

Insights

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

504 West Chapel Hill Street

Durham, NC 27701

Mark W. Wethington

(919) 683-3467

Clinton W. Spence

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1993

Fourth Sunday in Easter

WORDS FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

"An Easter Sermon from an Agnostic"

I had an interesting conversation with my so-called agnostic uncle this past weekend. We don't talk often, but his eccentric nature has always attracted me. Early memories of Thanksgiving and Christmas include discussions of topics that didn't seem to be appropriate at home, so his unusual interests always provided a diversion from the usual small talk at one's grandparents.

Uncle Lanier treated illnesses with herbs and vitamins long before health food stores were common, and he explored Buddhist and Hindu theology to find answers to questions about the meaning of life long before retail stores sold crystals and mood music to New Age gurus. Uncle Lanier knew about Jungian psychology and its appreciation of dragons in the art of cultures around the world, but he never cared much for organized Christianity. Like my fellow Georgian and favorite columnist, Lewis Grizzard, my Uncle Lanier has never been the church going kind.

Like Lewis Grizzard, my Uncle Lanier decided to accept a pig valve for his heart last summer as penance for all the Sundays he has skipped church over his 77 years. Uncle Lanier has done much better than Lewis Grizzard because he hasn't eaten barbeque and drunk domestic beer with all those chemical additives! Uncle Lanier has only drunk imported natural wines and his own home brewed beer for as long as I can remember, needless to say, much to the chagrin of our traditionally Methodist family with its temperance heritage. Like Grizzard, however, Uncle Lanier has talked more about religion and life in the past few months.

"Death is going to be an interesting experiment," Uncle Lanier reflected over the phone this past weekend. "We'll get to see if they've been lying to us all these years!" He laughed and then added more seriously, "It seems to be more an issue of fear than faith to me. We spend an enormous amount of money on Medicare and Medicaid because of our fear of dying, but for Christians the worst alternative is that they die and go to heaven," Uncle Lanier commented. "That is, if they really believe what they say," he quickly added.

I took all his critical theology into consideration and responded, "You certainly don't seem to be afraid of dying, so what does that mean?" Uncle Lanier replied cautiously, "I would call myself more of a Jesus follower than a Christian."

He illustrated his longstanding scepticism of churchgoers with another observation. "In all my years of flying all over the country, it was always the Christians who were afraid in turbulence." Uncle Lanier then offered an
(Continued on page 3.)

Food Pantry Sunday: Canned Meats

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

'Life Together'

Men's Coffee - Parlor

9:45 - 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

10:15 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir

Sanctuary

10:30 a.m.

Ringling of the Tower Bells

10:45 a.m.

Worship Service

Sanctuary

12:15 p.m.

Homecoming on the Grounds

12:15 p.m.

'INSIGHTS' due
(May 9 - May 15)

NO Amos: Window to God Study Group.

This group has been postponed until fall.

1:15 - 2:00 p.m.

JOYBells

Handbell Room

6:00 p.m.

CROP Meeting - Parlor

NO DMYF

8:00 p.m.

12 Step Al-Anon and A.A.
Community Life Center

SERMON:

Rev. Rufus Stark II,
Methodist Home for Children

SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 23

John 10: 1-10

Acts 2: 42-47

1 Peter 2: 19-25

PRELUDE:

Concerto in C for Two Trumpets - Antonio Vivaldi

ANTHEM:

Sanctuary Choir:

"The Seasons of Man" Fisher Tull

USHERS: Wil Drake, Jeff Bailey, Randy Bollinger, Bill Bowles, J.H. Chappell, Bill Coman, R.L. Forrester, Richard Grogan, Leland Phelps, Bill Stone.

GREETERS:

S.S. GREETERS:

Dillard Teer

Asbury Class

Mildred Teer

ACOLYTES:

CROSS:

Nathan Spence

Kevin Grogan

Matthew Spence

ALTAR GUILD:

MESSENGERS:

Carolyn Browning

Kevin Baker

Betty Brunson

Denise Baker

Delaina Buehler

NURSERY:

NO JR. CHURCH:

Sharon Allen

Deborah Moore

Marlene Allen

Janet Leone

**CHURCH CALENDAR
MAY 3 - MAY 8**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

MONDAY, MAY 3

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - JOY Class
 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Circle 1 and 3 - Parlor
 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Weekday School - Mid. JOY Class
 7:30 p.m. Finance Committee - Library
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A.
 Community Life Center

TUESDAY, MAY 4

12:15 - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday Study Group - Jr. JOY
 7:30 p.m. European Tour Choir - Epworth
 UMC
 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Wesley Women - Bradshaw Room
 8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A.
 Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries
 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch - Whitford Hall
 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - JOY
 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. Fold "Insights" - Whitford Hall
 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. Wednesday Meal - Whitford Hall
 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Wesley Singers - Choir Room
 6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Carol Choir - Aldersgate Room
 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Mid. JOY
 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Open Door
 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Group - Parlor
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Older Adult Program - Whitford Hall
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bells - Handbell Room

THURSDAY, MAY 6

7:15 - 8:00 a.m. "Life Together" Men's Breakfast
 Parlor
 7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Meals-On-Wheels Breakfast
 Volunteer Recognition
 Kitchen and Whitford Hall
 9:45 a.m. Visitation
 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Thursday Study Group
 Prayer Room
 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room
 7:30 p.m. Staff-Parish Meeting
 Library

FRIDAY, MAY 7

5:00 p.m. Bethany Bells to Greensboro
 Area Handbell Festival
 6:00 p.m. Coletta/Jones Rehearsal
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A.
 Community Life Center

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Greensboro Area Bell Festival through 4:00 p.m.
 2:00 p.m. Coletta/Jones Wedding

REMINDER: There is no Junior Church on Communion Sundays so children can participate in communion.

Vacation Bible School

Plan now to bring your children to Vacation Bible School from Monday, June 28 - Thursday, July 1, 1993. Time is 9:00 a.m. until noon. Working mothers, call the church office for transportation for your children. Children ages 2 - rising 6th graders are included. There will be a nursery for teachers' children. Registration forms will be available soon

Easter Egg Recycling

Please bring any plastic Easter eggs you don't want to the recycling bins in the hall at the church. There is a box there for them. This will save us money on next year's Easter Egg Hunt. Thanks!

Don't Forget All-Summer Day Camp
 Registration forms are available
 in the Church office.



Please join us for visiting our homebound members on Thursday, May 6, at 9:45 a.m. in the church parking lot. Lunch will be at the Market Place at 12:15 p.m.

May 20, 9:45 a.m. will be the next visiting day. Lunch will be at Taverna Nikos at 12:15 p.m.

If you can't visit with us, but would like to cheer up someone who can't get out much, call Ann Stallings at 683-3467 for the name of someone who would love to have some visits (maybe once a month).

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, May 6, 1993
 7:30 p.m.
 in the Library

(Please call Shirley Few at 489-3939
 If you cannot attend.)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations! Brian Murray was elected Vice-President of the Durham District UMYF for 1993-1994. Elections were held Sunday, April 25, at the Durham District Youth Rally. We would also like to offer our thanks to John Semingson and the JOYBells for representing us in the District Talent Show.

"An Easter Sermon from an Agnostic" (Continued from front page.)

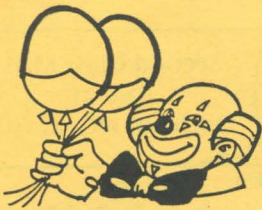
alternative to fear with his remembrance of a conversation with his father -- my grandfather -- just days before his death at age 83. "Either you make it through this bad time or you go to heaven, so what's the big deal?" he asked his dying father. "Don't you believe what you've preached all those years?"

Such a question for churchgoing Christians is a challenge in this season of Easter. Do we really believe in the power of the resurrection? Or do our decisions to prolong life at any cost reveal a hopeless fear of death? Perhaps the best Christian witness for the Lewis Grizzards and Uncle Laniers of this world would be for us to forego by-pass surgery. Suppose the cost of such a procedure could be credited toward the prenatal care of unwed mothers or the pediatric care of single parent families who are needy.

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." (Matthew 25: 34b-36)

As my Uncle Lanier would say, "It's fun to be fooled, but it's more fun to know the truth!" If we churchgoing Christians get a chance to pool our health care vouchers in the future, perhaps we can prove that we believe in the resurrection by how we spend and share our medical resources with those in need. Who knows? Maybe even Lewis Grizzard or Uncle Lanier, and their kind, would notice and join us in singing God's praises on Sundays (and in heaven).

Your common Jesus follower,
Clint



WEEKDAY SCHOOL SPRING CARNIVAL

Come one, come all and have a ball. . . at the first annual Duke Memorial Weekday School Spring Carnival. The carnival will be held Saturday, May 15 from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the classrooms (ground level) and in Whitford Hall. Have fun with face painting, the Lollipop Tree, letter bingo, and the penny drop; or, try your luck at pick-a-duck, bean bag toss, fishing, bowling, the cupcake walk, or basketball. Upstairs you can join us in a bake sale and relax with a hot dog lunch. The Spring Carnival offers fun for all ages, so bring your family, friends, and neighbors! All proceeds go toward renovation of the playground.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Wanda Cheryl Pope
Rev. Glen Cameron Currin, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. John Erie Pope, Jr. of Wadesboro announce the engagement of their daughter, Wanda Cheryl, to the Rev. Glen Cameron Currin, Jr.

The bride-elect, a graduate of Anson Community College and Greensboro College, is employed as church secretary with Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.

The prospective bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Cameron Currin, Sr. of Oxford. A graduate of Campbell University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he is pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Chapel Hill.

The couple plan to marry on May 15 at 3 p.m. at Grey Stone Baptist Church, Durham.

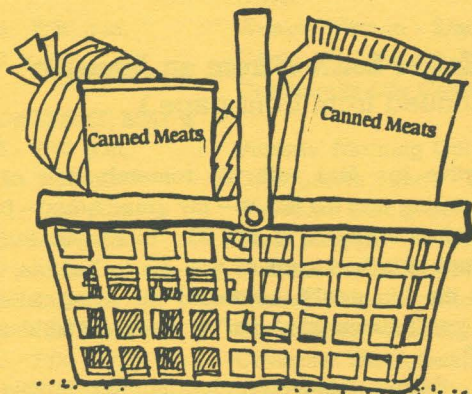
If you know the address of Mr. Robert M. Anglin. Please advise church office (683-3467) or Oliver Upchurch (682-1675).

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*Food Pantry Sunday
May, 2*

**HOMECOMING SERVICE
PRELUDE BEGINS AT 10:45 A.M.**

This Sunday, May 2, Paul Randall, principal Trumpet with the N.C. Symphony, and Paul Neebe, principal Trumpet with the Durham Symphony will offer Antonio Vivaldi's "Concerto in C for Two Trumpets."

Please join us after the Sunday morning service for dinner on the grounds.

**LOVE FEAST
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12**

A Love Feast will be held on Wednesday, May 12, in Whitford Hall. Dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the Love Feast at 6:15 p.m. This will be a wonderful time for sharing, praising God, singing, and welcoming our guests, members from St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church. Plan now to attend! More information will follow in future Insights.

**ADULT PROGRAMS
FOR WEDNESDAYS,
MAY 5 AND MAY 12
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Whitford Hall**

These are not X-rated, but are programs designed primarily for Older Adults (those of us who are "chronologically gifted." All adults are invited, of course.

May 5, our leader will be Douglas L. Byrd, Executive Director of the United Methodist Foundation, Inc. Mr. Byrd will speak to us about Estate Planning and wills. We have asked him to start with a general definition of all the technical terms that are used in this area of concern, so we can understand what we are talking about.

The U.M. Foundation grew this last year by \$2,041,454.00. The total assets grew to \$31,137,578.00. So someone in that office is doing just fine.

Immediately following the Love Feast on May 12, our leader will be Ms. Janet Vanderbark, District Manager of I.D.S. Ms. Vanderbark is a Certified Financial Planner and will describe the Living Trust, Power of Attorney, Durable Power of Attorney, and related subjects. All adults are encouraged to attend both meetings. Each will last only one hour.

Omar Fink, Chair Older Adult
Work Area, C.O.M.