

Children's Home license revoked by state board

In an action that was widely received with surprise and alarm, the license of the Methodist Children's Home was revoked by the state Child Care Facility Review Board at a meeting Nov. 18 in Little Rock. The 77-year-old institution, owned and operated by the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences of The United Methodist Church, is the largest residential child care facility in the state. The move generally came as a "complete surprise" to church leaders and members of the institution's Board of Trustees.

The Review Board's action was based on a report by the state Social Services staff that the Home was deficient in numerous requirements for licensing residential child care facilities. A preliminary report by a two-member licensing review team, upon which the Review Board's decision was based, listed 15 specific concerns: eight "problems" (complaints by two sets of foster parents, one report of alleged neglect, and four items related to foster home records), and seven items listed under a category headed Children's Records. The preliminary report was dated Sept. 14.

In other allegations, not made in the original 15, the Review Board indicated that "drug use was common" among residents at the home and that matters regarding payments to foster parents were unsatisfactory (see accompanying item, page 3).

The Review Board's decision does not mean the Home will have to close. It may remain in operation pending an appeal to be heard Dec. 16. Both Home Superintendent Edwin Keith and Social Services Administrator Richard Dietz expressed the belief that the deficiencies could be corrected and the license restored. Mr. Dietz said "the services of the Methodist Children's Home are greatly needed and I know that (we both) desire to have these matters settled as soon as possible."

The November 18 Meeting

The vote of the Review Board, composed of seven members, five of whom were present at the Nov. 18 meeting, was unanimous. Attorney Chris Barrier had asked the Board to take no action until a defense by the Home could be presented.

Mr. Dietz, who is administrator for Social Services' Region Five (several central Arkansas localities), told the *Arkansas Methodist* that the statutes under which the Review Board operates "require it to act upon the recommendation submitted by the staff." He said if such a recommendation was one with which a facility did not agree, the facility could appeal. He said it was customary for an agency which is under review to have representatives at such hearings, at which time they are allowed to present their case.

Mr. Dietz said that Review Board members had expressed concern about the absence of Children's Home staff or board members at the Nov. 18 meeting. He said he understood that the Home's representatives had been advised by their attorney not to be present.

The Rev. Edwin Keith told the *Arkansas Methodist* that the Home's staff "received no written notification of the time or place" of the Review Board meeting and were not informed until two days prior to the meeting that the revocation of the license was to be recommended. "We didn't have time to prepare an adequate case, so our attorneys advised us not to be present," he said.

Mr. Dietz acknowledged that Home officials "did not know the time or place (of the meeting) in writing" but that "they were advised of the meeting several times."

In a meeting on Oct. 6, in which the Home's staff and its Board of Trustees' Policy and Personnel Committee had met with Social Services representatives, the Home's staff presented a 12-page response to the 15 alleged deficiencies. Asked if that response had been presented to the Nov. 18 Review Board meeting, Mr. Dietz said "mention was made to a couple of statements in it" but there was "very little discussion since no one (from the Home) was there." He said the Review Board

members "had read (the Home's response) prior to the meeting."

Mr. Dietz had earlier reported to the Home that their 12-page response was not considered adequate by Social Services. Asked why, Mr. Dietz told the *Arkansas Methodist* that "many items in it did not speak to the specific issues which we were concerned about (and) there were several instances in which information we had — direct information from record reviews and conferences with individuals — in which their report did not substantiate or confirm their side of it. There were misrepresentations in some of it, frankly. And there was general nonacceptance of our report (on the 15 alleged deficiencies) . . . and even a reluctance to identify that there could possibly be any problems out there."

No 'Original Bill'

Mr. Keith reported that while he had received the preliminary report by the study team and a covering letter from the Social Services office, he had never received an "official bill of particulars" detailing the complaints. He said that the Home's staff and board members and other church leaders had, on at least two occasions, requested from the Social Services office a specific list of actions the Home should take in order to remedy the alleged deficiencies, but to date had

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Arkansas Methodist



Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

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Dr. R. B. Brawner named to Area Stewardship Office

Dr. R. Bryan Brawner of North Little Rock, recently retired chief fiscal officer of The United Methodist Church, has been named director of the Office of Stewardship and Finance of the Arkansas Area of the church. He will succeed Mr. Grafton Thomas of Little Rock who will retire next Feb. 7 after 14 years of service as Area treasurer.

The announcement was made Nov. 17 following a joint meeting of the Councils on Finance and Administration of the Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences. The assignment becomes effective Jan. 1.

The new office of director of Area Stewardship and Finance, approved at the 1976 sessions of the two Annual Conferences, is an expansion of the office of Area Treasurer. In announcing the election of the new director, a Council spokesman noted that the naming of such an officer was provided for by the Discipline and that such election is to be by the Annual Conferences, but may, in the interim between their annual meetings, be by the Councils on Finance and Administration.

The spokesman reported that 22 applications for the position had been received, 14 from lay persons and eight from ministers.

The two Councils had earlier expressed their appreciation for Mr. Thomas' 14 years of service, noting that much progress had been made in the office during his tenure. Among his accomplishments they listed the computerizing of local church remittances and, within the last year, the placing of the general ledger on the computer system.

The work of the new office, in addition to keeping the financial records and ac-



Dr. R. Bryan Brawner

counts of the two Conferences and certain Area accounts, as presently done by the Area Treasurer's office, will include the following: provision of financial services for "any agencies of the two Conferences requesting (such services)"; the development and promotion of "good public relations with the agencies and local churches of the two Conferences"; the development and promotion of "a program of stewardship cultivation in both Conferences in close cooperation with the Conference Council on Ministries, the Committee on Stewardship and the District Council of Ministries concerned," and responsibility for promotion of The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

Dr. Brawner, whose retirement as General Secretary of the denomination's CFA, and as its treasurer, became effective last May 8, has had a long career in church and public service. A

native of Clay County, he was trained in public school administration at the then Arkansas State Teachers' College in Conway and at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

For 13 years he was principal of schools at Texarkana and North Little Rock and was superintendent of schools in the latter city for ten years. For his leadership in reorganizing the North Little Rock public school system, he was recognized in 1950 as "Little Rockian of the Year."

In 1951 he began a second career as a church administrator, being named at that time as executive director at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, a position he held for 17 years. Following that assignment he was

named, on Oct. 1, 1968, as the CFA's general secretary.

In making the announcement of Dr. Brawner's appointment, the spokesman said the Councils had agreed that the former general-level church leader would "bring expertise to the office which could not be secured elsewhere." They cite his "invaluable experience in the church in financial matters, his experience with foundations and investments, and his overall outstanding qualifications."

Dr. and Mrs. Brawner live in North Little Rock. They have one daughter, Mrs. James Davis, who with her husband and two-year-old daughter, live in Conway.

Change on Conway District announced

Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks has announced that Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, superintendent of the Conway District, will be succeeded in that position on Jan. 1 by the Rev. Earl B. Carter, pastor of First United Methodist Church in North Little Rock. The announcement was made Nov. 22.

Dr. Bearden, in his third year on the district appointment, has requested temporary disability leave prior to his planned retirement at the June, 1977 session of the North Arkansas Conference.

A long-time leader in both the North Arkansas and Little Rock Annual Conferences, Dr. Bearden will have completed 43 years of service at the time of his retirement. Prior to his present appointment he was pastor for 14 years at First Church in Little Rock. Previous

appointments have been Central Church in Fayetteville, an earlier term (1952-55) as superintendent of the Conway District, and pastorates at Goddard Church in Fort Smith, Wynne, Walnut Ridge, Trumann and Luxora-Keiser.

Among responsibilities filled by Dr. Bearden have been membership on the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council, as a delegate to four Methodist World Conferences, a delegate on two occasions to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, a member of the Arkansas History Commission and numerous other assignments.

Dr. and Mrs. Bearden will make their home in Little Rock following the Jan. 1 change.

Mr. Carter, in his fifth year as pastor

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'World Hunger,' theme of Council Assembly

The focus was on hunger and what to do about it as the 21st Annual Assembly of the Arkansas Council of Churches was held Nov. 16 at First United Methodist Church in Hope. Ninety-six persons representing the 12 member-denominations registered as official delegates to the day-long event.

The Rev. Jerry Bedford of Little Rock, director of development for Heifer Project International, gave the keynote address on Hunger in the Global Community. Mr. Bedford, a Presbyterian minister and former missionary in East Africa, said that world statistics revealed that in 1975 alone 57 million persons starved to death, 400 million barely survived and two billion, half the world's population, were malnourished or undernourished.

Mr. Bedford cited two basic causes why the world's food supply was not keeping up with demand: population growth, particularly in the less developed nations, and growing consumption in the more affluent nations. He said the rich nations, with one billion persons, have an average yearly income of between \$3500 to \$6000 and an average of 2000 pounds of grain per



Principals at the Council of Churches' Annual Assembly at Hope were, from left (standing), the Rev. Jerry Bedford, keynote speaker, Mrs. Frances Wood, Council Administrator-Coordinator and Board President Floyd Sexton. Seated are members of the panel on World Hunger: Mr. Leland DuVall, Mr. Llyn McEuen, State Senator William N. Hargrove and the Rev. Ray Saathoff.

person per year. In contrast, he said, the less developed nations, with three billion persons, have an average yearly income of from \$100 to \$240 and an average of only 400 pounds of grain per person annually.

The HPI official reported that responses to the world hunger problem were taking four general forms: reduction of the food demand, sharing of

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United Methodist Beliefs Workshops scheduled

Three regional workshops on United Methodist Beliefs are to be held in the North Arkansas Conference Nov. 30-Dec. 2. Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks will be the chief resource leader in each of the sessions, which are sponsored by the Committee on Evangelism of the conference's Board of Discipleship. The workshops are designed to encourage pastors and lay persons to establish local church study groups on the beliefs of United Methodism.

The sessions, each identical in format, will include two one-hour addresses by Bishop Hicks, both to be followed by a question and answer period, and two "how to" sessions on implementing the studies in local churches. Each session will include a registration and fellowship period, a devotional message and a dinner.

Schedule for the events, each of which will begin at 2:30 and adjourn at 9 p.m., is as follows:

Eastern area: Tuesday, Nov. 30, First Church, West Memphis.

Central area: Wednesday, Dec. 1, Lakewood Church, North Little Rock.

Western area: Thursday, Dec. 2, Goddard Church, Fort Smith.

Resource leaders for the "how to" sessions will be the Rev. Ben Hines, pastor of First Church in West Memphis, for the eastern area workshop; the Rev. Earl B. Carter, pastor of First Church in North Little Rock, for the central area workshop, and Dr. Joel A. Cooper, pastor of Central Church in Fayetteville, for the western area workshop.

Evangelism Committee Chairman W. E. "Buddy" Arnold of North Little Rock emphasizes that the workshops are open to all interested persons, clergy and laity. He reports that lay persons with teaching and other leadership responsibilities are especially urged to attend. He said it was hoped that pastors and lay

teachers would plan to teach such units for a quarter in regular Church School classes or in study groups scheduled at other times.

The Rev. Gerald Rainwater of Clarendon, chairman of the committee's Task Force on Theological and Church Membership Training, reports that individuals who have not previously made dinner reservations may do so by calling him, by Nov. 29, at 747-3645. He said that persons desiring to eat elsewhere may do so and still participate fully in the workshop sessions.

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CONWAY DISTRICT

(Continued from page one)

at North Little Rock, came to that appointment following five years as associate director of the Conference's Program Council. Prior to that he had served pastorates at Leachville, Nettleton, Hartman Circuit, Union Point and Prairie View-Scranton.

A leader in Conference and regional church activities, Mr. Carter has twice been a delegate to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, was elected last October as chairman of the Council on Finance and Administration of the South Central Jurisdiction, and is a member of the General Board of Pensions. He has been a Full Member of the North Arkansas Conference for 27 years and was a Supply Pastor prior to that for three years.

†



Roger "Boots" Lynch

Fort Smith layman to head Retirement Village Board

Roger "Boots" Lynch, a Methodist layman from Fort Smith, has been elected chairman of the Board of the Methodist Nursing Home and Methodist Retirement Village in Fort Smith. The new chairman will serve two years to complete the three-year term of T. L. Hunt, who died recently in Fort Smith.

Mr. Hunt was the first and only chairman of the board of these two institutions of the North Arkansas Conference, and Mr. Lynch has served as vice-chairman throughout this period. These two men were among the original planners of the two institutions.

Elected to succeed Lynch as vice-chairman of the board was Jack Ragon of Fort Smith and Richard Lee, also of Fort Smith, was elected to serve as secretary.

Lynch has held many responsible lay positions in Goddard Memorial Church at Fort Smith and in the Fort Smith District, in addition to various conference assignments. During his years as district lay leader under Dr. Ethan Dodgen, Dr. J. C. English, the Rev. Howard Williams, and the Rev. Archie Boyd, he — along with others — was instrumental in the building of a district parsonage, the district Shoal Creek Youth Camp and the Methodist Nursing Home.

The new board chairman was district commissioner for the Methodist Children's Home during the tenures of Williams and Boyd. During that period Fort Smith District raised its contributions from the bottom to the top of the list of districts in North Arkansas Conference.

E. L. "Doc" Smith, administrator of the Nursing Home and the Village, states that both facilities are filled to capacity, with waiting lists for prospective residents.

†

Campus minister/pastor, lesson writer

The Rev. Thomas A. Abney, campus minister of the Wesley Foundation at the University of Arkansas at Monticello and pastor of the Wilmar Circuit, will author The Sunday School Lessons for the winter quarter for publication in the *Arkansas Methodist*.

In his sixth year in his present appointment, Mr. Abney has been an ordained minister for 16 years. He was admitted into the Texas Conference in 1961 and became a member of the Little Rock Conference in 1964. Prior to his present assignment he served as pastor of Fairview Church in Camden, Ashdown Church, St. Paul Church in Malvern and the Delight Circuit.

Mr. Abney is a native of East Texas and earned the B.A. degree from Stephen F. Austin University at Nacogdoches in 1960, did graduate study at the University of Texas, and earned the B.D. degree from Perkins School of Theology, SMU, in 1963.

Among current positions held within the Little Rock Conference by Mr. Abney are Conference Missionary secretary, chairman of the Conference Council Committee on Campus Ministry and vice chairman of the Insurance Committee. He is chairman of the Monticello District Council on Ministries and served as dean of the 1976 Arkansas School of Christian Mission.

Mr. Abney is married to the former



The Rev. Thomas A. Abney

Joyce Martin of Houston, Tex. They have five children, Linda, whose husband, the Rev. Carlos Summers, is pastor of the Sedgwick Charge in the North Arkansas Conference; Alford, a management employee at Safeway in McGehee; Mark, a high school senior; Timothy, a high school junior, and Rebecca, an eighth-grade student. They have one grandchild, Daniel Summers.

The winter quarter of The International Lesson Series consists of three units totaling 13 lessons. The series is entitled The Life and Ministry of Jesus and is based on the Gospels of Mark and Luke. The first lesson appears on page six in this issue.



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Drug charge 'totally unfounded' says Home superintendent

It was reported (in a Nov. 19 story in the *Arkansas Gazette*) that among the reasons for the Nov. 18 revocation of the license of the Methodist Children's Home by the Arkansas Social Services' Child Care Review Board was its allegation that "Children living at the home were interviewed and indicated that drug abuse was common among residents."

Home Superintendent Edwin Keith, in a statement prepared for the *Arkansas Methodist*, called the board's reference to drugs "the charge that infuriates me most." Portions of his statement follow:

"This is totally unfounded. We have no habitual drug users on the campus. What we do have are some teenagers that have used drugs — that is one of the reasons they are here. This information was in the youngsters' files (and) Social Services workers read these files and then proceeded to use this information in interviewing a child.

"I am told by a houseparent and some of the children that confidential information in the files about one youngster was discussed with another child. Some of our youngsters perhaps have experimented with marijuana. They may have smoked it on the campus, but I doubt it. Our staff is very alert and continually monitors the behavior of all our children."

The drug allegations were not part of the study team's preliminary report and, said Mr. Keith, "came as a complete surprise to me."

The following is a resume of some of the 15 alleged deficiencies at the Methodist Children's Home cited by Arkansas Social Services. Accompanying the brief summation of a few of the major allegations are comments by the Home's staff and excerpts from its response to the charges.

• **Concerning preschool children.** (Regulations allow preschool children under certain circumstances but not for a stay of more than 90 days.) Allegation: "There are approximately 24 preschool children in (the Home). Most of them have no siblings at the Home and many are accepted and placed in cottages other than their siblings' cottage. Residential standards prohibit this."

Home's report: "Our current records show there are 12 preschool children in (the Home). All except one have other siblings and in each case the child is in a cottage with other brothers or sisters."

Mr. Keith: "Their (preschool children) being here is in keeping with our philosophy of what child care ought to be. Social Services' philosophy is that they get personal attention at foster homes. We agree that they need attention but we

insist that our preschool children get more personal attention than those who may be run from one foster home to another. Some of our preschool children stay longer than 90 days for a variety of reasons — such as receiving braces on their teeth, and so on."

• **Adoption.** Allegation: "In some cases children who visit regularly with a family appear to be considered for adoption . . ."

Home's report: "There is no doubt that many people would like to adopt, but as for our children, they are not adoptable and we refer anyone inquiring about adoption to the Arkansas Social Services."

Mr. Keith: "Our Foster Home Application form has this statement, which is the last sentence on the three-page form, just above the place for the signature of the husband and wife: 'We agree that we will not attempt to obtain legal custody of any child placed for foster care in our home by the Methodist Children's Home.'"

Home staff members did report to the *Arkansas Methodist* that in regard to one specific case under criticism Home officials had agreed that "should the child ever be eligible for adoption, (the foster parents concerned) would be given prior option."

• **Off-campus visits.** (Several items in the 15 allegations concerned off-campus visits by children under custody of Social Services. In a policy mutually prepared and agreed upon by the two agencies in July, 1976, the Home was required to secure approval for any extended visit by such a child.) Allegation: "One (such child) was sent for a visit to Florida (and) we were not notified until a week after the child had left. Not only were we denied the opportunity to approve the visit, but juvenile court was also not made aware (of it)."

Home staff: The visit in question concerned a trip by a youth group from a Little Rock United Methodist Church, under the supervision of the pastor. Prior to departure, the Home, uncertain whether the child in question was still under Social Services custody, called the Social Services office and was told that "they, too, were unsure, and they told us they would call back, which they did not do." While travelling, the group was protected by insurance.

• **Payment to foster parents.** (Not a subject dealt with in the original 15 allegations so presumably a subject within the Review Board meeting.) Mr. Keith: "Another allegation made by Social Services (concerned) the payments to foster parents. The standards indicate a need to show evidence of ability to finance a program of child care. As evidence of this ability I gave the review workers a copy of our certified audit. They then wanted to see our financial records, as to where our money came from and where it went. This I refused to do. These records are not for public perusal. They are made available to any and all Board (of Trustees of the Home) members. As a matter of fact I have cancelled checks for every dollar paid to foster homes and they amount to exactly the amount noted in the audit."

CHILDREN'S HOME

(Continued from page one)

received no such list.

Mr. Dietz said that a letter was sent to Mr. Keith on Nov. 12 "pointing out each of the deficiencies, but not in detail." Mr. Keith said he did not consider that letter "an official bill of particulars, nor did our attorney."

Mr. Keith reported that at the Oct. 6 meeting he thought the Social Services staff had the impression that the Home's Policy and Personnel Committee "was very much concerned in resolving the problems and was moving forward to correct them."

Another matter of concern to the Home's staff was the scheduling of the licensing renewal study. In the Home's 12-page response to the alleged deficiencies, Miss Beth Nelson, the Home's director of social services, quoted the Licensing Manual as stating that such visits "shall be made after appropriate notice has been given to the administrator of the facility." She said that on Aug. 24 she was contacted by a Social Services official stating they wanted to come that afternoon to begin the study. She reported that her supervisor, Mr. Keith, was away and requested that the study be postponed until his return. She reported that Mr. Dietz had "insisted on the study" over her objections that Mr. Keith had instructed her to wait until his return before beginning the study.

The Home, which currently cares for approximately 90 children in nine cottages at its Little Rock facility and some 40 children in seven satellite homes across the state, receives fewer than five percent of its children by placement through the state Social Services office. Just over one percent of its current income is received from Social Services foster home care allowances. Most of the

Home's children are received by referral from the courts and by voluntary placement (parents, referral by ministers and others).

Mr. Dietz reported that all residential child care facilities must either be licensed or granted an exemption on religious grounds, a status which is sometimes chosen by church-related institutions. He said "regardless of whether or not they choose religious exemption, it is my understanding that they must still satisfy the licensing staff in their region that they are in compliance (with the requirements). So frankly, I don't understand the difference between the two."

Of the 50 to 60 residential facilities licensed in Arkansas, approximately six are church-related, Mr. Dietz said. Mr. Keith said that there were at least three church-related institutions which he knew of that had chosen the religious exemption status.

History Of The Complaints

Asked about the history of complaints against the Home, Mr. Dietz said the initial one came in August, 1975 when a child over whom Social Services had custody was placed at the home by her mother. "The information I received from the staff and the reports I read indicated that Social Services was not being allowed to be involved with the plans for (a child) over whom we had custody." He said the Home was "not allowing us to become involved in case planning" for the child and that "whether or not the mother chose to place the child in the Home, we still had custody and needed to be aware of the plans and be involved."

Mr. Dietz said that other differences developed the following December over the Home's policy of allowing children under Social Services custody to visit in "friendship homes" during the Christ-

mas season. He said his office had expressed concern to the Home that they "were not doing any formal studies" on such homes. "They are saying that the ministers would recommend the homes and that was generally all the references that were checked and no other studies were made. I indicated that there needed to be a more thorough study of these facilities."

Mr. Keith reported to the *Arkansas Methodist* that "every visit made by the children" is preceded by an off-campus visit form which is to be returned to the Home with a recommendation by the pastor. He said that in most cases a personal interview is held with the family. In an interview Nov. 20 in the *Arkansas Gazette* Mr. Keith said "We have, I am sure, been neglectful of doing as thorough a study of foster homes as we should . . . but it seems to me that a pastor of a family could evaluate a home better than anyone else."

Mr. Keith said he was very much in favor of upgrading child care in the state and said "I'd like to have anything that would do that." He said he had personally worked hard to adopt the present licensing standards and that Miss Nelson had served on the committee which designed those regulations. He said that both the Social Services staff and the Home's staff were "interested primarily in the care of children who are in need" and that he "regretted very much the Review Board's action when we should be cooperating with one another in serving children in need."

Difference In Views

Mr. Keith said the Review Board's action was "a culmination of events that . . . revolve around a difference as to what should be the prerogative of the church and what should be the prerogative of the state." He said "I don't think the state ought to limit the church in

servicing anybody in need." Referring to one specific case under criticism, he said "I think our action is in keeping with the Christ-like spirit that is prevalent in your Children's Home . . . We may not be in compliance with the letter of the law in some of these instances (but) I believe we are in compliance with the spirit of the law, and that is, in trying to give aid to those in need . . ." Mr. Keith said "the kernel of the whole thing is a difference of interpretation of what the standards are."

In a statement prepared for the *Arkansas Methodist* Mr. Keith said "I regret very much the bad publicity we have received, particularly at this time of the year when we must raise our money for operation. I assure you I will do everything in my power to do what is just and proper and will present our case to the Review Board on Dec. 16."

Mr. Keith said that following the report of the Review Board's action he received calls "night and day" expressing concern and support for the Home. "In my 14 years at the Home I've never experienced such an outpouring of support," he said.

Approximately 90 percent of the Home's support comes from local churches of the two Arkansas annual conferences. Since its founding in 1899 the Home has consistently been one of the most highly regarded and widely supported of the church's institutions in the state.

At the time of the Review Board's action Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks was in Philadelphia, Pa., attending a meeting of the Council of Bishops.

Home Board of Trustees Chairman H. H. Fulbright of Searcy indicated that he would have comments to make following the Board's meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23. That regularly scheduled semi-annual meeting came too late to be reported in this week's issue of the *Arkansas Methodist*.

summary by Doris Woolard



Arkansans Get Together at St. Paul Seminary

In Kansas City for a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of St. Paul School of Theology were members from Arkansas. They are shown here meeting with seminary students from Arkansas. From left (third row) Bob Shaw, a lay member of the board, from Springdale; Dr. Alvin Murray, pastor, First Church,

Little Rock; the Rev. David Wilson, Nashville, Ark.; the Rev. Therral Wilson, Gillett-Campshed; Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks; (second row) Students Tom Francis, Steve Newman, Roger Armstrong; (front) Larry Spears, Davis Thompson, Charles Little, Walter "Bubba" Smith.

Dr. Harry Denman, lay evangelist, personified his faith

by Thomas S. McAnally

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (UMC) — Dr. Harry Denman, 83, the most widely known layman in The United Methodist Church, died here Nov. 8.

Once referred to by Billy Graham as "the greatest practitioner of personal evangelism in America," Dr. Denman is said to have spoken in more churches across the country than any other official in The United Methodist Church.

When he died he left no living relatives, no extra clothing, no real estate. During the 25 years he was chief executive of the Nashville-based Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church he was known as a man who gave everything away — especially his faith.

**"... he left
no living relatives,
no extra clothing,
no real estate."**

He traveled with two small airline bags: one for his toilet articles, an extra shirt, a change of socks, and underwear, the other was for correspondence.

"Why should I have two coats," he once asked, "when some men have none?" On one occasion he invited a man to church. The man said, "I'm not dressed good enough to go to church." Dr. Denman replied, "You're dressed as nice as I am." And he was.

A great believer in personal evangelism, he was known for his talks about Christ to bellboys, porters, waitresses, cab drivers, and others in various walks of life. If he had an hour between planes or trains, he often selected a street at random and visited door-to-door in the interest of Christianity.

**"You love people
and tell them about God."**

His long-time secretary, Miss Lou Dozier of Nashville, has continued to care for his correspondence during the years since his retirement. People throughout the world have been recipients of Dr. Denman's letters and notes. Often the notes were accompanied by books. Bishops of the church

(for whom he prayed by name each day) the other leaders of the denomination frequently received notes of praise as well as criticism from Dr. Denman. Even when his health began to fail following a heart attack, Dr. Denman kept up to date on events across the nation and around the world.

He was born in Birmingham in 1893. His mother was left alone when Dr. Denman was a small boy. He quit school at the age of 10 to work for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company. At the age of 22 he returned to school and graduated from Birmingham Southern College at age 28. For 20 years he served as business manager of First Methodist Church in Birmingham. In 1939 he was asked to serve as general secretary for the Commission on Evangelism of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He had no staff and one secretary. When he retired he had 53 staff members and 200 employees.

During his leadership in the Board of Evangelism he accepted responsibility for publishing **The Upper Room** and helped it become the most widely-read devotional publication in the world. The impressive building which now houses the Upper Room Chapel and Museum and Board of Discipleship offices in Nashville bears his name.

**"You don't do the
work of evangelism
behind a desk
in a swivel chair."**

"You don't do the work of evangelism behind a desk in a swivel chair," he once said. "You go to people, you love people and you tell them about God." In one

year Dr. Denman made 407 addresses in 19 countries.

In an article written in honor of Dr. Denman's 80th birthday, former Board of Evangelism staff member Charles Whittle, now a pastor in Abilene, Tex., called Dr. Denman a "spokesman for social justice before it became popular."

Speaking in Alabama, Dr. Denman is quoted by Mr. Whittle as saying, "Martin Luther King cannot preach here and I can. Why? His skin is dark. Why, Jesus couldn't preach here. He

**"He helped open
Alabama and the South
to the fact that God
is no respecter
of persons."**

had dark skin. He had no bank account, no university degree, he was a transient."

According to Mr. Whittle, that stance on social justice cost Dr. Denman the popular support needed to elect him a delegate to the denomination's General Conference. "But he helped open Alabama and the South to the fact that God is no respecter of persons," Mr. Whittle observed.

When Castro overthrew Batista in Cuba, Dr. Denman was quoted as asking, "Why weren't we concerned about the poor Cuban people under the dictatorship of Batista? Because he let us run our sugar plantations! Now that Castro has confiscated our gold, we are concerned about the Cubans!"

Funeral services were held in Birmingham Nov. 10 with interment at the Elmwood Cemetery.



Dr. Archibald Cox, professor of law at Harvard and former Watergate Special Prosecutor, participating in a bicentennial symposium on The Nature of a Humane Society said "you cannot pick and choose among good laws and bad laws according to each individual's conscience without undermining the entire structure."

Space scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun declared in a bicentennial presentation "I believe with all my heart that religion, like science, is evolutionary, growing and changing in the light of further revelations by God."

The divorce rate in this country has more than doubled during the last 12 years, from 2.3 per 1,000 population in 1963, to 4.8 in 1975, according to a recent report by the Bureau of the U.S. Census.

Dr. Brigitte Berger, a sociologist, speaking at a conference on "Changing American Life-Styles," asserted that the media have been responsible for "spreading anti-family sentiment and advocating a communal consciousness, which disposes of the conventional conception of the nuclear family."

Dr. Stanley M. Hauerwas, a theologian, warning a recent conference that the modern family is facing serious threats to its existence as an institution, advocated a "masked authoritarianism by parents, which consciously passes on values and traditions to children."

An estimated 1,800,000 U.S. children, ages 7 through 13, are unattended — by parents, relatives or agencies — from the time they leave school until a parent returns from work, according to a recent U.S. Census Bureau report.

Seventh-day Adventists, who observe Saturday as their Sabbath, have expressed opposition to a proposal that Saturday be set aside as the day of rest for all people. W. Melvin Adams, director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Adventists' World Conference, said, "We think every person should be free to worship on the day of his or her choosing, without the interference of the state. Anything short of this is a violation of the spirit of the First Amendment."

A sweeping government birth control campaign instituted in India in March has resulted in the sterilization of 4.8 million people according to Dr. Karan Singh, India's health and family planning minister.

The communications sections of the National Council of Churches and the U.S. Catholic Conference have protested the "immoral" showing on the CBS television network and its affiliated stations of a film called "Death Wish." A joint statement calls the movie "a blatant and cynical example of television's constantly escalating lesson to young and old that violence is the acceptable solution to most problems . . ."

The paycheck of Dr. Donald Coggan, Archbishop of Canterbury, primate of the Church of England and leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion will be increased by \$6.38 weekly come April 1. In a time of soaring inflation in Britain, the pay hike will raise his annual salary to \$15,404, up \$332 per year.

Two Southern Baptists in Richmond, Va. are launching a venture to publish an area "Christian Yellow Pages," listing businesses owned by those who affirm they are "born again" Christians.

World Hunger

(Continued from page two)

available food, efforts to improve unjust economic structures, and measures to increase food production.

Bedford said that while many Americans believed their nation to be among the most generous with aid to needy nations, recent figures did not support that belief. He said that while under the Marshall Plan the U.S. had given four percent of its Gross National Product in such aid, we now give less than one-fourth of one percent. He said that 14 other nations give more aid than the U.S.

In business matters the Assembly passed two resolutions, one to "alert the citizens of Arkansas" to a proposal of the Arkansas Economic Development Study Commission, made last May 17, to exempt public and private overnight recreational facilities in dry counties from state laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages. As originally presented the resolution contained the phrase "be it further resolved that we express our strong objection to the sale of alcoholic beverages in state-owned parks." After objection, that phrase was deleted from the resolution which passed.

The second resolution, approved unanimously, urged state legislators to "pass a more effective Homestead Exemption Law which would exempt those whose incomes fall within the poverty level."

In presenting the resolutions, Council Director-Coordinator Mrs. Frances Wood told the representatives that the Council "does not speak for the

churches" but "only to the churches."

At the afternoon session the Assembly heard a panel presentation on international, domestic and theological issues relating to world hunger. Panel members were State Senator William N. Hargrove of Stuttgart, Arkansas *Gazette* Farm Editor Leland DuVall of Little Rock, Mr. Lynn McEuen, rice mill executive from Stuttgart, and Mr. Bedford. Panel moderator was the Rev. Ray Saathoff of Stuttgart, pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Council President Floyd Sexton of Texarkana presided at the session, which voted to hold its 22nd Annual Meeting Nov. 15, 1977 at Rose City Cumberland Presbyterian Church in North Little Rock.

PENSION FUND GIFTS

Little Rock Conference

In memory of:
MR. U. A. GENTRY
MR. GOODRUM, FATHER OF MRS.
CARL HOLMAN

By Mr. and Mrs. Guy Cazort and
Jane

DR. E. C. RULE
By Winnie and Sidney Good

From Our Readers

'I AM INDEBTED'

To the Editor:

Dr. E. Clifton Rule was the nearest "Father in the Ministry" that I had.

From our first meeting in 1945 on the Hendrix Campus, Dr. Rule affirmed and encouraged my ministry. He had a way of building me up and also enabling me to see there was more in the ministry than I had accomplished.

In that first summer of my ministry on the Carlisle Circuit I had received some 65 persons on profession of faith. I thought that was great (I need to do it again). Dr. Rule put my egotism in proper perspective and enlarged my concept of ministry when he said: "What are you going to do with them, Virgil?"

I have been trying these 30 years since to "do something" with those God has permitted in my ministry.

I am indebted to many, lay and clergy, but perhaps to no one more than this minister who was my "Elder and my Christian Brother."

Virgil C. Bell (Rev.)
First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 467
McGehee, Ark. 71654

NEEDED: A MORE CHRISTIAN NATION

To the Editor:

Congratulations for giving us food for thought. Your questions and answers in the Oct. 28 issue are very interesting.

I would like to drop a few thoughts for publication on the question "What do you see as the greatest need in our nation at this time?"

Our nation's greatest need is much better cooperation between Church and State in denouncing sin. Many officials in our local, state and national government have failed to get an adequate idea of the guilt and ruin which sin brings to the spirit of man. It is superlative and immeasurable.

Of course our Church and government are two different systems, and they should stand on their own merits, but at



An Offering for Wesley Chapel

United Methodists of Jonesboro District joined in Nov. 7 "Great Day of United Methodist Singing" at Huntington Avenue Church in Jonesboro. An offering, designated for the restoration of Wesley's Chapel in London, was received. Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, district superintendent, welcomed the congregation, participating ministers and choirs and their directors and accompanists. The Rev. Bill Williams of Trumann, briefed the audience on "Wesley Rules for Singing."

the same time supporting each other by the primary interest of society. There's not much difference between the foundation upon which they rest. One has a divine foundation; the other a foundation of truth. This makes it possible for society to derive its effulgent light from the radiation of heaven, but only when there is cooperation.

Our nation bears a resemblance to civilized humanity, but it needs to advance to an active life of a Christian nation. Our national government needs a much higher standard of morality, a higher destination which is not mingled with corruption and the love of money, in order to exalt its character, so that public honor, confidence and faith can be restored. Only then can we have a lofty spirit of patriotism.

Due to . . . misconduct in public life, many of our people are at a loss for terms adequate to express their confidence in government. This has placed an extra burden upon the Church. It is the responsibility of Christian people to elect a President and members of the Congress whose spiritual and intel-

Changing Address? ? ? ? ?

PLEASE!!!! We need your help in overcoming an item that has become very costly for us. We request that you send the name label from the front page of your ARKANSAS METHODIST two weeks before your moving date. (It costs us 25 cents each time the Post Office returns one of these labels to us.) Send label and your complete new address, including zip code, to: ARKANSAS METHODIST, P.O. Box 3547, Little Rock, Ar. 72203.

lectual qualities are subordinate to and controlled by high lofty principles enthroned in the heart.

By cooperating our Church and government can make America a terrestrial paradise.

Joseph D. Rogers
1410 W. North Loop
Austin, Tex.

Cooperative Bicentennial Thanksgiving Service planned

United Methodist Churches in Greater Little Rock will unite in a Bicentennial Thanksgiving Service at St. Luke's Church on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m., according to an announcement by Dr. J. E. Dunlap, Little Rock District superintendent.

Dr. John P. Miles, pastor of St. James Church, will deliver the Thanksgiving message. Music will be presented by the St. Luke's choir. The Rev. Robert Regnier is pastor of the host church located at 6401 West 32nd Street.

You can be a part of something big

See the new World Service film — "A Part of Something Big" and learn how.

Order from your conference AV library, or rent at \$10 from United Methodist Film Service, 1525 McGavock St., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Discussion materials and publicity for "A Part of Something Big" can be ordered from United Methodist Communications, 1200 Davis St., Evanston, Ill. 60201.

WORLD SERVICE is people serving people

"It's a special moment. Something significant has been done."



Author John Workman traveled with and helped unload Heifer Project International's first shipment of purebred Holstein heifers to Tanzania, East Africa.

The cattle will be used to help the African nation establish its own dairy industry.

Workman felt the exhilarating, humbling sense of joy and accomplishment that is only right when something is done by people for people.

"One more small nail to hold the universe together has been firmly, securely driven home. It feels good."

We sent 140 heifers. We promised 1000. Won't you help?

HPI is a church-supported organization that uses donated animals and funds to establish livestock programs in developing countries. A gift of \$300 will purchase, process and deliver to the port of embarkation one heifer for the Tanzanian program.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

Call or write Dr. Thurl Metzger, Director of International Programs

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By THOMAS A. ABNEY
 Director, Wesley Foundation,
 U. of A., Monticello, and
 Pastor, Wilmar UM Church

The Coming Announced

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:1-3;
 Luke 1:1-38

Hope Beats Eternal

Everywhere and in many ways the people of God wait in hope for the fulfilling of the promises of God. They look toward a time when the tyrannies of life can be overthrown and the experiences of dignity and freedom can blossom. They look for a change in the nature of man to relieve the cynicism and suspicion that cloud his relationships. They look for the easing of hostilities and the fruitfulness of peace. And, they look for the joy of self-fulfillment in as many forms as there are hopes. Because the Godly spirit is ever optimistic in faith, we can see ourselves in the events recorded in our scripture lessons.

There was Zacharias, childless in a culture that counted children as a measure of success, aged in a society that respected and obeyed only the strong, a minor priest in a system that equated value with position. His humble tasks and barren life and failing strength are synonymous with the conditions of human life in every era and perhaps many of us have known them too.

For Zacharias the deficiencies of his life were not reason to abandon the standards of Godliness. With Elizabeth he "walked righteous before God . . . in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" (Luke 1:6). And, through the ages that persistence of faithfulness in spite of frustration has characterized the people of God as a people of hope.

Mary's life situation suggests that also. In her time women were not accorded much status. Inner urgings to learn, to contribute significantly to the processes of life, to find and develop her own potentials were largely denied to her. The scantness of information regarding her origin attests to the relative unimportance relegated to women then. (About to become the bearer of the Son of God she is nevertheless described only in the light of her engagement to Joseph.)

Again, despite whatever frustration she may have felt from her lot in life, she apparently kept faith with her religious training and with the image of God in her for she found favor with God and in the majestic announcement of her role must also have found satisfaction for those secret yearnings of her spirit. In both cases the characteristic of faith in God's people was helpfulness.

Hope Does Not Make Us Ashamed

It was into that atmosphere of Godly hope that the angel Gabriel spoke God's message of promise. An old man's dream would become reality in far greater dimension than he had ever imagined. To Zacharias and Elizabeth would be entrusted the life of one who would come to be called the forerunner of Christ. Notwithstanding the force of divine purpose in the life of John the baptizer, Zacharias and Elizabeth would impart to him the standards of righteousness and the redemptive concern that had been theirs in the service of the temple and the people of God.

John would be many things in major proportion that Zacharias was in standard gauge. He would be pure

while Zacharias was simply "righteous." He would be great while Zacharias was simply "blameless." He would turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord while Zacharias would serve an obscure priesthood. But, the joy of Israel would be the joy of Zacharias and Elizabeth too. The reflection of their reverent and faithful living would be magnified in John — the fruition of their hopes and their parentage as well as the instrument of God. And Zacharias was dumb-struck!

The sign of God's power is often both mercy and judgment. What proves his involvement with us and his compassion for us also evidences our incompleteness and our cynicism. Zacharias and Elizabeth would come to understand that, and at the time of John's presentation on the eighth day of his life they would confirm a strengthened faith within themselves even as they confirmed the blessing of God in the naming of John (Luke 1:63).

For many of us the good news is "just too good to be true" and we have to "see it to believe it." Not that we don't have hope, but we have in many cases put our hope on "hold" for so long that its fulfillment is startling to the point of incomprehension and we are made speechless in surprise and in shame.

To Mary the angel's message was even more dramatic. Unwed she would conceive a child — not mere child, not even a "great" child, but one who would be called the Son of God. Small wonder that she was troubled by the message and searching for understanding! The difference between Mary and Zacharias in response to the messenger is that Zacharias demanded proof for a conceivable promise while Mary only requested explanation for one that was inconceivable. It was the difference between hardheaded righteousness and submissive innocence, (a difference which frequently explains why some find it a good deal easier than others to accept the promises of God.) "And Mary said, 'be it unto me according to thy word.'"

Where There Is Hope There Is Life

What a word it was! The imminent power of God would become immediate. The mystery would become man, to be seen and understood and revered by all creation, to keep the ancient promises of the faith, and to bring again together the reign of heaven and earth so long divided. It was a word for all time, "of his kingdom there shall be no end." It was a word forever. It was THE WORD!

Past ages would be brought round to meet the future in a circle of time that would revolve about that word, for where there is no end neither is there a beginning but instead a continuum that is constantly reformed and redeemed by that word.

The throne of David, the house of Jacob, and beyond them the Covenant with Abraham, the promise to Noah, even the gift of Eden, all were bound up in the meaning of Gabriel's message. It may be easier for us to comprehend that meaning in this age that deals with time-warp theories and the concept of a universal consciousness than it was when the world was only as large in understanding or significance as an individual had travelled or suffered.

Perhaps we ought to be forgiving of those who first received the word and limited it's relevance to political

and religious systems of their smaller experience. Surely we can understand and sympathize with their needs: a proud people living under the heel of oppression, their ancient and regal heritage relegated to history's backwaters, the promised land a playground for pagan armies.

It might not have been revenge they wanted but it was close to it and we have known that same driving desire in our own time of socio-political and theological turmoil when "the good old days" and good old ways were all we could see. But God sees beyond our moments in time both past and future and speaks his eternal and universal word of promise and of consummated hope, for "of his kingdom there shall be no end."

What Then Shall We Say To These Things?

That other Scriptural text (Mark 1:1-3) may help us to see and implement our task in this matter. It closes with the words, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." To be sure this is a description of the message of John the baptizer, but may it not also be a challenge to every one of us who lives in the hope of fulfillment for ourselves, our land, our Church, our faith?

As we share experiences related to those of Zacharias and Mary so do we share experiences related to those of John: a necessity to relieve our world of deviousness, to get the crookedness out of it in high places and low, to restore the virtues of a clean heart to their rightful place, to sensitize our people to the potential for God-likeness that is, or is coming among them, and at the same time to revive the hopes of the faint and the faithless.

This is not intended to overlook or demean the creedal doctrine of the virgin birth so central to our faith and our study, but to renew its vitality in up-to-date and realistic ways, to personify again the unsullied life through which the presence and power of God can find genuine and uninhibited expression. For, in this humble opinion, miracle is as miracle does. What miracle does is to show forth the power of God in ways that are beneficial and understandable to man, whether it be the conception of Jesus' life in the Virgin Mary or the conception of Godly life in virgin hearts and minds today. That God could take form in Mary is of no doubt, neither is there any doubt that God can live even now where there are those who have no guile, bear no malice and withhold not themselves from his influence.

Having prepared the way of the Lord in ourselves as did John and Mary, we have but to give voice and form to his life within us. In John and Mary were the examples of word and deed that prepare the way of the Lord and we can pattern our lives upon theirs to call to repentance the structures and populace of our time and to give birth to the desire of nations in our world.

Charles Wesley put it this way,

"Expand thy wings, celestial Dove,
 Brood o'er our nature's night,
 On our disordered spirits move
 And let there now be light."

The Methodist Hymnal, No. 135, Verse 3

†

United Methodist Men organize in Conway District

Bishop Kenneth W. Hicks was principal speaker for the Nov. 11 organizational meeting of Conway District United Methodist Men at First Church, Conway. Elected to serve as officers were: Lloyd V. Stone (right) of Wesley Church, Conway, president, and Charles M. Kirby (left) of Lakewood Church, North Little Rock, secretary-treasurer. (George K. Potts of Pottsville was elected to the vice-presidency.)



Sub-district officers elected at the Conway meeting attended by 160 men included (left to right) **Tri-County unit:** Horace Crofoot of Morrilton, vice president; Doyce Farley of Wesley Church, Conway, secretary-treasurer; (A. O. Thompson of Cleveland is president); **Arkansas Valley unit:** Jerry Burns of First Church, Russellville, president; (James D. Peake of Bells Chapel is vice president); **Northside unit:** Lewis Kincaid of Amboy, North Little Rock, secretary-treasurer, and Bill Woodsmall of Washington Avenue Church, North Little Rock, president; (Mike Wilson of McArthur Drive Church, Jacksonville, is vice president.) "Buddy" Arnold of North Little Rock, district director of United Methodist Men, presided at the session.

Arkansas Methodist

Daily Bible Readings

Nov. 28—Sunday Eph. 5:1-21
 Nov. 29 I Tim. 4:1-16
 Nov. 30 Rev. 7:1-17
 Dec. 1 Psalm 46:1-11
 Dec. 2 Psalm 118:1-29
 Dec. 3 Isa. 9:1-7
 Dec. 4 Isa. 11:1-10
 Dec. 5—Sunday Isa. 25:1-12

News from the Churches

SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES will be held at First Church, Walnut Ridge, Sunday, Nov. 28 through Wednesday, Dec. 1 with the Rev. Thomas M. Price, superintendent of Nacogdoches District in Texas, presenting the messages. Special features in the series will include 7 a.m. "Breakfast with Tom Price," and a "Study on Prayer" with Mrs. Price at 10 a.m. each day, Monday through Wednesday. Evening services will begin at 7 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday.

PREACHERS for the Nov. 14-17 Fall Revival at Harrisburg included the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, pastor; the Rev. Berlon Davis, pastor at Colt; the Rev. Worth Gibson, pastor of First Church, Jonesboro, and Jay Lawhon, lay speaker from McCrory. Providing musical leadership were Ed and Wanda Sipe of Little Rock. J. E. Monk, of the congregation, assisted.

UNITED METHODIST YOUTH of Scott County met at Parks Church on Sunday evening, Oct. 24 for a worship program, election of officers and recreation. Officers elected were: President, John W. Jameson; Vice President, Stephanie Montgomery; Secretary, Karen Goodner; Reporter, Doug Cloud. More than 30 youth from United Methodist churches at Cauthron, Mt. Pleasant, Parks and Waldron attended. In the future, meetings will be held on a regular basis on the fourth Sunday evening of each month. The Rev. Charles Nance, pastor at Waldron, and the Rev. Warren M. Blanchard, pastor of Scott County Parish, met with the youth.

THE UMYF of First Church, Ashdown, collected \$242 for UNICEF. Following the drive they were guests at a supper party in one of the homes. On Saturday, Nov. 13, thirty youth and adults of Ashdown and Richmond Churches visited the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock and attended the Arkansas-Texas A & M football game.

THE UMY at First Church, Walnut Ridge, sponsored a World Hunger Feast following last Sunday's morning worship service. Tickets were sold by the youth at \$2 each — proceeds going toward the church's World Hunger Sunday offering.



The Rev. Wallace Roberts

Revival at Bayou Meto

The Rev. Wallace Roberts, pastor of Central United Methodist Church, Columbus, Miss., will preach for revival services at Bayou Meto, Sunday, Nov. 28 through Thursday, Dec. 2. A native of Meridian, Miss., Roberts received his theological training at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, in Atlanta. Special revival activities will include a "Bible Bowl" for children, and the guest minister will meet with the UMW, the Young Mothers group and the Council on Ministries. The Rev. Doyno Graham is pastor at Bayou Meto.

SEVENTY-EIGHT women from 17 churches participated in the World Community Day celebration for Johnson County at First Church, Clarksville. In keeping with the national program theme, "Into the Third Century — Unafraid," Mrs. Cecil Johnson reviewed the book, "The Nation Yet to Be," by Bishop James Armstrong of the United Methodist Church.

FORT SMITH DISTRICT Parsonettes were guests for their November meeting in the parsonage home of Mrs. Archie Boyd in Fort Smith. Mrs. Clarence Wilcox served as co-hostess for the Thanksgiving brunch which preceded the business session and devotional period. Mrs. Paul Bumpers, wife of the district superintendent, presided over the election of the following officers: Mrs. Boyd, president; Mrs. Jerry Canada, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Nance, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Vernon Paysinger, publicity and scrapbook chairman. Plans were made for the noontime District Christmas Party to be held at Goddard Church on Dec. 9, and for the conference luncheon to be hosted by Fort Smith District parsonettes during Annual Conference next June. The 17 parsonettes concluded the day's activities with a Dutch Treat meal at the King's Table.

Amity Chapel hosts Arkadelphia District Fall meeting of UMW

Dr. Joe Phillips, Arkadelphia District superintendent, presented the principal message at Amity for the Fall district meeting of United Methodist Women. His presentation focused on United Methodism's quadrennial goals. Miss Annie Lou Shope of Okolona, district president, presided over the event. The theme for the all-day meeting was "On Our Way."

Highlights of the Bible study, The Gospel of Mark, were portrayed in story form by Mrs. Charles McNamara, and mission study high points on People and Systems were given by Mrs. R. H. Levins of Gurdon, and Africa, by Mrs. Harold Hansford. A service of Memory Moments was conducted by Mrs. J. D. Hardwick of Malvern. Mrs. Alice Preston of Murfreesboro, district vice president, assisted by local unit treasurers, led the Pledge Service.

Officers elected to lead the district during 1977 were installed by Mrs. J. R. Campbell. With a few exceptions, former officers were reelected. New officers include: Mrs. Harold Hansford of Arkadelphia, Mission Coordinator for Christian Personhood, and Mrs. Darrell Smith of Okolona, Nominations chairman. Also named to the Nominations Committee were Mrs. Roland Bryant and Mrs. Clifford Matlock, both of Murfreesboro; Mrs. John Estes, Arkadelphia, and Mrs. Guy Brock, Delight.

UNITED METHODIST MEN of First Church, Brinkley, hosted the November meeting of the Forrest City District organization at a catfish supper. Jay Lawhon of McCrory provided the program in the form of a report on his recent trip to Bangladesh.

"**FOODS OF BIBLE TIMES**" were featured at a churchwide dinner at First Church, Springdale, last Sunday evening. The event was sponsored by the church's Library Committee. Church families were requested to prepare dishes from recipes provided by committee members out of a library book entitled "Loaves and Fishes."

Personalia

MISS NETTIE GRAY, a life-long member of First Church, Osceola, was complimented on her recent 97th birthday with a party sponsored by circles of the church's UMW. Members of the Rhodes-Enochs Circle served refreshments to 40 guests. A brief program included a presentation by Mrs. Virginia Driver on "Women of the Bible."



Horseshoe Bend Church Buys Parsonage

The Rev. and Mrs. Pharis J. Holifield, pastor and wife at Horseshoe Bend, stand at entrance of the parsonage home recently purchased by the Horseshoe Bend congregation. Located at 106 East Cameo Lane, the home had belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Granzin, members of the church, who have recently moved to a retirement home.

THE REV. CARR DEE RACOP JR., associate director of the Council on Ministries of the Little Rock Conference, attended the National Consultation on the In-Church Uses of Video, held recently at Dayton, Ohio. The event, first of its kind, brought together 30 participants from 20 states to examine ways closed circuit television and other video facilities can be utilized in the church.

THE REV. WILLIAM A. CHEYNE of Ashdown addressed United Methodist Women at Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler, Tex. the day before election on the theme, "A Nation Under God."

AD RATES

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.

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GURDON UMY WINS BANNER with 44 youth in attendance at recent Arkadelphia District Rally. Lisa Meeks, district president, presents the banner to Alan Halton of Gurdon as Jayne Bratton, president of Manchester Sub-district looks on. One hundred and ten youth attended the event.

†



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN of Fort Smith District welcomed Bishop and Mrs. Kenneth W. Hicks to the annual district meeting at Mallalieu Church in Fort Smith. Joining in the welcome were, left to right, Mrs. Paul Bumpers, Dr. Paul Bumpers, district superintendent, (Mrs. Hicks), Mrs. Aaron Barling, former UMW district president, (Bishop Hicks) and the Rev. Robert E. Jones Felder, host minister.

†



THE ELKINS CONGREGATION in Fayetteville District has taken seriously the Heifer International Project. The church's Administrative Board, whose chairman is Mrs. Mike (Carol) Tillery (second from left), voted recently to buy a second heifer for the project. Shown are (left to right) Mrs. James Carter, the Tillery's, who gave a heifer from their herd, and Miss Jeannie Carter, who gave a heifer which she had raised — lifting the total to four.

†



ORIENTATION PERIOD during rally is led by Marna Travis and Bobby Box. The first event of the day was a Youth Service Fund Carnival during which over \$150 was raised for YSF.



UMY PROGRAMS EXPLAINED — The Rev. John Dill, district coordinator of youth ministries, outlines the functions of district and conference UMY programs during Arkadelphia District Rally. The next rally will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 at First Church, Hot Springs.

†



NEWLY ELECTED to serve on the Newport City Council is Mrs. Doris Borders, an active member of Emory Chapel United Methodist Church in Newport. Her pastor is the Rev. Reginald Moore, recently licensed to preach and a native son of Mallalieu Church in Fort Smith. Mrs. Borders, elected to Position 2 on the council, is also a member of the Paragould District Council on Ministries, heads Emory Chapel's Family Ministries, and is director of the Jackson County Council on Aging.

†



BISHOP KENNETH W. HICKS was the featured speaker at the Celebration Service during the Oct. 30 Jonesboro District Fall Youth Rally at Huntington Avenue Church, Jonesboro. Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, district superintendent, is seated behind the podium as Bishop Hicks addresses the 225 youth and their adult counselors.



STOLES OF AFRICAN SILK designed by Dr. DarEII Weist (right) were presented to First Church, Pine Bluff, during his recent visit there. Displaying the unique gift is Dr. John W. Lindsay, pastor. Dr. Weist, who recently completed a three-year mission assignment in Sierra Leone, West Africa, under the auspices of the Board of Global Ministries, reported on his work to the First Church congregation which has supported his mission work.

†



A SET OF HANDBELLS presented to First Church, Harrison, by Mrs. Carl Orendorff (right) as a memorial to her late husband, were dedicated by the Rev. John M. McCormack (left) in a recent Sunday morning worship service. The newly trained Orendorff Handbell Choir, made up of youth, played for the service under the direction of Sally Jo Gibson, director of music.

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JONESBORO DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL — (left to right) Marna Travis, CCYM representative; Kim Hollis, vice chairman; Bobby Box, CCYM representative; Tami Thompson, chairman; Susan Steinsick, CCYM representative. (Clay Fontaine is secretary-treasurer; the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, district youth coordinator.)