather nasty implications behind such a suggestion, I hastened to inform my friends that both of those shoes were paid for well within two months after they were purchased, thank you, and that now, a full month later, they were still squeaking, so there.

And besides, I told them, all that silly nonsense about shoes squeaking until they were paid for sounded like an old wives' tale, and I demanded to know where they heard such foolishness.

"From my grandmother," the first said.

"From my grandmother," the second said.

"Oh," I said.

Those two sources considered, there's only one possible explanation as to why my new shoes still squeak: I missed a weekly payment somehow and the bookkeeper person at the shoestore and I both failed to catch it.

So come Monday morning, I'll get it all straightened out. I may go into that shoestore squeaking all the way to the Accounts Department, but when I walk out, I'll bet there won't be a squeak to be heard!

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DR. BRAWNER

(Continued from page one)

of schools at Texarkana and North Little Rock and was superintendent of schools in the latter city for ten years. For his leadership in reorganizing the North Little Rock public school system, he was recognized in 1950 as "Little Rockian of the Year."

Dr. Brawner's "second career," as a church administrator, took him to one of Methodism's largest local churches, Highland Park Church in Dallas, where he served as executive director for 17 years. Following that assignment he was named, on Oct. 1, 1968, as the CFA's general secretary. He was succeeded in that job by another Arkansan, Dr. Ewing T. Wayland, a former editor of the *Arkansas Methodist* (see interview, this page).

'Time To Come Home'

The Brawners would have felt at home in their retirement years in any of the several cities where they have lived and worked, having many friends in each. "But I'm coming back to Arkansas because I've always had a sense that this is really my home," says Dr. Brawner. "And I think it's time for me to come home."

The Brawners have one daughter, Mrs. James Davis, who with her husband and one-year-old daughter, lives in Conway.

Brawner considers the seven years he spent with the CFA, headquarters of which are in Evanston, Ill., as "a

very, very good experience," giving him the opportunity to "see and work with the church from two sides" — as a lay member of a local church and as the executive officer of one of the denomination's chief agencies.

Dr. Brawner sees "the level of accountability" that the CFA has achieved over the past years as one of the agency's most significant recent accomplishments. "I think we've done a better job in the area of accountability. We have tried to administer the general funds of The United Methodist Church in such a way that the local church member can know his money is being handled like he wants it handled. I think this acceptance, this growing level of accountability, is one of our finest achievements."

The former executive sees as one of the most demanding tasks during his tenure the agency's response to the legislation of the General Conference of 1972 which required a radical reorganization of the CFA. He considers that reorganization as "the thing that probably will stay with the church more than anything else" accomplished during the last seven years. He says that the process of reorganization is still continuing.

The agency's new responsibilities under the 1972 reorganization include monitoring the investment program of all the church's boards and agencies, assuming certain property management functions for numerous agencies, protecting the legal interest of the

church, and interpreting the CFA's own program to the church at large.

On The Laity And

The Health Of The Church

Being a lay member of the church, Dr. Brawner has a special interest in the role of the laity. "I think whatever really significant is going to happen in the church is going to have to start in the local church," he says. "We can't have a tree without any roots. And I think — and I don't mean this critically — that there is more lip service in respect to increased participation of laity than there actually is. But I feel that the laity is, indeed, moving further into the life of the church and accepting responsibility for its life — at least more so than at one time."

After three careers spanning 48 years, how does the veteran leader feel about the current health of United Methodism? "I think the general agencies of the church are more sensitive to what people out across our membership see as the mission of the church. And I think, too, that our loss of membership is going to turn around. I think our church is healthy! It is healthier today than it has been at any time I've been with the general church."

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'Our people have responded'

— INTERVIEW —

Arkansas Methodist: Dr. Wayland, you have been associated with the Council on Finance and Administration for four and one-half years now, and with offices at the general church level for a total of 16 years. From that vantage point, how do you evaluate the financial commitment of individual United Methodists to their church today?

Dr. Ewing T. Wayland: Across the years the United Methodist public has been responding with increasing sensitivity and with more dollars to support the missional activities of our church. This is probably due in part to stewardship education. It's probably due in part, also, to a greater awareness of what some of the opportunities are, as interpreted to them by the interpretative activities of the church — by the annual conference and general church promotional facilities.

To be specific, we have recently made a study of giving patterns for the last seven years. The total amount given for all the general funds of the church has moved from \$42,800,000 in 1969 to \$58,850,000 in 1975. That's about a 35.5 percent increase in this seven year period. This is just the general funds. And while I do not have the specific figures in mind of how the giving patterns for all purposes have advanced during this same period of time, my impression is that it is about the same percentage gain.

A.M.: How do you account for this increase?

Dr. Wayland: Well, of course, most of our people are handling more money. Salaries and wages have advanced considerably during this period of time. This includes, of course, the matter of inflation. During this period the church has asked more of its people and our people have responded!

And I think you'll find, if you check this out, that the church has been keeping pace with the rate of inflation during this seven year period — and maybe a little more.

This is not to say, of course, that we United Methodist people are responding to the extent that we should. But the average giving of United Methodists within the past couple of years has increased from \$84 to around \$100 per member, for all causes. That is a rather substantial jump. And it seems to me that it reflects a confidence on the part of local church members in the missional opportunities which they have.

A.M.: A basic question: Why, anyway, should a person give through his or her church?

Dr. Wayland: We're actually getting over into the area of stewardship, which is not our area, but I'd like to respond to that from a personal point of view.

A United Methodist is a member of a world-wide fellowship which is engaged in missional activities not only in the actual population center in which his or her local church may be serving. But there are many valid missional activities throughout the whole world which are carried on in the name of our church. And to have the opportunity of being involved in these missional opportunities, which are far beyond the local church, is an opportunity which characteristically, from the beginning of Methodism, has been a part of our church! That's just what mission is. That's part of being the Church.

A.M.: What do you see as the major priorities before the CFA in the next quadrennium?

Dr. Wayland: The future fulfillment of the new responsibilities that were assigned to the CFA by the 1972 General Conference. (See "Dr. Brawner" article, page one, for a detailing of these.)

We have been very busy in this quadrennium with absorbing and implementing these new responsibilities. And because of the time and the magnitude of these responsibilities, we have not been able, of course, to implement them fully.

One of my main objectives is to expand in the area of interpreting the work of the CFA, with all of its dimensions, to the United Methodist public. I feel very strongly that this is part of the accountability of the fiscal agency of the church to its public! I would like to think that part of the reason for the very fine financial response of the church to the commitments of the 1972 General Conference has been that the CFA has been very open in all of its relationships, not only with the agencies, but with the local church members, who, of course, are supplying the money for the church's mission.

Another thing. I would like to give specific attention to emphasizing the relationship of the CFA to the various Annual Conference CFAs, to their treasurers, to the whole program of United Methodist church business administrators. This is all a part of the field work of the CFA.

And when I say this, I do not mean that we'll do any less in our relationships with the general agencies and the work of the central treasury. We'll continue, as has been done in the present quadrennium, to give major time and attention to the development of the central

fiscal system. There'll be no less attention paid to that, though in the next quadrennium we do intend to emphasize our relationship to the United Methodist public.

A.M.: A personal question: What are your thoughts as you succeed Dr. Brawner?

Dr. Wayland: Certainly I would have nothing but the finest words of appreciation for the very distinguished career of Dr. Brawner. He, in my judgment, is one of the really great churchmen. He has made a very substantial contribution to the fiscal side of the church's life; a contribution which I think will be recognized with increasing appreciation with the passing of the years.

The people who know Dr. Brawner are, of course, very appreciative of all that he has given in the way of leadership. And the church will come to appreciate this even more in the future as it realizes the implications of the long-range dimensions of his work. He's a man of unquestioned integrity. This just shows through in his handling of every situation which has arisen.

I am, of course, grateful to him for the opportunities he has given me. But I'm even more appreciative of what he has done for the church by his leadership.

A.M.: A final question: Other than financially, how do you assess the health of The United Methodist Church?

Dr. Wayland: I'm optimistic, very optimistic, about the Church! My own personal view of history is that there are peaks and valleys, there are times when the great upswing of interest and commitment is very good. And there are times when dismay has been carried to such a place that self-correction sets in and interest begins to drop off, attendance begins to decline, our young people are not as interested, and the giving per member begins to slide a little bit.

We have, I think, come through a period when there was a lot of "non-confidence" in the general church and in general church programs. I think that now, however, we are on an ascendancy line. Interest is growing, commitment is deeper, the response is greater and we have more people who really become involved in a local church.

There are many indications that far more of our young people as a whole are finding a place in the life of the church. And there is reason to believe that there are more young adults who are becoming interested in the church. It seems to me that we are beginning a period of real growth and interest and commitment. I'm very optimistic!

From Our Readers . . .

IN APPRECIATION OF DELEGATES

To the Editor:

I wanted to write a letter of appreciation for our North Arkansas Conference lay and clergy delegates to the General Conference. Now, I was privileged to go myself, as a reserve clergy delegate, but I am referring to the delegates: Nadine Hardin, Bob Cheyne, Homer Fulbright, Mildred Osment, Joel Cooper, Charles McDonald, Earl Carter, and Ben Jordan. We have always sent strong delegations, but never more committed nor influential than this one. Each one of our delegates contributed greatly to his/her assigned legislative committee. As you pointed out in a recent article in the **ARKANSAS METHODIST**, some were chosen to legislative committee responsibilities.

I think that the thing that excited me the most was the contribution our delegation made during the plenary sessions. Seven of our total of twelve in attendance (there were four reserve delegates there) addressed the Conference during a plenary session. The concerns addressed were varied, but skillfully presented. I sincerely doubt that any lay delegate made a greater contribution to the General Conference than did our own Bob Cheyne. The whole mass communications program the church will have in the next four years is a direct result of the skillful presentation Bob made.

It was a genuine inspiration to me to be able to spend some time with these eight folks who are so committed to Christ and to the United Methodist Church. I say thanks for them and to the Annual Conference for electing them.

Jim Beal
First UMC
Box 489
Newport, Ark. 72112
†

'CRIME PROMOTERS'?

To the Editor:

The article "Crime Prevention Measures Advocated" in the May 27 issue of the **Arkansas Methodist** contains a lot of dangerous nonsense. No one has ever presented any acceptable evidence to show that disarming the public reduces crime. The anti-gun people say that it does, but saying it doesn't make it so. Not only is it nonsense to say that you are preventing crime by disarming the general public, but it goes beyond that. To do what the General Conference calls for, the "licensing of all gun owners and registration of all firearms"

and "establish a national ban on — handguns," will actually help criminals. How so?

Like this. Crime is not the only thing on which tax money must be spent, and there's just so much money, no more. There's a definite limit to what we can spend to prevent or suppress crime. None of that money should be wasted, and it will be wasted when spent for licensing and registering guns and gun owners and trying to disarm the general public, because money so spent won't prevent crime. So anyone who advocates these practices is giving aid and assistance to criminals. That's right, money spent on gun control is money spent on crime promotion, not crime prevention. . .

Outlawing guns won't eliminate or reduce crime, and no one has ever been able to show that it will. The opposite may well be true, considering the conditions in the Soviet Union as reported by Solzhenitsyn. But attempts to eliminate guns will eliminate a lot of money that otherwise might be used to fight crime. The anti-gun people are not interested in what causes or suppresses crime, as I know at first-hand, and don't really care whether a drop in crime would follow disarmament. All they want is a disarmed public. They are a dangerous lot. They are crime promoters. How many United Methodists do you think "they" include?

Charles J. Cremeen
P.O. Box 83, Ark. Tech.
Russellville, Ark. 72801
†

'WOULD IT HELP?'

To the Editor:

Thank you for that fine editorial in last week's (May 20th) **Arkansas Methodist** "Economic development, yes! Liquor stampede, no!"

We readers can certainly commend you for taking the stand against the proposal to allow liquor to be sold in recreational areas of the dry counties of Arkansas.

I hope the Methodist Church will come out against this stronger than it has the alcohol problem in general — in allowing members to "make a choice" on whether to drink or not!

Would it help any to write the legislators about this and voice our opposition?

Gladys Wofford
Box 278
Weiner, Ark. 72479

Editor's note: Yes, it would.
†

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

Bishop Zoltan Kaldy, presiding bishop of the Lutheran Church of Hungary and a member of Hungary's Parliament, told a Minneapolis news conference: "The freedom of conscience and religion is a reality in Hungary," adding that religious instruction can be given in state schools if parents request it. Bishop Kaldy said 90 percent of that country's children are baptized. Unlike some countries in Eastern Europe, young people who are active Christians are not discriminated against in applying for higher education, and Hungarian church attendance is higher than in most western European countries, he observed.

Bishop Helmut Frenz, former head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chile, says he "suddenly" found himself on the way from "Jerusalem to Jericho" after the Allende government was overthrown in September 1973. Addressing a symposium in Washington, the 43-year-old churchman said, "Our fellow brother was suddenly lying on our roadside and we had to decide whether to go on like the priest and Levite or to stop like the Good Samaritan and go to the side of the suffering brother." Bishop Frenz said it became "very clear to us in Chile that defending human rights and our commitment to human dignity is an unabandonable part of the preaching of the Gospel."

Bishop Frenz, preaching before an ecumenical bilingual audience in New York City, said: "For a Christian there is no question that he has to abstain from neutrality and take sides with those who suffer." He said a church which "is not ready to take sides . . . is not the church of Jesus Christ because Jesus Christ himself is not neutral . . . God has taken sides for humanity."

Dr. Thelma Davidson Adair, 55, of New York City, has been chosen as the first black woman moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. An unprecedented four ballots were needed for her election to a one-year term as the denomination's top elected official. Dr. Adair is an elder (lay leader) of the Mount Morris Presbyterian Church in Harlem, of which her husband is pastor.

President Ford, addressing students at a Church of God college in Portland, said the nation needs to "recover transcendent qualities of spirituality and morality." The president pledged the graduating class of Warner Pacific College to prevent "conformist pressures" by government and social institutions from "smothering individual expression."

Obituary

THE REV. GEORGE W. WARREN

The Rev. George Wallace Warren of Magnolia, retired member of the Little Rock Conference, died May 30 in that city. He was 79.

Born in Johnston, Miss., Mr. Warren served six years in the Louisiana Conference before being admitted to the Little Rock Conference in 1923. He was ordained an elder in 1925 and served for 39 years in the Conference as an effective evangelistic preacher and faithful pastor. Among pastorates served were Gillette, Oaklawn in Hot Springs, Sparkman-Sardis, Sheridan and Wilmot.

He is survived by two sons, J. W. Warren of Magnolia and Howard

Bishop James K. Mathews of Washington, preaching at an ecumenical service during the 188th General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, said, as members of the universal Church, Christians are "summoned for an apostolic task, sent on mission." The United Methodist leader described this as "a divine relay race: the mission passed from Father, to Son, to Holy Spirit, to the Church, and then to each one of us."

Four Directions for Mission for 1978-79 were adopted by commissioners to the United Presbyterian Church during its annual General Assembly in Baltimore. They are: Renewal of Christian faith, understanding and commitment; encouraging vital congregational life; justice for women and for racial and ethnic minorities, and discovering Christian responsibility in an interdependent world.

The Rev. William F. Keesecker of Wichita, moderator of the 1975 United Presbyterian General Assembly, made the following proposal in his farewell address: "Let this General Assembly ask critical questions about the matter of economic justice within environmental limits, but let it also charge the Church to discipline itself with the discipline of the achievable by calling the Church to a rightly motivated program of scriptural tithing."

The 369th anniversary of the first recorded Anglican service of Holy Communion on what is now American soil will be conducted at Jamestown, Va. on June 20. On June 21, 1607 Captain John Smith and the small group of colonists, who had landed not long before, met before a crude altar set up under the shelter of a ship's sail stretched between trees on the bank of the James River and the group's chaplain, the Rev. Robert Hunt, conducted the communion service.

Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, pointing out in a letter of commendation to Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that the U.S. exists "by the fundamental precepts of democratic majority rule," said that the Secretary of State's actions during his recent tour of Africa "have underscored America's intention to play an active role in helping to achieve majority rule in southern Africa."

Dr. Harold DeWolf, a dean and professor-emeritus of Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., told a Task Force on Criminal Justice and Prison Reform of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. that Christians "must fight alienation" and cultivate "inclusive community." He added that whenever a group feels "excluded from real participation in the full American community . . . you find a group in which the rate of crime — particularly crime against persons — will be higher than among the population that feels itself accepted."



A Check For Bolivian Mission Work

Miss Helen Wilson, home on furlough from her mission work in Bolivia, accepts \$500 check from Oak Forest Church, Little Rock, where she was the worship speaker on Sunday, May 30. Making the presentation of the Advance Special gift are Mr. Arnold Tyer, representing the Administrative Board, and Mrs. Wilbur Gentry, chairperson of the Missions Work Area at Oak Forest. Miss Wilson, whose U.S. home is in Hot Springs, told of her work at La Paz and displayed articles from the children of Bolivia.

Struggle and Growth

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

Scriptures: Acts 11:11-18; 15:1-35; 19:23-27;
Galatians 2:11-16

Growth Through Conflict

The church is a human institution. It has a divine mission and the leadership of the Holy Spirit, but it remains definitely a human institution. As such it suffers the imperfections and conflicts to which the mortals who make it up are subject. The church has never known a time when it enjoyed internal peace. "Enjoyed" is not an entirely appropriate word, because it is not certain that either individuals or institutions which are completely at peace within themselves can grow. Growth, in this finite condition which is ours in the flesh, seems necessarily to presuppose struggle and conflict. In any case, the church has been embroiled in internecine controversy since its earliest days. But, by the grace of God, these disturbances have generally resulted in expansion and greater effectiveness in mission.

Paul vs. the Judaizers

Our scripture selections deal with one of the first serious conflicts which threatened the unity of the Body of Christ. It was a controversy stemming from the expansion of the church into the Greek or Gentile world. Both Peter and Paul had received the commission to preach the Gospel to non-Jews. They did so with great effectiveness. And the church quickly grew to include numerous persons who were not born Jews.

The verses from Acts 11 relate the conversion of Cornelius, the first uncircumcised Gentile reported to have been brought into the Christian fellowship. But Cornelius was a sort of borderline case. That is, he was already what the Jews called a "God-fearer," a person who accepted the truth of the Old Testament and who attended the synagogue. But he had not taken the decisive final step to complete his conversion to Judaism.

Many of those among the first followers of Jesus who were Jews resented the inclusion of Gentiles into their fellowship without requiring them first to convert fully to Judaism. These persons, especially in the church at Jerusalem, were called Judaizers. They insisted that before a man could be baptized into the church he must be circumcised, the ultimate rite of passage into Judaism; we might call it an "ordeal" (Acts 15:1). One of these had to do with Jewish-Christians avoiding table fellowship with "unclean" Gentiles. The account in Galatians deals with the serious confrontation between Paul and Peter over this matter (Galatians 2:11-16).

Peter had been carrying on his mission to the Gentile world. He had already brought the saving message of Jesus Christ to Cornelius and his household (Acts 11:14). But in Paul's letter to the Galatians we read that Peter's behavior had been inconsistent. Earlier he had been eating with Gentiles and sharing the love of Christ with them.

But then, Paul says, a group of men from the Jerusalem church, Judaizers, came to Peter and insisted that he withdraw from fellowship with these "unclean" people. Paul reports that under this pressure, Peter stopped eating with these people because he feared the "circumcision party" (Galatians 2:12). Paul confronted Peter with this inconsistency in his behavior at a meeting in Antioch. He accused Peter of not being "straightforward about the truth of the Gospel" and said, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?" (Galatians 2:14)

Paul makes his understanding of the Gospel of salvation perfectly clear: "A man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ" (Galatians 2:16). Circumcision is really unrelated to salvation. The key to salvation is faith which accepts God's love for us in Jesus Christ. Even this is not a requirement which Christians must adhere to, however. To understand faith as a demand or a law is to misunderstand faith. Faith is a gift.

Acts 15 narrates a church council which met at Jerusalem to consider the question of whether or not Gentile Christians had to become full-fledged Jews first. The council settled on a compromise. After impassioned speeches by Peter, Barnabas, Paul, and James debating the question, the apostles and elders decided that Gentile converts would not have to be circumcised, but that they would have to abide by other, less stringent Jewish-rituals. "For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well" (Acts 15:28-29). Controversies about doctrine and practice in the church have frequently ended in compromise.

Other Conflicts in the Early Church

There were other serious disagreements among the early Christians. Some of these had to do with questions about the canon of the New Testament (a list of the twenty-seven books we know dates from around A.D. 367), the nature of the Trinity, the divine-human nature of Jesus Christ, and predestination and free-will.

In contrast to such opinions as that held by the "Monarchians," who argued that Jesus was a man born of Mary who received an impersonal power from God at the time of his baptism (or, perhaps, at his resurrection), Tertullian, a North African lawyer who lived in the second half of the third century, constructed the trinitarian formula which has been accepted by much of the later church. He said that God is one substance (*substantia*) in whom are three persons (*personae*), Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ, one of the *personae*, was both human and divine. But the question of the relation of the divine and human in Christ was not settled, however, and led to one of the bitterest controversies in the early church.

A presbyter of the church in Alexandria named Arius convinced a lot of Christians that Jesus Christ, the Son, was not eternally a part of God. Christ had come into being, been born in Jesus of Nazareth, whereas the

Father was truly eternal. Arius' point was to show the humanity of Jesus. Had Jesus been fully as divine as the Father, he could not have shared our humanity with us fully. He could not, therefore, have been our savior. Arius' view was declared heretical by the first Ecumenical Council which met at Nicaea, near Constantinople in A.D. 325.

Arianism persisted, however, and drew many adherents. The second Ecumenical Council, at Constantinople in A.D. 381, reaffirmed that God is only one essence (*ousia*) in which Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share. They are three persons (*hypostases*) sharing one and the same substance. And in A.D. 451 the Council of Chalcedon declared that Christ was

perfect in Godhead and perfect in manhood, truly God and truly man, of rational soul and body, of the same substance (*homoousion*) with the Father according to the Godhead, and of the same substance (*homoousion*) with us according to the manhood, like us in all respects, without sin, begotten of the Father before all time according to the Godhead, in these latter days, for us men and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, mother of God (*Theotokos*) according to the manhood, one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only-begotten, in two natures, inconfusedly, immutably, indivisibly, inseparately, the distinction of natures by no means taken away by the union, but rather the peculiarity of each nature being preserved and concurring in one *persona* and one *hypostasis*, not parted or separated into two persons. (Kenneth Scott Latourette, *Christianity Through the Ages*, New York: Harper and Row, 1965, 55)

Controversies continued to unsettle the church throughout its early centuries. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in the early fifth century, won a struggle against Pelagius, a British monk, over the question of predestination and free-will. Augustine declared that the human race as a whole had lost its freedom not to sin through Adam's original sin. Persons are, therefore, unable to do anything on their own initiative to save themselves. Salvation is by the grace of God alone. Pelagius took the opposing point of view, contending that Adam's sin injured only himself and that every child is as free to obey God as was Adam before his fall. Pelagius' argument for free-will was condemned by church councils in the fifth and sixth centuries.

But are any of these conflicts really settled? What new controversies disturb the peace of the contemporary church? The fundamentalist-liberal debate continues to rage. The proponents of personal evangelism oppose the "social-gospellers." The charismatics and enthusiasts trouble those who insist that emotionalism must always be examined in the critical light of the methods and insights of theology and psychology.

Controversy can, of course, be destructive in its effects. Church people must remember that growth depends above all on repentance. Controversy can easily lead us to become obstinate and prideful. Repentance, that is, genuine humility based on the recognition that no opinion we hold is absolutely right, is the only grace which can overcome the tendency for conflict within the church to become destructive.

†

New Book of Discipline due in October

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — Target publication date for the 1976 United Methodist Book of Discipline has been set for October, according to United Methodist Publishing House officials here.

The book is published every four years following the General Conference.

Considered a book of church law, the *Discipline* includes guidelines for every level of the church's life as well as the Constitution, Doctrinal Statements, General Rules, and Social Principles.

In 1972 the Council of Bishops noted in a preface to the *Discipline* that the book is usually regarded with a certain degree of reverence, "as representing something of the distilled wisdom of the church across the passage of almost two centuries of time." The 1976 volume will be approximately the same size as the 1972 volume with no major changes in format.



UAM Wesley Foundation Receives \$1,500 Check

The Rev. Tom Abney (right), director of Wesley Foundation at the University of Arkansas at Monticello looks on as Mrs. John Milner, president of United Methodist Women at Crossett, presents on behalf of that organization a check for \$1,500 to Mr. Bruin Campbell, vice chairman of the Wesley Foundation Board. The money was raised through various projects sponsored by the UMW Circles, and will be used for improving the Wesley Foundation facility.

Salem Camp Meeting July 30-Aug. 8

The 122nd annual revival of the Salem Methodist Camp Meeting will be held July 30-Aug. 8, at the site of the original camp grounds of the Salem United Methodist Church, five miles northeast of Benton in Saline County.

According to Dean Bell of Salem, chairman of the Salem Camp Ground Association, the minister for the services will be the Rev. Wayne Edwards, pastor of the Mt. Ida (Ark.) United Methodist Church. Lynn Hoggard, director of music at Bryant High School, will lead the singing; the youth program will be led by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Mahan of Salem, and Mrs. Wilma Grimmer, also of Salem, will be the pianist and leader of children's music.

Bell stated that mobile campers are welcome and that water and electricity hook-ups are available.

From the Churches

A SERVICE OF DEDICATION for the new organ at Stamps United Methodist Church is scheduled for this Sunday, June 13 at 3 p.m. The instrument is a memorial gift presented by members of the Cabe family. Mrs. W. H. Knight, the church's organist, will present a program of organ music.

THE 37-MEMBER Youth Choir of Leavell Woods United Methodist Church, Jackson, Miss., will present a one-hour musical at Gardner Memorial Church, Schaer and 18th, North Little Rock, on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m. The musical, entitled "I'm Here, God's Here, Now We Can Start," was composed by the contemporary composers Ralph Carmichael and Kurt Kaiser. The visiting musicians, their pastor, the Rev. Martin A. Case, their minister of youth and music, Charles F. Leggett and other counselors, will be guests of the youth of Gardner Memorial. The music experience is open to everyone. There is no admission charge and a nursery will be provided.

DR. JAMES WORKMAN, a retired member of the Little Rock Conference, will speak at Pride Valley United Methodist Church, Sunday morning, June 13 at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on the subject, "The Beginning of Methodism in America." The presentation will be one in a series of Bicentennial observances at Pride Valley.

GURDON United Methodist Church recently observed its 95th anniversary with a homecoming which drew a capacity crowd, including four former ministers. Dr. Clint Burleson, a native of Gurdon, now pastor of Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, presented the sermon. Former pastors attending were the Revs. J. M. Hamilton, Cagle Fair, James Richardson, and Therral Wilson. The Rev. Joe W. Hunter is the present pastor. Mrs. Grace Nelson presented a history of the church, established in 1881.

SALADO United Methodist Church dedicated on June 6 a pulpit and a communion table presented by the Leonard family as a memorial to the late Billy George Leonard. Pastor Joe Hutto presided over the ceremony.

THE UMYF of Ashdown United Methodist Church announces the following new officers: President, Scott Cyrus; Vice President, Sherry White; Secretary, Mindy Williams, and Treasurer, Mary Kay Corbell.

ALMYRA United Methodist Church celebrated Heritage Sunday with a homecoming. Among the 210 persons attending were former members who came from five different states. The Rev. Gene Ratekin who grew up as a member of the Almyra congregation is the present pastor and presented the message. Hazel Bennett presenting a history of the church, stated that the church was erected in 1901, ten years after the first Sunday School was held in a two-room vacant house in 1891. Delbert Coose read a speech written in 1902 by Mrs. T. L. C. Wheeler, who was president of the Ladies Aid.

The Little Rock District Parsonettes invite all Little Rock Conference Parsonettes to the Annual Ministers' Wives Luncheon Wednesday, June 16, 1976 at One O'clock in the afternoon at the Lake Hamilton Holiday Inn

Tickets will be available in the Conference Book Room until 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 14 for \$4.25 per person.

Bicentennial Dress is optional.

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PERSONALIA

THE REV. ROBERT W. ROBERTSON, pastor of Western Hills Church in Little Rock, was injured in an accidental gasoline fire at Greers Ferry Lake on Friday, May 23, and is a patient in Room 410, Baptist Medical Center, on Kanis Road. He is receiving medical attention for severe leg burns. His family and the Western Hills congregation express appreciation for the prayers and concern of friends. Mr. Robertson hopes to attend the June 14-17 Little Rock Annual Conference session in Hot Springs where he will be a candidate for ordination into full membership in the conference.



Acolyte Vestments Dedicated

Acolytes at First Church, Blytheville, in new vestments presented by Mrs. Melvin Stubblefield and children, Bret, Kurt, Todd and Tanya Lee of Fredericksburg, Tex. as a memorial to their husband and father, the late Melvin Stubblefield who lost his life in an airplane crash at Stuttgart in August, 1975. Mr. Stubblefield was an employee of the U.S. Government Agricultural Marketing Service in Blytheville. In addition to the surplices and cossacks, the gift included funds for two new candlelighters. A dedication ceremony was conducted by the Rev. J. William Watson, pastor, during the May 16 morning worship service.

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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

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Dr. Laney Visits Home Church

Dr. James T. Laney, (center) dean and professor of Christian Ethics at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, was pulpit guest at Wilson United Methodist Church on a recent "Homecoming Day for Dr. Laney." Participating in the service with Dr. Laney were Dr. Ralph Hillis (right), Jonesboro District superintendent, and the Rev. Lowell Eaton (left), pastor. Dr. Laney grew up in the Wilson community and was active in the Methodist Church where his parents and grandparents were members.

†

For 28 Years Church Treasurer

Mr. George Walton Botts Jr. was honored during a recent Sunday morning service by the congregation of First Church, Warren, for 28 years of dedicated service as treasurer. Presenting a plaque of commendation is Administrative Board Chairman Charles Eddington. During Mr. Botts' tenure as treasurer, the church has had 10 ministers, almost one-million dollars of finances passed through his hands and the church budget had quintupled.



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United Methodists in Arkansas

Forrest City District UMW holds Spring Meeting

The Spring meeting of the Forrest City District United Methodist Women was held Saturday, April 24th at Wynne United Methodist Church. The district's vice-president, Mrs. Bill Lindsey, Forrest City, presided over the day's activities which included inspiration, information and fellowship. Mrs. John Cook, president of the Wynne unit was hostess for the day. The theme of the day was "Bloom Where You're Planted!"

After the opening prayer by the Rev. William Wilder, host minister, the elementary children of the church presented a folk musical entitled "S A M" under the direction of Mrs. Michael White. "Gardens of Concerns" were planted through dialogues and panel discussions. Leaders for these events were Mrs. Gerald Rainwater, Clarendon, who led a dialogue on "Refugees?"; Mrs. Wayne Wood, Parkin, on "Literacy," and Mrs. Sarah Sutton, West Memphis, on "World Hunger." Mrs. Bob Ford, Wynne, served as moderator for a panel on "Giving — time, talents, and gifts!"

The noontime theme focused on a "Garden of Entertainment" with Mrs. Edwin Calhoun, Helena, presenting a vocal medley of music entitled, "Our Heritage." The luncheon tables were decorated with bicentennial arrangements from Clarendon, Brinkley Wesley Chapel, Cotton Plant, Taylor Chapel, Crawfordville, Devew, Earle and Wheatley.

The afternoon session began with business of the district which included the election of the following officers for two year terms: Mrs. Andy Hall, Earle, Vice-president; Mrs. W. A. Schaffhauser, Marvell, Chairperson on Nominations; Mrs. Roy Richardson, Wynne, and Mrs. Charles Ashe, Rosewood of West Memphis as Committee members; Mrs. Gerald Rainwater, Clarendon, Supportive Community; Mrs. Wayne Holder, McCrory, Global Concerns; Miss Rachel Fullwood, Earle, Membership, and Mrs. James Young, Marion, Associate Treasurer.

Other members of the Executive Committee are Mrs. Wesley Freemyer, president; Mrs. Charles Sibley, secretary; Mrs. Jimmie Spotts, treasurer; Mrs. T. E. Bentley, Program Resources; Mrs. Carl Geisler, Christian Social Involvement; and Mrs. Bobby Henard, Christian Personhood. The Installation Service was conducted by Mrs. D. C. Neal, the Conference Chairperson on Christian Personhood.

The inspirational message was presented by Mrs. Charles Sibley of Helena, and was based on the theme of the day. The day's program concluded with a Service of Communion, at which the host pastor officiated.

Members of the planning committee for the meeting were Mary Jo Lindsey, Jane Glass, Faye Geisler, Kathleen Jett, Sarah Ford, and Pat Higgins.

Report submitted by Mrs. Wesley Freemyer, District President



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS of Forrest City District UMW, left to right, Rachel Fullwood, Doris Sibley, Vickie Hall, Mary Bell Schaffhauser, Nancy Rainwater, Jo Bentley, June Spotts, Ruth Ashe, at meeting in Wynne. (President Pat Freemyer not pictured.)



CAST of elementary children of Wynne United Methodist Church presented folk musical drama entitled, "SAM," under the direction of Mrs. Michael White.



MRS. BOB FORD of Wynne served as moderator for a panel which discussed "Giving: Time, Talents, Gifts."



REGISTRATION OF GUESTS at the Spring Meeting was the responsibility of the McEroy unit at Wynne.



LUNCHEON SCENE! The Rev. Elmo Thomason, Forrest City District superintendent, is seen in foreground.



Mrs. Wayne Woods of Parkin shares information on the Literacy program.

Arkadelphia District Lay Rally



DR. JOHN TRIESCHMANN, Arkadelphia District lay leader, presents a plaque to Dr. George W. Martin for his six years of dedicated service as district superintendent, during May 26 rally. Shown in foreground is Mrs. Martin.



LAYPERSONS attending the district event at First Church, Arkadelphia, numbered 285. Women of the host church prepared the dinner. A special love offering for the church at Cabot was received from each of the churches in the district to assist with needs resulting from the recent tornado at Cabot.

Helena First Confirmation Class

These youth were recently received into full membership at First Church, Helena, by their pastor, the Rev. James M. Meadors Jr. (center), following attendance at training sessions spanning 18 weeks. All will be in the eighth grade this Fall.



BUDDY WHITLOCK presents his personal Christian testimony, as did several other laypersons attending the rally.



THE REV. Bob Trieschmann, Wesley Foundation minister at Arkadelphia, leads the rally-goers in gospel singing.