

Consecutive assemblies for North Arkansas senior and junior highs

The theme, "Liberty and Justice for All," will come into focus as high school youth of the North Arkansas Conference congregate at the Hendrix College Campus in Conway on Monday, Aug. 2 for the annual Senior High Assembly. The assembly, scheduled to continue into Friday, Aug. 6, is designed for youth who have completed grades nine through 12.

Key presentations will be made on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday respectively, by the Rev. Clint Burleson, pastor of Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, speaking on the subject of "Liberty;" State Supreme Court Justice John A. Fogleman, on the topic, "Justice," and a panel comprised of representatives of several ethnic and minority groups and a woman, discussing the final two words of the theme — "For All." The Rev. David Moose, conference coordinator of Youth Ministries, will serve as moderator. Interspersed with these presentations will be Input sessions involving both youth and counselors.

With the departure of the senior high group following lunch on Friday, junior high youth of the conference will begin registration at 1 p.m., for a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship, inspiration and



Rev. Clint Burleson

involvement which will center on the theme, "Seek And Ye Shall Find." The latter assembly for youth who have completed grade seven or eight will conclude with lunch on Sunday, Aug. 8. Input Groups will discuss two subjects, "Hiding from God," and "Seeking God." The Saturday evening session will feature a special activity labeled "Almost Anything Goes."



Justice John A. Fogleman

Both events are under the sponsorship of the North Arkansas Conference Council on Ministries and the Conference Youth Council and are being coordinated by the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon, associate director.

The following elective Involvement Sessions for senior high youth and their counselors will be led on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. by the

Rev. James Meadors of First Church, Helena, and Dr. Charles Casteel of Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, who will deal with the topic of Christian Sexuality; the Rev. Victor Nixon of Huntington Avenue Church in Jonesboro, with the subject of "Death and Dying;" the Rev. Bob Edwards of Rose City-Beacon Church, North Little Rock, with "Personal Growth Groups," and Mrs. Robert Shoemaker, director of music at First Church, Conway, who will direct the production of a musical drama entitled, "The Disciple."

Mr. Burleson, who will speak on the subject of "Liberty," received his early education at Gurdon, graduated from Hendrix College and received his theological training at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas. Now a member of the North Arkansas Conference, he has served pastorates in both the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences.

Judge Fogleman, a lifelong resident of Marion, Ark., whose distinguished professional career began when he was admitted to the practice of law in 1934, is an active United Methodist who has served his church in numerous positions

(Continued on page two)

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, July 15, 1976



95th Year, No. 28

United Methodist Men to organize at North Arkansas Retreat

August 7-8

The 1976 United Methodist Men's Retreat, for lay men of the North Arkansas Conference, will be held Aug. 7-8 at Mt. Sequoyah. Featured speaker for the event will be the Honorable Thomas Reavley, justice of the Supreme Court of Texas.

A highlight of the retreat will be the official formation of the North Arkansas Conference unit of United Methodist Men. Mr. Jim Snead of Nashville, Tenn., staff member with the church's Division of Lay Life and Work, will be present for that event and will report on matters relating to United Methodist Men.

Three workshops are scheduled for the two-day meeting: Programs for United Methodist Men, Projects for United Methodist Men, and Leadership and Lay Speaking Training. An "old fashioned men's quartet competition" and ice cream social will be featured on Saturday evening. Mr. Bob Cheyne of Bentonville, Conference lay leader, reports that the competition is "purely amateur" and encourages each of the seven districts in the Conference to enter quartets in the program.

Justice Reavley, who will bring two messages to the gathering, is a former



Justice Thomas Reavley

Secretary of State of Texas and is currently president of the Texas Judicial Council. He is a past Conference lay leader of the Southwest Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church, is a four-time delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conference, and represented The United Methodist Church at the 1973 Conference of the British Methodist Church at Newcastle, England.

Registration will begin at noon on Saturday and the first program event will begin at 1 p.m.

To register,
see blank on
Page Two

Urban Ministries Council beginning major project

Summer Program director employed

The Urban Ministries Council of the Little Rock District has instituted its first major program in a proposed series of ministries in the central area of the city of Little Rock. The initial project is a summer recreation program for children and youth. The program will be concentrated in the Little Rock School District's Area IV, bounded by Wilbur Mills Freeway on the north, Asher Avenue on the south, University Avenue on the west, and the Missouri Pacific tracks on the east.

Miss Harrietta Fowler of Little Rock, a member of White Memorial United Methodist Church, has been employed by the Council as director of the summer program.

Area IV has been characterized by a high crime rate, low income, and racial transition. In a recent survey the Council found that while the area has grown in population, United Methodist churches within its bounds have declined in membership. The Council reports that one congregation has moved out of the area and another is considering relocation.

The Rev. Nichols Evans, pastor of Hunter Memorial Church and chairman of the Council, reports that the summer program will conclude with a week-long Bible School. He says that churches in the Little Rock District are encouraged to receive communion offerings to aid the summer program. Contributions marked "Summer Program," may be mailed to the Little Rock District, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

The Urban Ministries Council was formed as a result of the Consultation on Urban Ministries, held in November, 1975, and sponsored by the Little Rock District. Composed of members of some 25 churches in the Little Rock area, the Council plans to develop a community center and establish a new inter-ethnic United Methodist congregation in Area IV. Among long-range plans are the development of apartment ministries, emergency relief ministries, delivery of social services, and ministry to Little Rock youth who have had criminal violations.

The project receives funds from both the Little Rock District and Conference Boards of Missions. Mr. Evans reports that it is the "number one priority project" for funding in the district for the next few years.

Chairman of the summer program committee is Mr. Gil Strackbein. Mrs. E. T. Davenport chaired the committee which developed plans for community service center ministries and the development of a new congregation in Area IV. Dr. J. Edward Dunlap is superintendent of the Little Rock District.

Watch for report
on Jurisdictional
Conference in next
week's Arkansas Methodist



DeValls Bluff Church Adding New Unit

The Rev. David Prothro, pastor of DeValls Bluff Church in Little Rock District, invited members of the congregation to bring their own shovels and participate in recent groundbreaking ceremonies for a new Fellowship Hall-Education Building now under construction. The 60 feet by 32 feet building will house, in addition to the fellowship hall, three classrooms, a kitchen, a utility room and two restrooms. Mrs. Garnett Dodson is chairperson of the Building Committee. The cost is being covered by pledges and special gifts to the building fund.

Attention, Seminary and College Students in North Arkansas Conference

If you are preparing for Pastoral Ministry and plan to make Loan Fund Application write immediately to the new Loan Officer of the Conference Board of Ministry for application forms: Sherman E. Waters, 3500 N. 6th St., Fort Smith, Ark. 72901.

Independence Day groundbreaking at Old Austin Church

Old Austin United Methodist Church in Little Rock District celebrated Independence Day, Sunday, July 4th by breaking ground for a new structure, now underway, which will house a fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday school rooms and office, and restrooms. Projected plans call for the construction of a new sanctuary at a later time.

The groundbreaking, which followed morning worship, included the shooting of fireworks by children of the congregation. The day's celebration also included a fellowship dinner and gospel singing by the North Lonoke County Gospel Singing Association.

Old Austin Church, among the oldest in Arkansas, was founded around 1831. During the Civil War, it was used as a hospital for sick Confederate soldiers, many of whom died there and are buried in the Confederate Cemetery near Cabot.

Mr. Bill Temple and Mrs. Martha Milam are chairpersons for the building committee. The Rev. Richard C. Magie is pastor.

THE REV. BOB EDWARDS has been elected to full membership in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. He is the third Arkansan and the first United Methodist in the state to be granted this membership. Mr. Edwards is pastor of Rose City-Beacon United Methodist Church in North Little Rock.



Making The Transition . . .

The Rev. Alf A. Eason (left), who has served for the past five years as director of the Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries, briefs his successor, the Rev. Elmo A. Thomason who comes from the superintendency of Forrest City District to his new responsibility, on procedural matters. Mr. Eason was assigned, during the Little Rock Annual Conference session in June, to the superintendency of Monticello District.

YOUTH ASSEMBLIES

(Continued from page one)

of leadership through the years. He has served as a member of the Supreme Court of Arkansas since January, 1967.

The senior high event will begin with registration at noon on Monday and will conclude with lunch on Friday. John and Susan Christie will have charge of the Monday evening "Get-Acquainted Party."

Miss Vicki Van Poucke of Siloam Springs is chairperson for the Conference Council on Youth Ministries. District youth coordinators are the Revs. Keith Goza, Batesville District; Herschel McClurkin, Conway District; Rhonda Crow, Paragould District; Jim Daugherty, Forrest City District; Margaret Thompson and Bruce Vick (co-coordinators), Fort Smith District; Tony Holifield, Jonesboro District; Jim Keith, Fayetteville District. David Moose is the conference coordinator of Youth Ministries; the Rev. Ben Jordan, superintendent of Paragould District, is the Cabinet representative on the Youth Council and Diana Gaither of Batesville is chairperson of the Youth Assembly Task Force.

The total cost for registration, meals and lodging is \$45 for the senior high

Churches in the Little Rock Conference

are requested to support their conference camp through a special offering

on

TANAKO Sunday,

August 8

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event, and \$25 for the junior high assembly. Additional information on the two assemblies may be obtained from the Rev. Arvill C. Brannon of the Conference Council on Ministries Office in Little Rock (telephone 374-1634), or David Moose, director of Senior High Assembly, P.O. Box 267, Berryville, Ark. 72616; or Jim Daugherty, director of the Junior High Assembly, Rt. 2, Box 62, Augusta, Ark. 72006.

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Rev. Langley



Rev. Trieschmann

Ninety-second annual Davidson Campmeeting

The Rev. Bob Langley, pastor of Waples Memorial United Methodist Church, Denison, Tex., will be the evangelist for the 92nd annual Campmeeting to be held at Davidson Camp Ground (located approximately 12 miles west of Arkadelphia off highway 26) Aug. 6-15. Mr. Langley, a native of Arkansas, served churches on the Arkadelphia Circuit prior to making his home in Texas.

The Rev. Bob Trieschmann, pastor of the Okolona Circuit and in charge of the Methodist Student Union at Henderson State University, will lead the singing. "Brother Bob" was the campmeeting preacher in 1974 and 75, and has preached for campmeetings at Ebenezer.

Worship services will be held daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. with special music each evening. The Chapel Choir from Denison will sing Saturday evening, Aug. 7, and again on Sunday morning. "The Followers" will sing also at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 8.

Services will be conducted for children and youth each day with prayer meetings for adults each afternoon.

The meeting will close with the 3 p.m. Memorial Service on Sunday, Aug. 15. There are 88 wooden cabins at the site, most of which will be filled by people from all parts of Arkansas and many other states, according to a spokesperson. Spaces are available for tents and camper trailers.

Arkansas Methodist

United Methodist Men's Retreat --- August 7-8, 1976

Complete this FORM with accommodations desired. The price includes cost of room, meals and insurance on a PER PERSON and PER DAY basis.

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Time Takes a Holiday

Thoughts on a Bicycle Trip for Two

TOAD SUCK BRIDGE, HIGHWAY 60, JULY 7, 1:43 P.M. — Huff, puff; huff, puff. Another 100 feet and it'll be downhill again for a spell. Whoopee!

We've just topped the crest of the new bridge over Toad Suck Lock and Dam on the Arkansas River and our rapid acceleration, with its cooling, fast-rushing wind, brings a welcomed feeling indeed. We're some seven hours and 48 miles into our bicycle journey from Little Rock to Conway and our destination is just a short six miles away. Hooray!

Toad Suck Bridge has been something of a special goal for us, sort of a victory symbol, as we've mapped and imagined our route on this First Official Arkansas Methodist Bicentennial Trans-County Bikathon which our seventh grade son, Chuck, and I are making to honor our nation's and yours truly's birthdays, which both occur on the same day of the year. It's been a fun trip, not nearly as difficult as I would like to pretend.

There's no doubt about it, this Arkansas River Valley basin is the hottest spot we've encountered along our way. My little pocket radio, which I've taped to my bicycle bar, tells me it's 90 degrees at the moment in downtown Conway, and my slow pace up this long incline on the west side of the Toad Suck Bridge, hot sun reflecting off the bright, white concrete, confirms that report. But really, moving as we do on our trusty ten-speed bikes, the temperature isn't objectionable. It's been pleasant all the way.

Our passage along this "back way" to Conway has been a remarkable experience, a real joy. Our route follows little-travelled back roads, frequented only by those who call these parts home. To one accustomed to freeway travel, the scenery is other-worldly, reminiscent of childhood times. It's an inexpressible delight to move silently along these old and narrow asphalt lanes, past homey homes and small, neat family farms — it's almost like a journey back in time. We admire the gardens, smell the sweet corn and the hot, fresh-mown hay, are barked at by the dogs, marvel at the large sunflowers, and enjoy — yes — the odor of the pigpens.

We've just passed a little community revival tent, seating no more than 75, all prepared for the evening's service.

Here I am in the lead again — not too frequent a happening. (Chuck says I go faster downhill than he does because I weigh more. He uses another term which I don't appreciate.) I think, if I play it right, I can maintain this downhill racer speed and make that wide half-circle turn down below there and sail into that shaded picnic area in high form. I just hope I don't hit any loose gravel...

Ah ha! We made it! Now for a cooling drink from our water bottles.

LITTLE ROCK, 5:15 A.M. — Chuck has cooked our breakfast — ham and eggs — and has fussed at me for being so long in getting packed and ready to go. It'll be cool, travelling this early in the morning, so we put on long-sleeve shirts, and are to keep them on for several hours.

What a joy to be on our way! A beautiful day, the open road, and unknown adventures before us. Everybody ought to do this!

PINNACLE, 7:30 A.M. — Why do all the dogs chase and bark at me and not at Chucky? Don't they know that's why I brought him along on this venture? (Or did he bring me along for such a role?)

NATURAL STEPS, 8:36 A.M. — Wheee! Whoever built this First Baptist Church couldn't have realized what a blessing it would be to a travelling Methodist preacher. It's rather unorthodox, I suppose, but "blessing" in this instance means lying flat on my back, on the church's front walk, with my feet propped up on the steps. And I suspect if the deacons knew how good it feels,

they'd be right pleased, brother, to have helped a wandering sojourner in distress.

We stop at Martha's Cafe, a few minutes down the road in Roland, have chocolate milk and coffee and exchange bicycle stories with the nice gentleman and gentlewoman behind the counter. He tells us of the big hill up ahead where, once, as he came down on his coaster bike, the chain came off, leaving him both "without and with" — without any brakes and with "a heap of thinkin' to do." She remarks that we "sure have a long way to go to get to Conway!" It pleases me to know that she, too, realizes this and I'm tempted to say something like "Oh, it's not much," but settle for complimenting her on the good cup of coffee.

LITTLE ITALY, 9:30 — Somewhere in the Book it says something like "through much suffering you must enter the kingdom." If that's so, I suspect I've just about arrived, for this hill we're climbing right now — it's about 100 miles long and 20 miles high — fulfills all the requirements. Anyway, it's solved one problem I've had — trying to think of a fitting biblical name for my bicycle. Now I've got it: "Much Suffering."

ONE MILE WEST OF LITTLE ITALY, 10:15 — The hills are Italian — steep and beautiful — and so are the names on the mailboxes. And it's a far-away feeling I have at this, our sixth rest stop. I lie on my back in the grass, watch the sun and cloud patterns, misty through the oak trees, eat an orange and enjoy talk with my son. Forgotten are all those things going on in that other world out there that isn't nearly as real or as important at the moment as this one. Time takes a holiday and I become aware that here is another of those golden moments, to be etched in the memory, available for recall to give warmth to long winters in the years ahead...

We're soon on the way again. One nice thing about these back roads is that we can ride side-by-side for long stretches of time, without any traffic coming at us from ahead or showing up in our rear-view mirrors. It makes for nice conversation or sharing of music from our one radio.

WYE MOUNTAIN, 10:45 — What a pleasant experience to become acquainted with "the daffodil lady" of Wye United Methodist Church, "Grandma Harmon," and enjoy good conversation with her. After a visit, we refill our water bottles and are on our way. Ahead is the best downhill run on the whole route, a two-mile grade down to Bigelow, where we'll hunt up some lunch. Hot dog!

BIGELOW MOUNTAIN (DOWNHILL SIDE), 11:20 — Problems with my chain have put me a quarter of a mile behind, but with those solved and with this downhill grade and my modest 179 pounds working for me, I'll soon catch up with Chuck. I catch momentary glimpses of him way ahead, seeing his hunter's-orange bike flag flapping as he weaves around the "S" curves on this two-mile hill. At least I know he's still on the road.

Hot dog! What a thrill! I'll bet we're doing 150 miles-per-hour — at least!

NEARING CONWAY, 2:30 — We're on the last leg of our journey now, and the anticipation of successfully completing our venture makes light work of these last few miles. We look forward to greeting parents and grandparents Big Jim and Big Sue, at whose home we'll spend the night before Mom picks us up in the car in the morning. If we could know about the cold watermelon awaiting us in Conway, we'd be there sooner than our 2:55 arrival, nine hours, five minutes and 55 miles after leaving Little Rock this morning. It's been a good trip.

LITTLE ROCK, July 11 — Like most good things, our long-planned-for journey is now history; over, it seems, too soon. But just as there is much joy in the planning of such ventures, there is also great joy in the remembering of them. So we now have three joys: the planning, the experiencing, the remembering.

But there is another factor, a haunting, elusive specter which must be confronted: an uneasy feeling of guilt in the presence of such joy. How can one justify enjoying life so much when there are so many who do not or cannot do the same? One feels that it is somehow impertinent to be so greedy for life and all it has to offer when there are so many who have so little of its joys.

And, too, as far as this publication is concerned, there is the matter of priorities. How justify all this space when urgent issues of the moment, such as separation of Church and state, capital punishment, abortion, and terrorism and such, call for comment from the Christian perspective? And what of our church's Jurisdictional Conference in Lincoln, Neb., for which I am to leave within the hour, with its matters of major concern for Arkansas United Methodism? Surely such things have priority over a bicycle trip...

There are lessons buried deep in all of this, I suppose. But for the moment I choose to be excused from pursuing them. I elect, rather, to enjoy these recollections of hours spent with my son, moments when time took a holiday. Perhaps there is a ministry even in this. Maybe especially in this.

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Arkansas Methodist

Established 1882

Official newspaper of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

Editor and Business

Manager John S. Workman
Associate Editor Doris Woolard
Editorial Assistant and
Bookkeeper Karen Compton
Office Secretary Kathleen Storey
Circulation Manager Jane Raiford

Officers — Board of Managers

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PUBLISHED every Thursday except weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25 at United Methodist Headquarters Bldg., Little Rock, Ark. Second class postage paid at Little Rock, Ark. When asking for change of address

please include key number, new and old address and pastor's name.

POSTMASTER: Mail form 3579 to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203.

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE to Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203. Articles other than editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor.

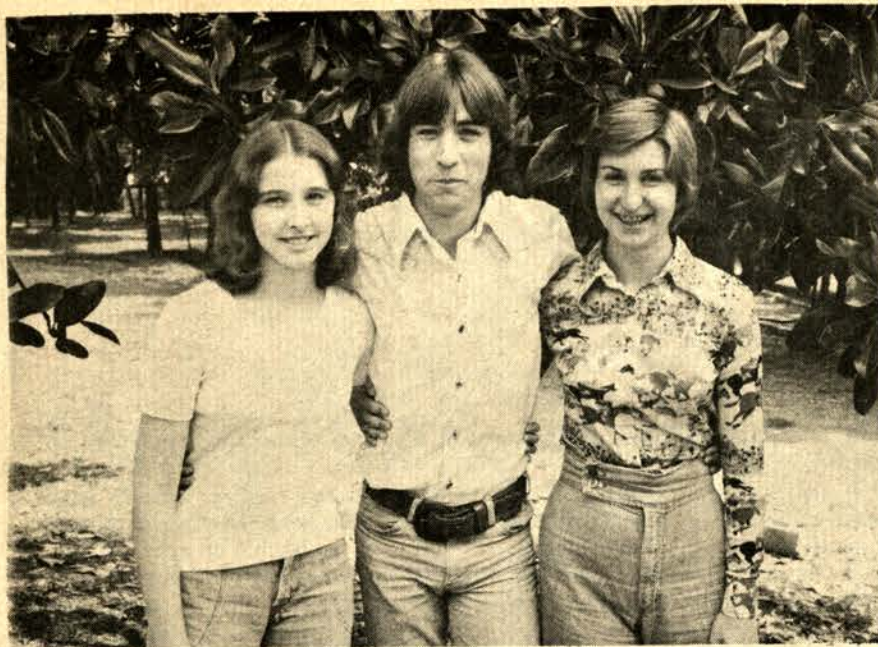
EDITORIAL and business offices located in United Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, Ark.

NEWS SERVICES: — United Methodist Communications (UMC), United Methodist boards and agencies: Religious News Service (RNS), and others.

Products or services advertised are not necessarily endorsed by this newspaper or by The United Methodist Church.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$5.00 per year.

MEMBER: Associated Church Press, United Methodist Assn. of Communicators



Youth Officers Elected in Little Rock Conference

Youth elected during the June 21-25 Little Rock Conference Camp at Tanako to serve as new officers of the Conference Youth Council were: (Left to right) Karen Watson of Mt. Holly, vice president, Stephen Coburn of Monticello, president, and Karen Nix of Lonoke, secretary. This year's conference camp provided leadership training for local church youth leaders and adult workers with youth.

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Training Event for D.S.'s and program leaders

DAYTON, Ohio (UMC) — About 150 new administrative and program leaders are expected to attend the annual Training Event for New District Superintendents and Conference Council Directors in The United Methodist Church. The event is scheduled for Sept. 7-11 at the Center for Renewal at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn.

The Rev. Dr. Norman E. Dewire, Dayton, Ohio, general secretary of the General Council on Ministries (GCOM), said emphasis will be on various aspects of the work of the district superintendent and conference council director, skill development and information-sharing. The Training Event is sponsored by the GCOM, the Council of Bishops and the Division of Ordained Ministry of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

Speaking at daily plenary sessions will be the Rev. Dr. Jameson Jones, president of Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo. His topics will include "Roles and Expectations," "Theological Reflections on Leadership" and "Functions" of the two leadership positions. Another plenary session will focus on "Systems Approach in the Church."

Workshops for the district superintendents will center around evaluation of ministers; the pastoral appointment process with the Pastor-Parish Committee in the local church; and the Charge Conference. Information sessions for district superintendents and

conference council will include briefings on building of financial apportionments, legal matters, use of property, mission thrusts of the church, and the "clustering and interdependency" of churches. Skills development work will include sessions on program building; supervision; and utilization of consultant skills.

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SCARRITT COLLEGE OFFERS TOUR SERVICE

Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn., offers a tour service to groups interested in seeing the offices of the Board of Discipleship, Board of Higher Education and Ministry, the United Methodist Communications, Meharry Medical College and Tennessee Conference agencies.

The Public Relations Office at Scarritt also assists groups in planning visits to local attractions such as Opryland, the Grand Ole Opry, Country Music Hall of Fame, the Hermitage and the Parthenon. In addition the office will make arrangements for groups desiring housing in local motels or in one of several local churches that permit visiting groups which have sleeping bags to utilize their facilities.

Further information may be obtained by writing: Newtonia V. Harris, director of Public Relations, Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn. 37203, or by calling 615-327-2700, Ext. 509.

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Physician-Clergy Dialogue At Paragould

Dr. Don Corley, director of the Pastoral and Social Services Department at the Baptist Medical Center in Little Rock, leads a recent Physician-Clergy Dialogue at Community Methodist Hospital in Paragould. The afternoon seminar dealt with the application of contemporary concepts of management to pastoral tasks. As president of the Greene County Ministerial Alliance, the Rev. David Moose served as co-host for the event.

United Methodism's 73 Annual Conferences 'report in'

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — United Methodism's 73 annual conferences in the United States have formally endorsed 26 clergymen for election to the episcopacy. The elections are to take place at the five Jurisdictional Conferences of the denomination, being held this week.

Those recommendations, made in accord with legislation adopted by the 1976 General Conference, were among major highlights of this year's meetings of the denomination's annual conferences, according to reports to United Methodist Communications and NEWSCOPE, the church's national newsletter. The last of the 73 sessions was adjourned June 25.

In addition to the 26 ministers "nominated," "endorsed" or "referred to the jurisdictional conference with blessing," a number of others are being supported by annual conference delegations to the jurisdictional meetings. Endorsement is not necessary to be considered for election.

A total of seven bishops are to be elected this week, four in the South Central Jurisdiction, two in the North Central, and one in the Northeastern. There are no vacancies in either the Southeastern or Western jurisdictions. Sites of the Jurisdictional Conferences are Lake Junaluska, N.C., Bridgeport, Conn., Sioux Falls, S.D., Lincoln, Nebr., and Salt Lake City, Utah.

All of the formally proposed episcopal nominees are men, although there is no disciplinary barrier to women being elected to the episcopacy.

Of the 26 formal actions, 13 are in the Northeastern Jurisdiction, six in the North Central, and seven in the South Central.

The seven formally supported by annual conference action in the South Central Jurisdiction are the Revs. Roy V. Barton, Dallas, Texas; Bruce P. Blake, Derby, Kans.; Monk Bryan, Columbia, Mo.; Joel A. Cooper, Fayetteville, Ark.; J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock, Ark.; Roberto Escamilla, Nash-

ville, Tenn.; and Sidney Roberts, Fort Worth, Texas.

Among Conference Actions

As was the case in the first 32 of the conferences to report, most of the final 41 sessions passed on to local churches the "missional priority" fund apportionments, gave recognition to the Bicentennial, and heard reports of a continued decline in church membership.

There also continued to be a lack of resolutions on social issues.

"We tried to maintain a low profile and stay out of the headlines — and we made it," was the way one reporter summed up his sessions. Several reporters cited the 1976 General Conference as their model for restrained statements.

New York supported U.S. recognition of Angola and repeal of the Byrd Amendment which allows importation of Rhodesian chrome. Eastern Pennsylvania supported "quality integrated education for all our children" in anticipation of school busing difficulties in Philadelphia, and Southern New England affirmed the General Conference resolution on the Boston school dispute.

North Arkansas and Little Rock opposed sale of liquor at overnight recreational facilities, such as camp grounds, in dry counties. Western New York backed the right of individual decision on abortion, and Rocky Mountain opposed efforts to rescind the state legislature's support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Pacific Northwest was one of the few annual conferences to redirect funds to the "missional priorities" of ethnic minority local churches, world hunger and evangelism. The delegates voted to use \$21,000 from pensions reserves in 1977 for the priorities.

Although no funds were redirected, Central Pennsylvania set evangelism as a priority, and Central New York initiated the W.H.E.A.T. program and approved an adjourned session in October to consider financial matters in general. Main passed on General Conference

(Continued on next page)

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CONFERENCES REPORT

(Continued from page four)

apportionments after increasing the amount for evangelism, and West Virginia established a goal of \$400,000 for hunger in 1976.

Western North Carolina will hold a major evangelistic rally as a follow-up to a 1975 gathering which attracted 14,000, Iowa and West Michigan set per capita goals for world hunger, and Virginia presented a check for \$150,000 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Rio Grande set a goal of 200,000 new members during the 1977-80 quadrennium, and Eastern Pennsylvania will convene a special convocation on the black church next spring.

Central Illinois and Southern Illinois are promoting a "grain train" for assistance in Guatemala, North Alabama made ethnic minority and small membership churches a priority for the 1976-77 conference year, and Western Pennsylvania will hold an evangelism congress this autumn as part of a major effort for 1977. Southern New England will try to recruit at least five minority pastors per year between now and 1980.

Kentucky expects to hold a special session this autumn to review the "missional priorities," and Holston approved \$26,500 for its black church task force to use for building improvement, salary support and local church programming. North Mississippi will add a staff member to conference council on ministries in the area of black church development.

Oklahoma Indian Missionary approved

a four-year program to implement all the priorities and California-Nevada passed on the apportionments.

Fund Drives

Capital fund drives were on the agenda of several conferences.

Oregon-Idaho reported that with one year to go, a pensions goal of \$1,250,000 appears likely to be exceeded by \$250,000. Yellowstone extended a pensions drive and adopted a program that envisions raising \$500,000 for new church and ministry opportunities, once the pensions campaign is completed.

Alaska Missionary expects to make a final decision next year of a drive for pensions and stewardship development. Little Rock apportioned \$285,000 in the fourth year of an eight-year pensions program, and heard that \$800,000 has been pledged toward a special gifts goal of \$1,000,000.

West Virginia endorsed a campaign for \$1,000,000 for its home for the aging, and Southern California-Arizona guaranteed up to \$6,000,000 in loans for Pacific Homes which has had financial woes. Southern New Jersey is planning a \$2,000,000 pensions campaign.

West Ohio reported collections of \$3,100,000 toward pledges of \$5,600,000 for pensions support, and New York said it was on target on a four-year, \$600,000 effort. North Georgia will begin a campaign for \$4,000,000 in 1977.

Rio Grande has received pledges of \$285,000 oversubscribing a \$150,000 goal for pensions and salary supplements. North Illinois approved a three-year \$5,000,000 pensions campaign, and Tennessee set a goal of \$1,500,000 during the new quadrennium for pensions.

North Carolina has raised \$320,000 for North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Eastern Pennsylvania is in the middle of a \$3,000,000 pensions effort launched in 1975, and South Indiana is ready to begin a three-year drive for \$2,500,000.

Central Illinois received a gift of land valued at \$1,100,000 for the Preachers Aid Society, and Southern Illinois approved the largest capital funds drive in its history — \$1,633,000 for pensions during a three-year period beginning next year.

North Alabama unanimously accepted a campaign to raise \$1,500,000 during the next three years for scholarships at Birmingham Southern College, and approved the concept of a \$1,000,000 pensions crusade prior to 1980.

Southern New England will seek \$800,000 to expand a retirement center, and Kentucky will begin a \$1,000,000 pensions drive next year. Holston authorized two health centers to borrow up to \$7,500,000 for expansion, and South Georgia reported collections and pledges totaling \$5,064,151 on a \$3,000,000 pensions effort.

Mississippi will seek \$2,500,000 in capital funds with \$1,500,000 for pensions, and Central Texas set a campaign goal of \$1,500,000. East Ohio approved a capital funds package totaling \$4,800,000 during the next three years for a financially-troubled retirement home.

Most conferences reported a decline in church membership. Exceptions were increases of 32 in Alaska Missionary, 370 in North Carolina, 511 in North Arkansas, 1,369 in South Georgia; 331 in Central Texas and 309 in Tennessee.

Reported losses ranged from 14 in Little Rock and 15 in Western North Carolina to more than 6,000 in West Ohio.

†



Dr. Robert Paul Sessions
**Arkansan Writing
Youth Series**

Dr. Robert Paul Sessions, a member of the North Arkansas Conference and a professor of sociology and anthropology at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, is writing a study unit for the Youth Bible Series to be released this Fall for United Methodist youth. Entitled "The Heart of the Bible: Central Themes and Teachings," the unit introduces teachings of both the Old and New Testaments, particularly those that are recurrent themes throughout both. Dr. Sessions, who for 12 years served as a pastor in the North Arkansas Conference, attended Brown University and Dartmouth College and holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and the Ph.D. from Boston University. He has written for various publications.

†

From Our Readers . . .

More thoughts on use of tobacco

'SMOKERS ALWAYS REACHED MORE PEOPLE'

To the Editor:

From the bottom of my heart: First, I want to say how grateful I am to the Church and to the beautiful people I have been privileged to serve as their pastor; they have been wonderful to me and my family.

I am sorry that the issue of preachers that smoke had to come up, as I am one of them. The church seems to be in enough trouble without this issue.

I am like the editor, there is nothing good I can say about the habit of smoking. But God has called us into this work, and some of us did not want to preach in the first place. Now I am sure of one thing, it was not because we smoked that he called us, but because of other things we had to offer. Thank God that he has accepted us and given us a chance.

There have been a few nit-picking self-righteous preachers who have forgotten what the word compassion means, and that Jesus said, "You that are without sin, cast the first stone," who thought nothing of killing the influence of their brother minister, who have given us trouble all along.

They made me feel so guilty, that I looked up the record of the smokers and the non-smokers, and the smokers always reached more people on Profession of Faith than the non-smokers.

Again, let me say, I don't believe it was because we smoked, but because we never forgot we were sinners saved by the grace of God, and we could identify ourselves with them.

One question Jesus asked of those whom he had called to be fishers of men. "Children have you caught any meat?" And they answered him "nothing!" At least you non-smokers can say "I didn't smoke."

There are many more things I would like to say, but I am afraid this won't get printed.

Connie A. Robbins
Rt. 1
Hope, Arkansas 71801

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LAYPERSONS, TOO

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your statements about tobacco and the minister from the June 3, 1976 Arkansas Methodist Editor's Pulpit. I agree with you that "the use of tobacco by ministers" is an issue which deserves "serious thought." I think it's also time to act on these thoughts. I am a fifty-one year old layperson . . .

I have been concerned for several years about the use of tobacco in our church buildings by both laymen and ministers and "laypersons." I know you are calling attention to the "issue of tobacco and the minister" only, but here is some support for both our concerns. My pastor said to me, on the Sunday after his return from General Conference, Portland, Ore. "Ruth I have good news for you on a subject about which you are concerned, i.e., using tobacco in our churches. A resolution was made at the conference that the Methodist Church would not condone the use of tobacco or alcohol nor the sale of either

in churches or church rooms." This is not an exact quote but it is the meaning of the statement as I understand it.

I, too, consider the use of tobacco by ministers as just one more evidence that the church has watered down its message to conform to the world. This is terrible. Christians are told in the scriptures, "Love not the world nor the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:15). Let us Methodists join other denominations and try to obey this and begin by cutting out using tobacco in our ministry. I am glad you've stated these contentions and I hope we will quit condoning the use of tobacco by ministers and by laymen in our churches . . .

Mrs. W. L. McDowell
916 Walnut Street
Newport, Ark. 72112

†

KEEP DRY COUNTIES DRY

To the Editor:

I want to thank the United Methodist North Arkansas Conference for the stand they took on dry counties being kept dry. I live in Perry county. Across the highway is wet Pulaski, so we have plenty of beer cans to pick up. These wet counties will have something to answer for some day. All the revenue taken in from liquor is not worth one child killed by a drunken driver . . .

Be thou clean that bear the vessel of the Lord. — An old United Brethren
Mrs. Austin Harmon
Route 1, Wye Mt.
(The Daffodil Lady)

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Scripture Alone

By WILLIAM C. GENTRY
Professor of Philosophy and Humanities
Henderson State University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Scriptures: 2 Kings 22:1-13; Luke 4:16-21;
Romans 1:16-17; 15:4;
Galatians 2:15-21; 3:23-29.

Justification by Faith

Soon after Paul had left the new converts in Galatia, other preachers apparently came to them declaring that if they wanted to become true Christians they would not only have to have faith in Jesus Christ but also obey the Law of Moses. This meant they were expected not only to obey the ethical principles of the Ten Commandments but also to be circumcised and to abide by the sumptuary laws of the Old Testament, explicit rules governing diet, personal cleansing habits, and such matters. Real salvation could be theirs, the Galatians were being told, it seems, only if they earned it through strict obedience to the ethical and cultic laws of the Old Testament.

Paul wrote them in evident anger saying that they, "foolish Galatians," were allowing themselves to be misled. They should have heeded his message more carefully: salvation is by God's grace alone, not through the works of the law. To mean salvation Paul uses the term "justification," a forensic term, suggesting exoneration or being declared not-guilty. The jury and judge in a law court determine the facts and the applicability of the law; they then declare, in some cases, that with regard to both the facts and the law a defendant who has been charged with a crime is not guilty.

Paul uses the legal term, but his understanding of the process of divine justification is that it is quite different from the secular legal process. The fact is that we, the defendants, are guilty before God. None of us, by virtue of his merit, is worthy of being accredited righteous in the sight of God. We deserve punishment. But God has decided to effect our justification, our forgiveness. However, he cannot do it merely by fiat; for, in that case, God's honor, his own justice would be further violated. He cannot simply declare a guilty sinner to be not guilty.

For this reason, Paul says, Christ, who is righteous, took upon himself the burden of sin which is ours by right. He suffered the punishment appropriately due us. His death and resurrection are, therefore, the means chosen by God to accomplish our justification while preserving the integrity of God's honor. (The explication of this "satisfaction" theory of the atonement was given by Anselm in the eleventh century.)

The basic premise has been that man's sin has violated God's honor and justice and that these must be satisfied before man can be forgiven and judged righteous. Since no sinful man can render the proper satisfaction, it is done by the vicarious sufferings of the sinless God-man Jesus Christ, who accepted the burden of man's guilt and the corresponding punishment, death. (Van Harvey, A HANDBOOK OF THEOLOGICAL TERMS, New York: The Macmillan Co., 1964, pp. 216-217)

The function of the Mosaic Law, Paul tells the Galatians, was to keep mankind under "custody," that is, to keep us at least orderly under threat of punishment, until the coming of Christ. (Martin Luther will

say later that one of the two valid uses of the Old Testament law was to keep sinners from totally destroying the structures of God's creation and the image of God within themselves until their redemption.) Our attempts at making ourselves righteous through legalistic obedience have merely made our sinfulness and arrogance more destructive and obvious. "By the works of the law shall no one be justified" (Galatians 2:16).

The Protestant Reformation

We saw in the last lesson that several efforts to reform the late medieval Roman Catholic Church from within, those of Wyclif, Hus, and the leaders of the conciliar movement, failed. Other efforts in the early Renaissance church, such as the criticisms of the humanist scholar Erasmus, had limited success. A rather unlikely figure, the son of a miner, is credited with having begun the movement which would result in the fracturing of the Western church. This person was Martin Luther.

Luther is an interesting psychological study. He obviously was an intense and determined young man who became a monk after a dramatic escape from death by lightning. As a monk, student, and teacher of theology Luther struggled toward a sense of personal reconciliation with God. He was torn by feelings of guilt and unworthiness. Seeking an inner assurance of salvation, he tried all the avenues advised by the church: physical discipline and self-denial, frequent and intense confession and penance, extensive study, and service to others. Nothing worked. Luther remained without the confidence that God's love and forgiveness were really his.

Then in his biblical studies during the years 1513 through 1517, he gained a clear insight into the meaning of Paul's teaching that salvation is not by virtue of good works but is by God's grace alone (see Romans 4:5-2). Salvation, Luther realized finally, cannot be earned. In spite of our unworthiness, the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ occurred on our behalf.

Faith in God through Christ is the only avenue to an assurance of our justification. There is no other. Luther's new-found conviction that salvation is available to all sinners without their having to do any "good works" to attain it, and that the appropriation of God's saving grace is by faith alone, would inevitably lead him into conflict with the church authorities.

The first confrontation between Luther and the hierarchy of the church arose over the question of the sale of "indulgences." The church was selling papal instruments, "indulgences," which assured their buyers that certain sins were forgiven, and that even those who had died and were in Purgatory could have their periods of expiatory purification shortened, if indulgences were purchased in their names. In light of Paul's counsel that no one can be justified by "works of the law" (Galatians 2:16), Luther denounced the sale of indulgences as contrary to the clear meaning of Scripture.

The church responded by reasserting the pope's authority to forgive sins. Luther was now faced with the fundamental question of determining wherein lies the superior authority: in the pope or in the Bible? He declared that Scripture alone (*sola Scriptura*) is the authority which Christians may believe. This confrontation forced Luther out of the Roman Catholic Church and onto his pilgrimage leading to the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Luther had found the inward assurance he had so long sought. The key lay for him in

the three part expression: grace alone, faith alone, Scripture alone.

The Protestant Reformation built upon these three foundation stones. The Protestant Christian understood that he had been set free from the grinding obligation to be religious, to do pious works, or to render dutiful service in order to be saved! This is a dizzying freedom — as was discovered by some "left wing" Protestants who came to be called antinomians because they insisted that Christians almost had an obligation to live an undisciplined life.

Luther put the matter of Christian freedom this way: "A Christian man is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian man is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." (Quoted from "Treatise on Christian Liberty" in *Adult Student*, p. 58.) What did he mean by this paradox? Luther meant that while salvation is free, the person who is saved will be responsible and dutiful. Good works are not the condition for being justified; they are the "fruits" of justification.

It must also be remembered that faith is not a good work. We do not live under a demand that we ought to have faith. Faith is not the fulfillment of an obligation; faith is the joyful reception of a gift. Neither is faith a voluntary act of believing things which are difficult or impossible to believe. Faith is fundamentally trust, assurance, confidence that God in Christ loves and accepts us. God has made us his own; our security now and forever rests only in him. Who, in his right mind, Paul and Luther ask, will not accept this gift?

Finally the solution to the dilemma of religious authority is solved. Popes, priests, preachers, theologians, none of these constitutes the final authority in matters of faith. The Bible alone is the authoritative medium of the message of our salvation. Earthly authorities almost always seem to have some sort of personal or institutional interest in mind to be served by their dictates. (This was certainly the case regarding the claimed authority of the popes of the sixteenth century to grant indulgences. The Renaissance papacy was rather desperately in need of money to finance such elaborate building projects as the "new" St. Peter's and other aspects of the grand life-style enjoyed in the Renaissance Vatican.)

Through his study of the Psalms, Galatians, Hebrews, Titus, and especially Romans, Luther found the answer to his personal problem of assurance of God's forgiveness.

As he labored on the latter part of his lectures on Romans, and even more clearly in the closing months of 1516, his confidence that the God-given nature of faith involved personal assurance became conviction. Thenceforth, in his own personal experience the sum of the Gospel was the forgiveness of sins. It was the "good news," filling his soul with peace, joy, and absolute trust in God. It was absolute dependence on the divine promises, on God's word. (Williston Walker, A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1959, p. 304)

The only way that the Bible can have this authority for us is if we study it. The Bible is probably still the most printed and purchased book in the world. But it must be read with diligence and discipline if it is to provide the sort of conviction of God's graciousness which Luther, John Wesley, and countless others have found in it. The Bible should be read both alone and with aids. The assistance of scholarly commentaries and interpretations is often essential if the Bible is to be understood and its message is to become lively for us.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

General Clarence Wiseman, world leader of the Salvation Army, said in Los Angeles that the organization is experiencing a surge of membership growth among non-whites and young people. He said, "We are rapidly approaching the point where we will have more non-white members than white." Although recruitment of young people for officer training dipped sharply in the U.S. in the late 1960s, it has since risen to the point where it has become necessary to purchase a new school for officers' training.

Dr. Ernest P. Noble, director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, told a three-day assembly in the Old South Church of Boston that when the stress and pressures of daily life become too strong for an individual, physical and emotional illness result — "including the illness we call alcoholism. We could all use some rest from the positive and negative stresses which bombard us daily." Dr. Noble said he has personally found "solutions and refreshment in worship" and called for the churches to play a greater role "in providing relief from psychic pain."

Dr. Nahum Golmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said at a two-day closed meeting of the WJC at The Hague that European Jewish communities will organize to resist any moves to expel Israel from the United Nations.

Harvey Lee Price, a United Methodist lay leader and Boy Scout professional for 39 years, has been appointed acting Chief Scout Executive — the top professional post in the Boy Scouts of America. Mr. Price, a member of La Canada United Methodist Church (Calif.), has served on the board of stewards of four Methodist churches in various locations and serves as chairman of the Membership and Evangelism Commission in his home church.

Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury Donald Coggan praised the new musical about John Wesley, Methodism's founder. The archbishop said "Ride! Ride! ... has a message for our day" in "the story of what one man achieved in an age in many respects not unlike our own." Following four successful weeks on the London stage, the musical is scheduled to run indefinitely. Producer

Ronald Mann said the audience response "shows the strong demand that exists for theatre that both entertains and has some meat to it."

Dr. Carl E. Bates, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., advised messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention: "Stop brooding about the political mess that our country and our cities are in and get busy and do something about it! Stop whining about the state of affairs in this land of ours and in your particular community."

Father Vincent P. Miceli, S.J., of Fordham University, New York, charged in a keynote address that the U.S. Catholic Church has become "a cream-puff chaplaincy to the converted" instead of "the crusading, courageous, evangelizing society Christ founded it to be."

From the Churches

BELLS CHAPEL Church in Conway District celebrated its centennial year in conjunction with a special Bicentennial July 4th worship service, potluck lunch, and an afternoon of fellowship and games. Former ministers and other guests shared in the celebration. Some members of the congregation wore Bicentennial costumes. Bells Chapel was organized in August of 1876. In 1925 the Methodist Episcopal Church North and Methodist Episcopal Church South congregations united to form the Methodist Church, predecessor to the present United Methodist Church. Bells Chapel is located about two and one half miles southwest of Atkins on Highway 324.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of First Church, Camden held their June meeting at Silliman Lake House at Mustin Lake. Hymn singing and sack lunches were followed by a program under the direction of Mrs. Thomas Lockett. Several UMW members presented a skit, and during the worship period each person located in her Bible and shared a scripture that, to her, expressed a prayer.

A **UNIQUE FEATURE** of the recent vacation church school sponsored jointly by Monette and Black Oak United Methodist Churches was the daily transporting of the boys and girls by hay wagon. While the children studied the Parables of Jesus and God's love, the adults studied orthodox Christian beliefs and contrasts with other religions and cults in the U.S. Cherie Bentley served as director for the school.

THE REV. and Mrs. Bennie G. Ruth were honored with a reception and gifts at First Church, Stamps, following a Choir Appreciation Night, the last service for Pastor Ruth before moving to his new assignment at Vantrease Church in El Dorado. Also honored at the reception was the Rev. James W. Knight and family, recently assigned to the Harmony Grove-Lakeside Charge in Camden District. The congregation at Sardis also honored the Ruth's with a reception and gift.

MR. AND MRS. Leonard Raaton, members of Sardis United Methodist Church for more than 26 years, recently received special recognition from their church for having missed only five services during that time. Mr. Raaton has served as Church School superintendent for 22 years of that period.

THE REV. JAMES BARTON and family were honored by the Berryville congregation with a potluck meal and gifts prior to their recent departure to serve Rosewood United Methodist Church in West Memphis.

United Methodist Women of the Berryville Church sponsored a churchwide reception honoring their new pastor, the Rev. David Moose, and family.

COLLEGE and Senior High UMY groups of Sylvan Hills Church, North Little Rock, spent a recent Sunday afternoon swimming, paddle boating, and fellowshiping at Lake Nixon, accompanied by Sponsor Susie Bell.

Stuttgart Bicentennial Observance

A bicentennial observance was held recently at First Church in Stuttgart. The celebration included singing, presentations of a bicentennial flag and pastoral plaques, and a church-wide fish fry.

The pastoral plaques were zinc engravings, made from photographs of former pastors of First Church, and mounted on walnut frames. Of 43 former pastors, 31 engravings were obtained.

In attendance and recognized during the plaque presentation were: Richard D. McSwain, San Marcus, Tex., son of the Rev. R. B. McSwain who served First Church in 1905 and 1906; Mrs. Olivia Clark McCutcheon, Benton, whose father, the Rev. T. P. Clark, served from 1907 to 1909; Mrs. Walter Rowland, Little Rock, daughter of the Rev. J. Frank Simmons, who served in 1916 and 1917; Mrs. Louis K. Hundley, Little Rock, daughter-in-law of the Rev. L. E. N. Hundley who served from 1929 to 1931; Dr. Otto W. Teague, Little Rock, pastor from 1942 to 1945, and Mrs. Teague; Mrs. Warren D. Golden, Parkin, whose husband was pastor from 1960 to 1966. Also present were the Rev. Jack A. Wilson, pastor of First Church since 1974, and Mrs. Wilson.

The plaques were provided by United Methodist Women, with proceeds from their annual May Breakfast.

Daily Bible Readings

July 18—Sunday Num. 21:4-9
July 19 John 3:14-21
July 20 Matt. 9:18-31
July 21 Mark 9:14-29
July 22 Heb. 11:1-10
July 23 Heb. 11:17-26
July 24 James 2:14-26
July 25—Sunday Gen. 12:1-8



MT. PLEASANT United Methodist Church on David O'Dodd Road, Little Rock, with members and friends who gathered for a recent Bicentennial Homecoming. Seen at right are picnic tables set up for dinner on the grounds. In addition to the worship service, the day's activities included hymn singing and games. The Rev. Paul Barrington is pastor.

UMPIRE CHURCH on the Dierks Circuit photographed during major repair job and addition of a combination fellowship hall and classroom, restrooms and storage space. The original building, constructed in 1904, was replaced in 1942 with a one-room structure to which the new unit has been added. Pews for the sanctuary were handmade 17 years ago. Volunteer workers, left to right, are Grady Pinkerton, Pete Bearden, Titus Manasco, and Mr. Hughes, a carpenter. The Rev. Herbert Pekar is pastor on the Dierks Circuit.



SEQUOYAH CHURCH in Fayetteville has recently purchased a new parsonage in Sequoyah Woods at 3115 Cherokee Drive. Participants in a Service of Consecration are shown here with District Superintendent Harold H. Spence (at left).

RECEIVING THE KEYS to the new parsonage of Salem Church in Batesville District is the Rev. DuBois Pettit (center). Making the presentation are Mr. Owen Biles and Mrs. Juanita Lewis, members of the building committee. The three-bedroom home is valued at \$30,000.



THE SUNSHINE CLASS of Camden First Church recently observed its 50th anniversary with an open house. The celebration was held in the home of Mrs. J. E. Campbell (left). Shown with the hostess are class officers: Mrs. C. A. Cawthon, president; Mrs. L. Riechman, co-president; Mrs. D. W. Harrell, vice-president, and Mrs. O. A. Anderson, secretary-treasurer.

Personalia

THE REV. AND MRS. James Barton, of Rosewood Church in West Memphis, announce the recent marriage of their daughter, Aloha Danette, to Mr. Johnny Johnson of Berryville.

AD RATES

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Liner ads cost only \$.75 per line, or part of line; \$.50 per line for identical ads after first entry. Display ads cost \$5 per column inch for first insertion. For additional information write: Arkansas Methodist, P.O. Box 3547, Little Rock, Ark. 72203, or telephone 374-4831.

OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE SEPT. 1, for Director of Youth and Christian Education. First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 568, Jacksonville, Ark. 72076, phone 501-982-8176.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Person needed to be head resident at Galloway Hall, Hendrix College. Primary consideration will be given to married couples and single women. Salary \$4,800 per 12 months, plus room and board and comprehensive medical and life insurance. Contact Jerry K. Yarbrough, %Hendrix College, Conway.

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MR. CYRUS Sutherland (left) and sons Win and Ian (left to right) of Central Church, Fayetteville, all share the distinction of being Eagle Scouts. Mr. Sutherland earned his award in 1937, Ian, a former Senior Patrol leader, received the award in 1971, and Win was so honored at a recent Court of Honor conducted by Scout Troop 102 of Central Church. For his Eagle project Win compiled and published a pamphlet on bicycle trails in Northwest Arkansas. He is spending the summer as a member of the staff at the National Scout Camp at Philmont, N.M.



SPENCER ALBRIGHT IV, also a member of Scout Troop 102, Central Church, Fayetteville, planned and supervised the construction of special equipment for the Fayetteville Parks, thus completing requirements for his Eagle Scout Award. Spencer, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Spencer Albright III, is spending the summer as a member of the staff at Terrall Boy Scout Camp near Bastrop, La.



CONFIRMATION CLASS recently received into full membership at First Church, Carlisle, by the Rev. Alfred DeBlack, pastor. Shown with the group is their teacher.



CONFIRMED in the faith and received into full membership at Wesley Church, Fort Smith recently, were Jeffrey Jones and Charlotte Harmon, shown with the Rev. James Wingo, their pastor.

FIRST CHURCH, North Little Rock, recently hosted the Senior High Youth Choir of First Church, Sterling, Kans., shown (at right) as they appeared in concert presenting numbers from Godspell and Superstar, and other contemporary folk music. The 20 singers provided their own accompaniment with piano, electric guitar, acoustic guitars, drums, saxophone and flute. Special guests for the performance were UMYF members from Sylvan Hills United Methodist Church.

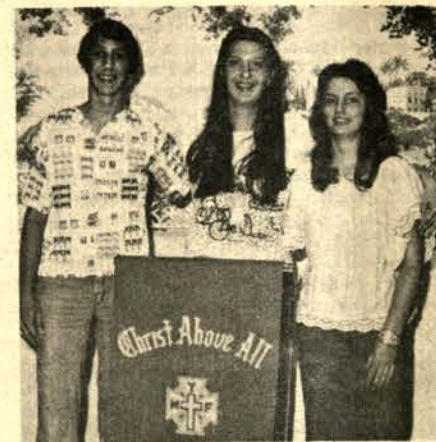


TAMI THOMPSON (left) and Susan Steinsiek (right) of First Church, Blytheville have been elected to district and conference responsibilities. During the recent Jonesboro District Youth Rally at First Church, Jonesboro, Miss Steinsiek, a sophomore at Blytheville High School, was elected district representative to the North Arkansas Conference Council on Youth Ministries. Miss Thompson, a junior, was elected from her home church to serve on the Jonesboro District Youth Council.

United Methodist Youth in Arkansas



SEVENTEEN youth of First Church, McGehee, were received into full membership by the Rev. Virgil C. Bell (center), following training in the Confirmation and Membership Class conducted by the pastor.



NEWLY ELECTED officers for the Arkadelphia District UMY are, left to right, Gregg Featherston, vice president; Lisa Meeks, president, and Pam Graves, secretary. BELOW: Shown here are some of the 80 youth and counselors who participated in the recent Arkadelphia District Youth Rally at First Church, Malvern, as they engaged in group discussions.



TIM MAXWELL, a junior at Hendrix College, is serving as summer youth worker at Lakewood Church, North Little Rock. Mr. Maxwell, a psychology major, is working with the Rev. Clint Burleson, senior minister, and Mrs. Saville Henry, program director, in planning and implementing programs for youth and children in the church.



MEMBERS of the graduating class of Cave City High School were guests at "Honor Night," at Cave City United Methodist Church, following a tradition established a number of years ago by the church's United Methodist Women. The program included organ music, appropriate hymns, a welcome by Pastor Gerald E. Martin, music by a senior ensemble, and a message by Mr. Allen Pierce, a junior at Arkansas State University.

A "Sundae Supper" was the means by which the Junior High UMY (at left) of Marion United Methodist Church provided funds for completion of the church's new library. Ice cream with a variety of toppings, and cake and cokes were served.

MISS Lea Ann Ashcraft, a member of Shorewood Hills Church at Jones Mill and immediate past president of the Arkadelphia District Youth organization recently graduated with special honors from Magnet Cove High School, receiving recognition as top honor student and the attendant scholarship award, the Spanish Award and selection as the D.A.R. Good Citizen. Miss Ashcraft plans to enter the University of Arkansas at Little Rock where she will pursue training as a physical therapist. She is the granddaughter of the late Rev. Robert L. Riffin and Mrs. Riffin of Portland.

