

## Official welcome planned for Arkansas's new bishop

A Service of Acceptance for Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks, whose assignment as resident bishop of the Arkansas Area of The United Methodist Church became effective Sept. 1, has been scheduled for early October. Details of the service are being planned by the Committees on the Episcopacy of the two Arkansas Area annual conferences. Bishop and Mrs. Hicks moved to Little Rock last Tuesday, Aug. 24. They are making their home at the former episcopal residence, 3909 South Lookout Street, which they are purchasing from the Area.

The Service of Acceptance, tentatively scheduled to be held at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock within the first two weeks of October, will be a worship service, ecumenical in nature, with leaders of various denominations invited to participate. Details of the service will be announced at an early date.

To afford opportunity for United Methodists and friends throughout the two Annual Conferences to become acquainted with Bishop and Mrs. Hicks, a series of receptions will be scheduled by the 13 districts of the conferences, following the initial Service of Acceptance.

Bishop Hicks was one of four bishops elected at the South Central Jurisdictional Conference, held last July 13-15 at Lincoln, Nebr. At the time of his election he was completing his third year as senior pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Grand Island, Neb. He had previously served as superintendent of the Central District of the Nebraska Conference, in addition to numerous pastoral appointments in Nebraska and Colorado.

The Hicks have two children, Linda Diane, a speech pathologist at West Nebraska General Hospital in Scottsbluff, Nebr., and Debra Dawn (Mrs. Keith Swenson), a senior at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Bishop Hicks' offices are in the United Methodist Headquarters Building, 715 Center Street, Little Rock, adjacent to First United Methodist Church. The headquarters building also houses the offices of the Councils on Ministries of the two Annual Conferences, the Area Treasurer, the Little Rock District superintendent, and the Arkansas Methodist.

## A message from Bishop Hicks

To our new Friends in Arkansas:



We are about to begin a new journey together. As we have gathered the loose ends since July 15, the anticipated transition has been blessed with an outpouring of greetings and acts of graciousness beyond all deserving or expectation.

On his retirement from the Supreme Court, William O. Douglas wrote in a letter to his colleagues, "I am reminded of many canoe trips I have taken in my lifetime. Those who start down a water course may be strangers at the beginning but almost invariably are close friends at the end."

We will travel through rapids and carry loads around the falls, but surely God will place scenes of accomplishment, joy, and Christian fellowship along the way. Elaine and I have come to Arkansas eagerly. We felt right at home at the Arkansas breakfast at Jurisdictional Conference and knew then that this is where we belong. Pray for us. We will want you to be, not behind us, but beside us. Surely God has great days ahead for us all.

*Kenneth W. Hicks*

# Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, September 2, 1976



95th Year, No. 35

## UNCF campaign committee named for Arkansas

Attorney John T. Haskins of Little Rock, chairman of the United Negro College Fund's 1976 campaign in Arkansas, has announced the appointment of a Corporate Pacesetter Committee to aid in the raising of the \$60,000 state campaign goal.

Named to the new committee are Charles Meyer, president of Meyers Bakery, Charles Johnson, president of First Federal Savings and Loan, Frank Lyon Sr., president of Frank Lyon Co., Joe Brown Sr., president of Brown's Carpet and Decorator Center, Roger Mears Jr., Pulaski County Judge elect; E. Alton Bowen, president of Beech Abstract Co., Sheldon W. Spurlock, general manager of radio station KALO, and Dr. Worthie R. Springer and Dr. M. A. Jackson, both physicians.

The drive, launched June 22, has a national goal of \$14 million. Under the joint campaign agreement, 75 percent of funds collected will go directly to Philander Smith College in Little Rock. The remaining 25 percent goes to UNCF for distribution to the 41 member colleges, in which distribution Philander Smith again participates.

Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, Philander Smith president, notes that the need for funds at the college is great. He reports that 85 percent of the college's 800 students require financial aid.

## United Methodism's stewardship leaders to meet at Mt. Sequoyah

The National Association of Stewardship Leaders of The United Methodist Church will hold its 1976 conference at Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Sept. 13-16. The theme of the event will be "Stewardship — A Cutting Edge." Dr. Joel A. Cooper, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, will be the inspirational speaker for the conference.

Members of the staff of the Section on Stewardship of the Board of Discipleship and other resource persons will provide other leadership for the event.

The purpose of the four-day meet is "to provide an occasion for stewardship leaders to gather, to get acquainted, to exchange ideas, find support in each other's interest and consider in depth at least one phase of stewardship of major concern." The stated goal of the conference is to develop a plan, for presentation to the General Conference of 1980, for a year-round stewardship emphasis in the local church for the year 1981.

Among workshop leaders from the Board of Discipleship will be Mr. Dwight Newberg, a specialist in wills and special gifts programs; Mr. Gordon Danielson, whose field is family financial planning; Mr. Al Hooke, a resource leader in developing simplified accounting systems for small churches, and Mr. Earl Barfoot, who majors in the development of environmental stewardship projects and stewardship programs with children and youth.

Registration for the event begins at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, with the opening session at 7 p.m. Adjournment is at noon on Thursday. Persons desiring a brochure with detailed information and

registration form may write to Mr. Earl Barfoot, Board of Discipleship, Section on Stewardship, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202.

## Jurisdictional event to attract retired persons

A four-day retreat, designed especially for persons of retirement age, will be held Oct. 11-14 at Mt. Sequoyah at Fayetteville. Entitled "The Best is Yet to Be," the event is sponsored by the South Central Jurisdiction, which encompasses 17 annual conferences of The United Methodist Church in an eight-state region.

Among purposes of the retreat are the reexamination of "values in the light of the last quarter of our lifetime," the "search for meaning as Christian churchmen for abundant living in our later years," and "to gain inspiration from the teachings of our faith that provide practical guidelines for the living of our days."

Forum speaker during the event will be Dr. Elbert C. Cole, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, Kansas City, and founder of The Shepherd's Center, a unique ministry to the elderly.

The convocation preacher will be Dr. Gaston Foote, retired member of the Central Texas Conference and former

faculty member of Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. Dr. Dewitt Seago, former pastor and district superintendent in the Northwest Texas Conference and now chaplain of King's Manor Methodist Home in Hereford, Tex., will lead the Bible study sessions.

A feature of the four-day session will be Involvement Groups, considering such topics as Meaning for Later Life, Innovative Life Styles, Senior Citizenship, and Talent Banks and Volunteers.

Registration fees, \$10 per person or \$15 for husband and wife, are to be sent to: South Central Jurisdiction, United Methodist Church, 4209 N.W. 23rd, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73107. Room and meal reservations should be made directly with Mt. Sequoyah Assembly, Fayetteville, Ark. 72701. The cost is from \$10 to \$12.50 per person per day. Detailed information can be secured from each annual conference's Council on Ministries office, 715 Center St., Little Rock, Ark. 72201.





### Crossett Church Clears Debt

Participating in the recent burning of the church mortgage at First Church, Crossett, were, left to right, Mrs. Lena Hastings, age 91, who joined the Crossett church in 1910, Mr. Austin Temple, the Rev. Harold K. Davis, who served as pastor of that church prior to his recent appointment to the superintendency of Hope District, and Mr. Quintin Cone, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Miss Myrtle E. Charles

### Former Hendrix dean dies

Miss Myrtle E. Charles of Conway, former chairman of the modern language department at Hendrix College and the institution's first dean of women, died Aug. 18. She was 88. She had retired in 1953 and had been honored by the college in 1968 as being one of its Distinguished Alumni.

Miss Charles had studied at the Sorbonne at Paris and graduated from Hendrix in 1908. She received the master's degree from the University of Texas in 1917 and did graduate work at the University of Chicago and Columbia University at New York.

She was a former chairman of the Arkansas Dean of Women's Association,

former president of the Conway Shakespeare Club and a member of Delta Kappa Gamma sorority.

She was a former chairman of the Arkansas Modern Language Association and a charter member of the Faulkner County Historical Society. She had served as chairman of the state Girls' Training School.

She is survived by two brothers, J. H. Charles of Fort Smith and Russell G. Charles of Tulsa, Okla., and two sisters, Mrs. Mabel Sherin and Mrs. Elsiea Cristwell, both of Conway.

The funeral service was at First United Methodist Church, Aug. 20, with Dr. Harold O. Eggensperger, pastor, Dr. Matt L. Ellis of Conway, former president of Hendrix College, and Dr. James W. Workman of Conway, retired member of the Little Rock Conference, officiating. Burial was at Oak Grove Cemetery.

### Little Rock Conference

#### Youth Choir Clinic

In order to participate in the Clinic, please fill out the advance registration form below, and mail it with the non-refundable deposit of \$5 per church before Sept. 10, 1976 to:

David A. Glaze  
First United Methodist Church  
121 Harrison Avenue  
Camden, Ark. 71701

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK CONFERENCE  
YOUTH CHOIR CLINIC  
First United Methodist Church, Camden, Arkansas  
Saturday, Sept. 25, 1976

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Director \_\_\_\_\_ Minister \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Choir Members: S \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_  
Will Plan to Attend Director's Luncheon: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### Scarritt offers second 'Oktoberfest'

The second annual "Oktoberfest," a training event for leaders in church music, will be held Oct. 1-2 at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn. The event, designed for persons who direct children's, youth or adult choirs, will focus on contemporary hymnody, choral conducting, choral literature and worship planning.

Resource leaders for the meet will be Dr. Austin Lovelace, minister of music at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas; Dr. Erik Routley, professor of church music at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J.; Dr. Carlton Young, chairman of the Music Department at Scarritt; Ms. Madeline S. Bridges of Scarritt Church Music Education Department, and Mr. William Wolfe, director of Music and Youth Culture for the Board of Discipleship.

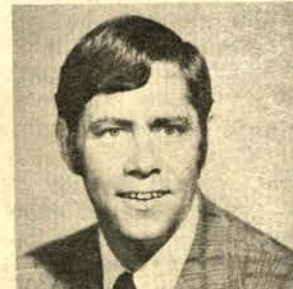
The event is limited to 50 participants and the registration deadline is Sept. 17. Additional information may be secured by writing the Center of Continuing Education, Scarritt College, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

### LIMITED NUMBER OF HISTORY VOLUMES AVAILABLE

Approximately 200 copies of the new volume, *Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976*, by Dr. Walter N. Vernon, are still available for purchase. The price remains at the pre-publication rate of \$7.95. The volumes may be obtained at the Council on Ministries office, 715 Center St., Little Rock (72203) or may be ordered by mail from that address. Mail orders must be accompanied by 80 cents for return postage.

Persons desiring volumes are encouraged to get them soon. The original 2500 copies will probably be the only printing, and once the volumes are sold it will be difficult to secure one.

—The Joint Committee on Publication



### Northside Men Hear Specialist

Mr. James H. Snead Jr. of United Methodism's Board of Discipleship spoke of the need for chartered fellowships of United Methodist Men within local churches of the denomination as he addressed the recent quarterly meeting of Northside United Methodist Men at Amboy Church in North Little Rock — a sub-district unit of Conway District. Mr. F. B. "Jack" Jackson of Indian Hills Church is president of the Northside group. Mr. Jim Lane, district lay leader, introduced Mr. Snead to the group of over 100 men at the meeting.

### To United Methodists of Arkansas

Dear Friends:

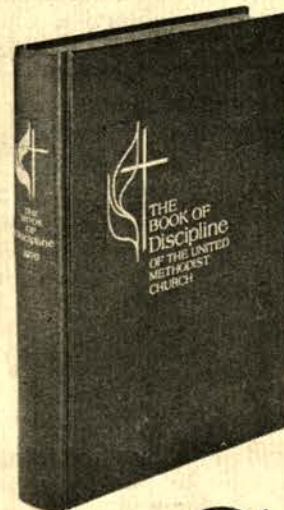
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Cabot Interfaith Council

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## 'Patriarchal mentality' obstructs solution to world problems

DUBLIN (RNS) — A U.S. educator and feminist told 300 women from six continents attending the World Federation of Methodist Women's assembly here that a "patriarchal mentality" has hindered the search for a solution to such world problems as hunger, poverty, and war.

Dr. Nelle Morton, retired professor of Christian education from Drew Theological School, Madison, N.J., defined the patriarchal mind-set as a condition in which someone has to get power over others by putting them down.

"We may not be isolated from one another physically but we are hooked by a patriarchal mentality which prevents hearing and the meeting of minds," she said.

The educator asserted that "it is too late for the rulers, those in control, to remedy the world's ills, even if they wanted to do so. They are too close to the causes of world disorder to have any kind of perspective

beyond saving their own skins and inheriting the earth, which image the Bible keeps alive for them."

Dr. Morton, a Presbyterian, told the Methodist women from more than 50 countries that a new educational venture is needed to reverse the "power over" model of "racing to success." Such an effort, she said, "would claim openly to have both a political and spiritual dimension."

Today's education, according to Dr. Morton, has a "hidden political dimension while claiming to be objective and non-political." She held that in many countries it has a "de-spiritualizing effect while claiming to keep religion from indoctrinating education."

The feminist educator asserted that "if this world, this earth and all of its people are to be diverted from global destructiveness, it is the exploited, dispossessed, and so-called powerless who will do it." In this respect, she declared that Jesus' teaching "was both his spiritual

and political vocation."

Traditionally, Dr. Morton said, "we have been taught in various ways that education is to be rewarded, to receive stars, grades, labels, credentials, degrees, and titles in such a way that the essential learning becomes secondary. We have been mainly taught that an educated person is guaranteed power over the uneducated and can draw more money to enjoy more of this world's good life."

Specifically addressing the role of women in her vision of a new order, the educator suggested that "teaching would involve public morality as women move more rapidly into the public sphere. No longer can women be dismissed by 'you don't understand politics.' We must make it our business to learn, become aggressive, and have initiative in a public way."

## The Editor's Pulpit

### From the Bottom of the Heart

### Echoing a heartfelt 'Welcome'

This week (Sept. 1) marks the official beginning of the assignment of Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks as resident bishop of the Arkansas Area of The United Methodist Church. Already, out of an overwhelming schedule of completing his pastoral ministry in Grand Island, Neb., filling previous commitments and doing the multitude of things required in moving from one home to another — all the while "trying to get a handle" on a brand new job — Bishop Hicks has made at least one appearance before Conference-wide groups in each of our two Annual Conferences.

At those gatherings, as at previous occasions when he expressed his own joy at being assigned to Arkansas, Bishop Hicks' genteel spirit, warmth of personality, genuine humility and strength of character have already won for him a place in the hearts of those privileged to have made his acquaintance.

There are to be official occasions for "accepting" our new bishop. Let us here simply echo what so many have expressed: a heartfelt "Welcome!" to Bishop and Mrs. (Elaine) Kenneth W. Hicks. We are happy to respond to their request that we hold them and their ministry in our daily prayers.

### In praise of September

September is a very special time, a time of beginning again. And since the Church is "in the business" of new beginnings, the month should have a unique significance for Christians.

Perhaps the most noticeable September community event is the beginning of the school term. It's an exciting time, a happy time, possessing its own special enthusiasm. It's a pity that grown-ups don't have the equivalent of a "school's out!" and a "school's back in" time. For such occasions serve as more than a calendar for the community. They do something for the spirit which is not fully understood or acknowledged. They are the secular expressions of religious realities. The new chance. A new slate. New notebooks. New beginnings.

September also marks the beginning of the year for another school — the Church School. It is difficult to overstate the importance of the Sunday School to the lives of children, youth and adults. Simply stated, the Church School is essential. It is essential to the spiritual life of the individual and to the life of the church as an institution. September offers one of the best times for Sunday

School dropouts to drop back in.

This September also holds special significance for United Methodists in Arkansas: in the greeting of our new episcopal leader, Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks, and in the beginning of a new quadrennium, with its challenge of new and heavier claims laid upon us by the growing needs of our fellow human beings.

All of this and more, put together, serves to remind the Church of what life is all about: people to be served, human needs to be met. The resources of time, talent, means and will are at hand. God continues faithful in supplying our needs to do his work. What remains to be determined is our own stewardship in handling those gifts. September gives us a brand new opportunity to say "Yes!" to God and to life.

### Off the Top of the Head

### A farewell to summer

Some short thoughts on sharing life's long journey

What I'm not going to tell you — because you've probably already read enough of that sort of thing on this page — is all about the most recent bicycle trip which our seventh grade son, Chuck, and I made. I could speak at length about it, but neither space nor propriety allows for such extended first person indulgence.

The trip was a two-day, 105-mile ride to our family cabin halfway up on Magazine Mountain, that "highest point between the Rockies and Alleghenies," as we Arkansans are proud to boast (even though Oklahoma has an unproven claim to have a mountain a few feet higher). That journey, made last weekend, was a long-planned-for and looked-forward-to event to climax the summer, a final fling before the beginning of school.

Among the things we can't adequately tell you about is the completely free feeling of pedaling by country schoolhouses where classes were already in session for everyone but us. There we caught glimpses of children's faces looking up from their books, telegraphing to us their longings as we went gliding by so carefree, so at liberty.

And we must refrain from telling you of the joy of riding through cooling summer showers and, even, of the strangely gratifying agony of pumping up three-mile grades and the breathtaking exhilaration of plummeting their downhill sides, straining through wind-teared eyes to follow the asphalt chute as we banked and wove our way through long, delicious series of turns.

Nor can we describe to you the late afternoon storm at our campsite by Nimrod Lake, where we witnessed the glory and awesomeness of a violent electrical display, with its sudden, deafening thunder and its unpredictable lightning. Twice those frightening bolts sent their orange fire to the top of nearby giant pine trees, showering us with bark carried by wind-driven sheets of rain. How marvelous, how awesome is a summer storm!

And we must be content to share between ourselves, I suppose, the wonder of sunrise and the mystery of buzzards soaring high on a summer afternoon. And we must recall for our own enjoyment the invigoration of a cooling swim after hours of cycling through hot, sun-baked valleys and ascending long, winding mountain highways.

Nor — most regretful of all — can we share with you the journey within the journey, which, really, such trips are all about. It is a form of pain not to be able to give to others such gifts of love and joy.

Somehow, in some fashion, we all must find a way to give more fully, more completely of ourselves as we make our way through this life-journey upon which we all are traveling companions.

Perhaps one thing this tired world could stand is for more people to take a Friday off and go bicycling with a friend.

### Arkansas Methodist

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# More churches celebrate Bicentennial



## Hunter Church Honors Founding Families

Two pioneer families associated with the founding of First Church, Hunter, in Forrest City District, were honored in a recent Saturday evening celebration by that congregation. Shown are members of the Hunt and Wilson families, whose forebears established the church nearly a century ago — in the late 1870s. A large crowd gathered for the program and potluck dinner which honored the two families, but was also the occasion for welcoming the Rev. Neal Kerney, the church's new pastor. (Photo by Brinkley Argus)

†



## 'Happy Birthday America' Celebration At Vantrease

The El Dorado church included in its all-day Bicentennial celebration, Sunday School, worship, a potluck luncheon plus homemade ice cream and watermelon in the afternoon, old fashioned games such as horseshoe pitching, sack races and others. The UMW displayed pictures and other items of historic interest. In an afternoon hymn sing, Mr. Kermit Cottrell taught the congregation the fine points of "lining a hymn." Co-leaders for the event were Mr. Ed Baker, Council on Ministries chairman, and Church School Superintendent W. R. Jones.

†



## A Frocktail Coat For the Minister!

Sally Jo Gibson (left), director of church music at First Church, Harrison, fashioned and presented to the Rev. John McCormack, pastor, the frocktail coat, vest and shirt which he wears in photo. The church has recently completed a series of special Bicentennial services, which began with an old time campmeeting and hymn sing.

†

## Fairview Congregation Hears History Of Church

Mr. Floyd Bullock, a member of Fairview Church in Camden, presents a history of that church as Mrs. Ila Sales, Mrs. Edna Beaver and the Rev. Robert O. Beck, pastor, listen intently. A potluck luncheon followed morning worship.



## Jacksonville Church Celebrates

Two of the younger members of the congregation at First Church, Jacksonville, Matthew and Betsy Meyer, join the Rev. David Conyers, pastor, in that church's Bicentennial celebration. The worship service combined touches of early Methodism, from the colonial period, the early twentieth century, patriotism, and the local church as it functions today. Dinner on the ground, a hymn sing and homemade ice cream helped to round out the day's activities.

†



## Grady Church Looks Ahead To Year 2076!

Mr. E. E. Swindle, Administrative Board Chairman B. I. Harvey Jr., and Mrs. H. R. Wood Jr. display a time capsule placed beneath the church bell at the Grady Church — to be opened in the year 2076. The Heritage Day celebration included a potluck picnic with contests and games for all ages at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Dreher Sr. A brief worship service followed the evening meal. **AT RIGHT:** Men of the church receive instructions for the men's potato race from Mrs. Art Lockhart.

†



## Brush Arbor Meeting At Lewisville

Members of First Church, Lewisville, erected the old-time brush arbor under which the congregation is seen worshipping during the church's Bicentennial observance. The event took the form of a homecoming, with some members arriving in a horse-drawn wagon, and many persons attired in costumes reminiscent of the pioneer days of the circuit rider. Morning worship was under the leadership of the Rev. George Kerr, pastor, assisted by the Rev. James Simpson, a former pastor. Other former pastors present were the Rev. Charles Walthall and son Steve of Prescott, and the Rev. Joe Hunter with Mrs. Hunter and two grandchildren of Gurdon. A special musical program followed a potluck dinner.

Arkansas Methodist



## A new opportunity

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago you mentioned the search for life in an editorial. I feel you were trying to touch on the tremendous significance of the event and I write this letter in an effort to join you in this feeling.

A momentous event has occurred which has thrust the Church and theology into a new perspective: Viking I (and soon Viking II) and its probable discovery of life on the planet Mars has truly issued in the theological Space Age as far as our understanding of God and his creation is concerned.

Never again will a minister be able to prepare a sermon without bearing in mind that God's creation and existence is no longer limited to an "earth-centered" perspective: never again will a layperson be able to consider his/her own uniqueness without marveling at the vastness of the "anatomy of God" in its total concept.

If any pastor in the Methodist Church, or any church for that matter, can prepare a sermon without considering this new dimension, then I believe that pastor will be denying a marvelous opportunity to accept the challenge and magnitude of this revelation. To fail at this will be to fail to be relevant.

We have long considered the possibility, and many of us have long believed it to be true, of life existing outside of this "earthly realm" we have so comfortably known. But now it is even more than probable and avenues have been opened to the proclamation of this news and they are as limitless in scope and as mind-boggling in meaning as the nature of God himself.

In the past the Church has been traditionally slow to respond to new discoveries and new possibilities, and

therefore has suffered because of its refusal to make the Gospel relevant with changing thought. The Church has even been so naive as to deny the relevance altogether: we must not allow this to happen now.

We must, as a Church, as pastors and people, use this event as an opportunity to present the Kingdom of God as the vast and limitless creation it is as we bring forth once and for all the knowledge that we are but an infinitesimal segment of the "anatomy of God." The Hebrews have realized this from the very beginning. Perhaps it is time that we caught on.

The Rev. Sam B. Williams  
Sequoyah/Goshen United  
Methodist Churches  
Box 747  
Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

\* During a dialogue sermon at the Goshen United Methodist Church on the Sunday following the announcement that "life" had probably been discovered on Mars, Mr. Charles Olsen made this statement: "I think that everything in the universe, and everything in the cosmos, including everything on earth, and ourselves, is the anatomy of God."

### RESOLUTION

To the Editor:

FOR AS MUCH AS, The Rev. W. L. (Bill) Douglas was a devoted and effective minister of the North Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church,

AND WHEREAS, he rendered untiring and efficient service during the past thirteen years as a member of the Conference Board of Pensions, during which time he served as treasurer;

AND WHEREAS, during this time of service he effectively promoted and upgraded the Pension Program of the North Arkansas Conference,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Conference Board of Pensions meeting in session at Little Rock, Arkansas on Aug. 3, 1976, does hereby unanimously pass this resolution of appreciation for his distinguished service. And, respectively requests that this resolution be printed in the pages of the ARKANSAS METHODIST.

Tom Weir, Chairman  
Joe Linam, Secretary

†

### NOT JUDGING

To the Editor:

I joined the U.M.C. in 1972 and I have certainly enjoyed the four years more

than I can express on paper. I came from a denomination which I highly respect but I couldn't be myself and I was tired of being a robot. The U.M.C. has the greatest doctrine and I wish the preachers would preach it. I firmly believe the church is on the move and if we as individuals will take a positive attitude, rather than the negative, great things could be accomplished.

If we would only look at the good side and not what we consider bad then some of the problems would be solved. The following statement taken from what John F. Kennedy said, except we place church in place of country, "it is not what our (church) can do for us but what we can do for our (church)." With this in mind then, the church can do a lot.

Standards will not produce Chris-

(Continued on page six)

## NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

**Dr. Nelle Morton**, retired professor of Christian education from Drew Theological School, Madison, N.J., told 300 women from six continents attending the World Federation of Methodist Women's assembly in Dublin that a "patriarchal mentality" has hindered the search for a solution to such world problems as hunger, poverty, and war. The educator defined the patriarchal mind-set as a condition in which someone has to get power over others by putting them down.

**Wayne A. Younquist**, a social and political analyst, has compared the Republican Party with many Churches which have found themselves in the same predicament over the last several decades: How do you keep up with the times while still remaining true to the basic principles that give your organization meaning and purpose, he asks?

**Rear Adm. Jeremiah A. Denton Jr.**, for seven years a prisoner of the Vietnamese communists and now commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va., told Knights of Columbus that changes in traditional attitudes toward belief in God and conscientious efforts to uphold the Ten Commandments "threaten us from within as surely as do enemy armies from without." He said "national security and individual well-being cannot be built upon the quicksand of deceit, immorality and shifting value systems."

**Dr. Samuel Yochelson**, a psychiatrist, and **Dr. Stanton E. Samenow**, a psychologist at a federal mental institution in Washington, D.C., have concluded after thousands of hours of research that "conversion" to a whole new lifestyle and rigorous moral education will change criminals, rather than conventional therapy or better prisons.

In a document entitled *Perspective on Mission and Ministry* issued by the Baptist Renewal Group to British Baptist ministers, Don Middleditch, a layman, declares that "the general standard of preaching today strikes me as puerile. It does little more than offer an unthinking kind of reassurance. Hardly ever a memorable phrase or a revealing insight. No attempt to help people ask themselves questions or to come to grips with the deeper issues underlying our social fabric."

**Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt**, top executive of the Knights of Columbus, has called for a Constitutional amendment to grant believers the same rights as atheists in the educational formation of their children and to insure that government will not interfere with the free exercise of religion. Mr. McDevitt charged that "By judicial edict, the public school has become the principal proponent of secular humanism."

"Christians today are suffering from sterile self-righteousness and pious goodness," Dr. Samuel W. Hylton Jr. of St. Louis, told a mostly black fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at its biennial assembly in Nashville. He said "the tragedy of Christianity lies not in that we do not break any windows, but that we do not light any candles. You never curse, but you never pray. You never take up a picket and protest, but you never help to progress justice and liberation."

**Keith Sarver** of Whittier, Calif., general superintendent of the California Yearly Meeting of Friends, keynote speaker at the 279th annual meeting of North Carolina Friends, said "The propagation of the gospel is something far more than preaching and every member of a congregation has a responsibility to be a faithful witness to the truth." Mr. Sarver said "today's growing churches are, almost without exception, strongly evangelical churches. It is a sad day for the liberal church that is unsure of its message."

**Bishop Daniel A. Cronin** of Fall River, Mass., told the annual meeting of Knights of Columbus: "We, who are favored with the Christian faith, should be literally obsessed with trying to re-establish in our land the fundamental principles of ethics and moral values which come to us from Jesus and His Gospel." He said now, more than ever, the country needs the strength of ethical principles and moral values and Christians are called upon especially to "respond to this urgent challenge and to meet this responsibility."

The Methodist Churches of New Zealand and South Africa, each headed by non-white presidents for the first time, are discussing the possibility of ministerial exchanges. The Rev. Ruawai D. Rakana, first Maori president of the New Zealand Methodist Church, will host a visit this month by the Rev. Abel Hendricks, first Coloured (mixed race) president of the South African Methodist Church. A spokesman said, "Normally the Maori delegates have to adjust to our pakeha (white) ways. This year we pakehas will be learning to adjust to Maori ways."

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**WORLD SERVICE is people serving people.**



By DR. FRANCIS CHRISTIE  
Professor of Religion  
Hendrix College  
Conway, Arkansas

# Heirs of God's Grace

Scriptures: Romans 4; Galatians 3:19-4:7

## Claiming Our Inheritance

How is your spiritual vocabulary? Does it include the word **grace**? Such a beautiful word — so full, so expressive! No greater compliment can be paid than to call a person gracious. Grace has to do with unmerited or undeserved favor or kindness. A gracious person is kind or considerate beyond what the situation demands. Such a person bestows his or her generosity without condition.

Let your mind run over the words to the traditional gospel hymn, **Amazing Grace**. The words are rich in both literal and symbolic meaning for most of us.

When all else fails it is grace that sustains us in life's darker moments. I once watched a television transcript of a session Dr. Carlyle Marney conducted for laypersons and clergy seeking either the way back or a deeper meaning for their lives. One young minister kept making excuses for his failures, obviously seeking sympathy or pity from the members of the group. His plea was eloquent, and it would have touched most of us as he described difficulties within his family and within the church he served. Marney let him finish most of his plea. Then he asked him what he wanted from the group. He said he wanted the love that was missing from his own life. "Then," said Marney, "Show us some grace." The young man stammered out an excuse and renewed his plea. Marney repeated, firmly, "Give me some grace!"

You see, what **grace** really means is unselfish love, freely given, no strings attached. The only way to possess it is to give it. Coveting will not get it. Accepting and giving are the only ways. We are called to be givers of grace because we have received it.

In a way, this is very close to the ties that exist in families where love flows without regard to self. It is the kind of love that constrains us to love the unlovely, and to accept the love of others when we know we do not deserve it.

Hosea, a prophet of the Eighth Century before Christ, said that his people were perishing because they lacked knowledge of God. It would not be amiss to paraphrase this for the contemporary world and to say that we are perishing for the lack of grace. This is doubly tragic, because it is so unnecessary. All we have to do is to claim our inheritance. That is what this week's lesson is about.

## Missing the Point

In his first letter to Corinth Paul stated that he wanted to show the Corinthians a still more excellent way. There are approaches to religion and our human relationships that are of passing satisfaction, but there is a still better way.

In Galatians 3:19-4:7 Paul developed the theme of grace in order to point out to the Galatians that they were missing the greatest satisfaction of their religion — **grace**. This should not be surprising, however, because grace is so quiet that it is often missed or overlooked. Paul later picked up on and expanded the positions expressed in Galatians. One of the more memorable passages in which he did this is Chapter Four of Romans, the other scripture passage for this lesson.

Both of the lesson passages point out that it is possible to be "religious" without grace. Indeed, such is more frequently than not the case. There are substitutes which suggest themselves readily —

legalism, traditionalism, organizational patterns, rituals, external authority. But, while each or all of these may have points in its or their favor, there is yet a better way. It is grace — abundantly present, awaiting only our acceptance.

But why all these other forms? Are they useless? Are they evil? No. They are just less than what we could have if only we would avail ourselves of it.

## Grace and Law

Paul gave a lot of attention to the contrast between grace and law, the law in this instance being what we would call the Old Testament; but the concept could be expanded to include any written set of prescriptions and their consequent interpretations. Harrell F. Beck, in the **International Lesson Annual** for 1976-77 (p. 23) reminds us that Paul was a student and that he knew the scriptures. It was natural, then, that he should have turned to the scriptures for much of his argument and its content.

If the law is less than adequate as religion, why did it come into existence in the first place? Paul's answer to this question is right simple. "Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions . . ." (Gal. 3:19) " . . . but where there is no law there is no transgression" (Rom. 4:15). That is, there is something in human nature that keeps us from realizing our potential in development of character — a proneness to do the expedient, the self-serving, the immediately gratifying. This is called **sin**, missing the mark.

The presence of sin necessitates the development of regulations within which persons must live. If all were perfect the law would not be needed. For instance, in our own society if we would but practice what we believe and know about human rights and dignity, many of the prohibitions and regulations under which we live would be rendered unnecessary.

The law does serve a **custodial function**. The word **custodian** is an accurate, but inadequate, translation of the Greek word used by Paul in the passage. The meaning is a bit closer to baby-sitter or guardian, a "watcher-over." Mature persons ordinarily do not need over-watchers. Or, at least, so they claim. Laws are necessary because we are immature in our thinking and actions.

The figure suggests a minor who is looked after until the time when he or she is able to claim the trust held for the mature years. Thus, the expression of the "offspring" or the "heir." One word suggests that the child is awaiting an inheritance from its natural parents. The other could suggest adopted as well as natural children. Both may come to utter the word, "Father."

## What the Law Can and Cannot Do

There are many positive points to be made about the value of the law. It can result in better, even more humane, behavior. It can result in a better ordered and more considerate society. The one thing it cannot do is to change attitudes. This is the great weakness of the arguments of those who would reduce society and its structures to a set of regulations. Jesus was greatly concerned with the correction of attitudes, not content to change the external trappings, however important these may be. He wanted to see persons changed so that they took on second natures and do not have to evaluate every action as to whether it violated a law. The only constraint was to be love. Love does away with murder, theft, rape, pillaging, extortion, lying, coveting by rendering them unnecessary. The life and teachings of Jesus offer abundant guidance for the Christian in this respect. The principles are sound, even

though specifics have changed over the years.

## Now — That Faith Has Come

The thought of Paul is close to that expressed in the Gospels. The only change is that he makes the Christ-event the central theme. He sees the totality — life, death, and resurrection. "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith" (Gal. 3:25-26).

There are at least two reasons why the way of faith and grace is a "more excellent way." The first of these is found in the notion that reducing religion to a series of laws and regulations is seldom productive of positive attitudes. Such an approach is usually accompanied by fear. We are frightened that we are not obeying the law. The fright brings guilt, anxiety, and more fear. "For the law brings wrath . . ." (Rom. 4:15). A scared religion tends to back one into incessant corners, with little way of escape. It becomes a burden rather than an agent of liberation. It was not by accident that Paul often referred to the "burden of the law."

Another negative result is narrowness and prejudice, stemming from fear of those who are different. In Galatians 3:28 Paul affirms that faith in Christ leaves no room or reason for unthinking prejudice. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Jesus Christ."

Think of what such an affirmation could do for the health of our church, our nation, our world! Faith, as Paul proclaimed it, does away with our petty prejudices. If we had such faith and grace, it would not be necessary to have laws to force us to grant others their human rights. In some ways the church has lagged behind the state in this area.

The second reason that legalism is inferior is that it frequently leads the religious person to search for ways of self-justification — to make excuses for sins rather than to face and correct them. Law as justification works towards short-term ends. Faith as justification is its own end.

It is suggested that Galatians 3:26 serve as the focal text — "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." Sons are children. Children have fathers.

## Accepting the Invitation

How joyful it is to discover one's relationship to a father! Many of us can remember such a discovery within our own families. For some it came after estrangement, as with the prodigal. For others it was a natural outcome in the normal course of events. However it came, the joy was deep and abiding, and we wished that it had come earlier. It is actually a fairly simple act of accepting the love of a father. Biological begetting as a relationship gives way to spiritual adventure. Fear, anxiety, embarrassment, alienation all give way to trust. The relation is between parent and child as persons, no longer as objects.

Paul invites us, as he invited the Galatians and the Romans, to accept this grace through the act of faith. All that it requires is that we "put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

What a shame and pity it is that so many of us gnaw on the dry crusts of legalism, prejudice, hatred, when we could go into the Father's house of faith and feast on love and grace. We have all tasted of the goodness of God. If we can only let go we can begin to know more fully the meaning of being children of God — "heirs of God's grace," "heirs of a promise."

†

## FROM OUR READERS

(Continued from page five)

tianity but Christianity will produce standards. Do we base our faith on standards? Will standards give us life eternal or admit us into the kingdom of God? The Bible says it is our faith in Christ which makes us Christians and not a set of rigid rules.

One man stated in one of your articles (Aug. 12, 1976 on page five), "A rigid set of rules must be followed," which I cannot argue with. He said this in regard to smoking. I think it would be wonderful if none of the congregation smokes but I do not judge them if they do.

Two of the most rigid rules Jesus

asked us to follow are: 1. Love the Lord your God with all your heart; 2. Love thy neighbor as thyself.

Following are some things I can think of worse than the smoking habit: 1. Gossip! which will split any organization; 2. Being critical one of another; 3. To judge another in the light of OUR standards; 4. Thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think; 5. Backbiting or stabbing in the back of anyone; 6. Not doing better when we know we can. "To him who knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin." Could we say, "to him who knoweth to do better and doeth it not to him it is sin?" (This list can go on and on.)

I remember reading what Jesus said on the cross, "Father forgive them for

they know not what they do." This covers a mighty large area.

Also the Bible says, "Let a man examine himself" which means just what it says. If I keep myself in line then I have a big job to do without making standards for all my neighbors.

We can accomplish more for Christ if we love Him, love our neighbor and one another and keep ourselves in tune with God. These are not based on standards but our "born again" experience with Christ.

The only way to defeat a problem we think we have is not to run-off from battle but to stay with it and see it through.

Rev. A. M. Block  
P.O. Box 477  
Hampton, Ark. 71744

## CRAFTS SALE

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## SALE

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Sunday, Oct. 3 — 12 Noon to 3 p.m.  
Monday, Oct. 4 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

First United Methodist Church  
Eighth and Center  
Little Rock  
Activities Building  
†



## News from the Churches

**TEMPERANCE HILL** United Methodist Church, one of the oldest in the state, announces its annual homecoming celebration to be held Sunday, Sept. 12. The Rev. Arnold Simpson, pastor, will conduct the 11 a.m. worship service, which will be followed by a picnic lunch. Former members from several states are expected to attend the celebration at Temperance Hill, six miles west of Fordyce.

**CENTRAL CHURCH**, Rogers, announces a Fall Preview for all of the organizations and classes within the church. The format will follow the ABC television network slogan "Let Us Be The One." Each organization will present a short promotional advertisement around the idea "Let us be the group for you." Participating groups will include Boy Scouts, Puppeteers, all youth groups, the Handbell, Children's, Youth and Adult Choirs, the Day Care Center, and all Sunday School classes. Entertainment will be provided by the Two-Plus-Two quartet and the One-In-The-Spirit group. The evening will end with ice cream and cake for all. Mr. Doug McKinney is education director; the Rev. Gerald D. Hammett is minister.



Mrs. Cecil (Faye) R. Matthews

### Veteran women's worker to lead retreat

North Arkansas Conference women, scheduled to meet at Aldersgate Camp for a weekend Spiritual Retreat, Sept. 25-26, will be led by Mrs. Cecil (Faye) R. Matthews of Lubbock, Tex.

Mrs. Matthews, a graduate of Texas Woman's University, Denton, Tex., with graduate work at the University of Texas, is the wife of a retired minister of the Northwest Texas Conference. She has had broad experience in leading youth activities, service on commissions and boards on local, conference, jurisdictional and general conference levels, in addition to teaching and serving as dean in both conference and regional schools.

Mrs. Matthews is presently president of United Methodist Women at First Church, Lubbock, teaches an adult class, is a member of the Administrative Board, the Council on Ministries and the Missions and Worship work areas. She serves as a committee member within the denomination's Board of Global Ministries.

Registration for the weekend event will begin at 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, Sept. 25. The retreat is open to all United Methodist women of the North Arkansas Conference on a "first-come, first served" basis. The \$10 registration fee includes lodging and three meals.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mail to: Mrs. D. C. Neal  
1101 N. Avalon  
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Thursday, September 2, 1976

**DR. C. RAY HOZENDORF**, pastor of First Church, Arkadelphia, was the evangelist for a five-day youth-led revival at Keith Memorial Church, Malvern. All of the services were planned and directed by the young folk and resulted in several rededications of youth, two membership transfers from other denominations and one joining on profession of faith and baptism. The youth planned and directed the nightly services, assisted by their counselors, Mrs. Sandra Barringer and Mrs. Juanita Spurlin, and the Rev. W. W. Barron, pastor. They provided special music for each of the services, served refreshments one evening, and sponsored a churchwide potluck with a Bicentennial theme and a program on the final evening.

**THE MEN** of Geyer Springs Church met to organize a Men's Club early in August, and elected the following officers: Chairman, Ron Ross; Vice Chairman, Bob Fulton; Secretary-treasurer, Winford Harrel; Program Committee: Ralph Haskins, Curtis Taylor, Charles Shelton, Ken Sutton and Rich Shelton; By-Laws Committee: Larry Pryor, L. D. Montgomery, Sam Wood and Rob Passwaters. The men will meet each fourth Wednesday of the month for an evening meal and business meeting.

**GREEN FOREST CHURCH** presented Mrs. Oliver L. Adams and Mrs. A. C. Hanna, organists at First Christian Church, Berryville, in a program of organ and piano music for the recent Sunday evening dedication of the church's new Baldwin Organ. The Rev. Miss Fern Cook, pastor, delivered the sermon for the service of dedication.

#### CONCERNING YOUTH NEWSLETTER

The Little Rock Conference Council on Youth Ministry has set a goal of publishing a newsletter (JOY JOURNAL) four times during the year. The first issue was sent out in July. Deadlines for submitting information to be published in the remaining three issues are Sept. 10, Dec. 10 and April 10. All material is to be sent to

Ellen Alston, Editor  
P. O. Box 488  
De Queen, Arkansas 71832

†



### Cabot Church Conducts Lab School

Forty persons, 20 leaders-in-training and 20 age-group participants, were involved in a recent four-unit laboratory weekend school conducted at First Church, Cabot. Staff members seated, left to right, are Miss Bonda Sue Deere of Jacksonville, who taught the youth class; Mrs. David Maxwell, North Little Rock, elementary class; Mrs. Walter Lindley, Jonesboro, pre-school class; (standing) the Rev. Allan Hilliard, pastor and director of the school (who coincidentally returned to his pulpit on Sunday, August 22 the weekend of the school — following an absence of several weeks due to illness); the Rev. Arvill Brannon of the North Arkansas Council on Ministries staff and leader of the adult class; Mr. Jerry Ridgeway, director of music and youth ministries at the Cabot church, and associate director of the school.

### World Literacy Day

September 8

The Literacy Council of Pulaski County announces two workshops to be held in September to certify new tutors:

Sept. 21, 22, 23 — 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
AP&L Reddy Kilowatt Room,  
9th and Louisiana. (Participants requested to take sack lunch)

Sept. 27, 28, 29 — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
(Also at AP&L)

Many volunteers are needed to continue this work. Over 25,000 Pulaski County adults cannot read. For more information, interested persons are urged to call Mrs. Dale Booth, 664-5419, or Mrs. John Harp, 753-3413.



#### T. A. Prewitt Day Celebrated

Mr. T. A. Prewitt (center), a long-time member of Tillar United Methodist Church, was honored recently for his outstanding work in the church and community. Mayor Chip Harris (left) issued a proclamation designating the special day. Mr. Virgil Peacock (right), Administrative Board chairman presented a plaque in recognition of Mr. Prewitt's dedicated leadership. Present for the celebration were the honoree's children, C. R. Prewitt of Tillar, T. A. Prewitt Jr. of McGehee and Mrs. Catherine McDaniels of Little Rock.

†

#### REMINDER FOR U.A.L.R. WESLEY FOUNDATION STUDENTS

United Methodist students who attend the University of Arkansas at Little Rock are reminded of the "Back to School Party" scheduled for this Friday evening, Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation, located at 5605 West 32nd Street. Entertainment will include a "Gospel-Rock" singing group, and a "Bong-Show." Come and find out what it is all about!

†

#### Daily Bible Readings

Sept. 5—Sunday ..... II Sam. 12:1-14  
Sept. 6 ..... II Kings 7:3-11  
Sept. 7 ..... II Chr. 7:12-22  
Sept. 8 ..... II Chr. 36:11-21  
Sept. 9 ..... Isa. 5:1-7  
Sept. 10 ..... Mal. 3:6-12  
Sept. 11 ..... Matt. 25:14-30  
Sept. 12—Sunday ..... Psalm 47:1-9



#### Wesley Church Plans For Future

Dr. Glenn S. Gothard (right), building consultant with the Board of Discipleship, confers with Mrs. Donald Dunn of Wesley Church, Russellville, following recent meeting at that church where plans for additional education facilities were discussed. The congregation has named a study committee to develop plans for future expansion. The Rev. Herschel H. McClurkin Jr. is pastor.

†

#### PULPIT GOWN AND THREE STOLES DISAPPEAR

A rayon faille John Wesley pulpit gown and three stoles — 2 reversible, 1 raw Irish linen with Pax (peace) symbol — used at Ordination Service during the North Arkansas Conference at First United Methodist Church, Conway, cannot be located. They were in a white plastic Cokesbury case. If anyone has information relating to these items please write or call the Rev. Jim Breazeale, 724 Mundo Rd., North Little Rock, Ark. 72118, telephone: 851-1383.

†

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- Youth Activities Week
- Bicentennial trip
- More Vacation Church Schools



#### Warren Children Share in Learning Experiences

Sixty-two boys and girls attended the five-day school at First Church, Warren, under the direction of Mrs. Charlie Eddington. The Rev. Joe E. Arnold, minister, is shown with the group.

†



#### Which Is Which?

You can't tell by looking at the above photo which boys and girls are Episcopal and which are United Methodist. This year's school at Osceola was under joint sponsorship of the two denominations. The young lady and young man at left typify hundreds of boys and girls throughout the state who this summer have received certificates indicating their participation in VCS.

†



#### Happiness Is ...

a successful Vacation Church School like the one recently conducted at Vantrease United Methodist Church in El Dorado. Offerings, contributed by the 53 boys and girls who attended, were presented to Heifer Project International.



#### Do Come And Buy!

Youth Activities Week at Waldo included a UMY bake sale, proceeds from which were used toward the purchase of new toys for the church's nursery. The two little people in the photo are the children of the Rev. and Mrs. Edward Warren, pastor and wife.

†



#### Bryant Youth Take Bicentennial Trip

Twenty-nine youth of Bryant United Methodist Church and Counselors Jamey and Janet Johnson spent nine fun-filled days on an excursion which took them to Knoxville, Tenn., and on to numerous places of historic interest in the Washington, D.C. area, including a boat ride down the Potomac River to Mt. Vernon. The group went by chartered Continental bus.

†



#### Vacation Church School — A Channel for Christian Growth

Shown are some of the boys, girls, youth and adults who were involved in the school at Central Avenue, Batesville. Mrs. Dorothy Kelley served as director.

†

#### Teenagers Helped

Some 50 children, youth and adults participated in the activities and projects at the school held at Forrest Hills Church in Forrest City. Shown here are kindergarten through second grade boys and girls. Teenagers were cited for being "A tremendous help throughout the week."

†



#### Salem Group Visits Heifer Project

Boarding the bus at Salem Church, Benton, for a visit to the Heifer Project Ranch in Perry County are vacation church school children and workers and the Rev. Bill Stewart, pastor. The children raised \$80 during their school and delivered it to the director of the ranch. (In addition, Mr. Bill Bard, a member of the church, presented a Red Angus heifer to the project.) Mrs. Lynn Hoggard directed the Salem school.