

# Insights

Duke Memorial United Methodist Church

504 West Chapel Hill Street

Durham, NC 27701

MARK W. WETHINGTON

(919) 683-3467

ISSUE 6

ROBERT H. EDWARDS

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

A recent Newsweek article was entitled "Twenty Seconds of Terror". I suspect that not many of us can imagine the devastation of the kind that struck Kobe, Japan in January, an earthquake that killed some 5,000 people. In addition to the dead, it is reported that an additional 25,000 people were injured, about 300,000 left homeless, and there is upwards of some \$80 billion in property damage.

Like so many past disasters, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) was almost immediately present to offer assistance of personnel and resources. It is known around the world that UMCOR is almost always one of the first relief agencies to respond to a national disaster and often the last to leave. Because of financial contributions by United Methodists around the United States throughout the year, UMCOR has been able to give immediate assistance to the people of Kobe, Japan. I am sure that most all of us are aware that of the three missionary couples whose ministries we annually support one of these is located in Japan; they are Bob and Hazel Terhune. Bob and Hazel were among us on a Sunday morning and afternoon just about two years ago. We are happy to learn that all of our 28 United Methodist missionaries in Japan are safe. It has been reported, however, that one UM missionary parsonage was moved off its foundation and another one was badly damaged. Six Kyodan churches were completely destroyed, seven partially destroyed, and nine have collapsed walls or ceilings.

Next Sunday, February 12, during the morning worship service, you will be given an opportunity to contribute to UMCOR's efforts to offer relief to the victims of the Kobe earthquake. You should make your check out to Duke Memorial UMC, specified for the "Kobe Quake". If you would like more information regarding how UMCOR has responded, you may call 1-800-841-1235. In my last article in this newsletter, you may recall the praise I offered to this congregation for the generosity you have shown over the past years as you have responded to such appeals. Let us continue to minister in this way.

Grace and peace to you all,  
Mark

## WORSHIP EDUCATION CORNER

People in our church have basically the same beliefs. One way that we say what we believe is by repeating together a statement of our faith or a creed. These recited creeds give us a foundation of belief even before we have formed our own new ways of living out our beliefs.

The creed used the most often in our church is the Apostle's Creed which is over 1200 years old. Take a moment in worship to rediscover what it communicates about our beliefs in God, Jesus and other foundations of our faith.

Please help our first graders in Worship Education learn what you think about worship by jotting a note on their bulletin board near the breezeway entrance.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1995

### Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:45 - 9:25 a.m.	Early Worship - Bradshaw
9:15 a.m.	Carol Choir- Sanctuary
9:15 a.m.	Fellowship - Whitford Hall
9:30 a.m.	Logos Class - Bradshaw
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Parenting for Life - Whitford Hall
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
10:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Choir - Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Ring of the Tower Bells
10:55 a.m.	Worship Service - Sanctuary
12:15 p.m.	"INSIGHTS" information due (February 19 - 25)
1:30 p.m.	District-Wide Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
3:00 p.m.	District Lay Rally - Sanctuary and Reception - Whitford Hall
4:30 p.m.	NO JOY Bells
5:30 p.m.	DMYF
8:00 p.m.	12 Step Al-Anon and A.A. - Community Life Center

**SERMON:** "Like a Tree Planted by Water" -  
Mark W. Wethington

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 1; Jeremiah 17:5-10  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

**ANTHEMS:** "Psalm 96" - Ernest (Carol Choir)  
"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" - Ferguson (Sanctuary Choir)

**USHERS:** Connie Chandler, Tom Adkinson, Tom Chandler, Julie Ellis, Debbie Fedyshyn, Jim Fedyshyn, Mary Helen Ferrell, Charles Medlin, Polly Mixon, Tim Nifong, Jay Peters, Gayle Young

**GREETERS:** Ron and Joan Gray  
**S.S. GREETERS:** Logos Class

**ACOLYTES:** Jeanna Kaspar  
Melissa Knight  
**CROSS:** Matthew Kaspar

**NURSERY:** Julie Chandler  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Lucille Mortland  
Edith Johnson  
Hazel Pittman



## CHURCH CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY 13- FEBRUARY 18, 1995**

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13 -

8:00-12:00 a.m. Weekday School Valentine Party  
9:15-1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting - JOY Class  
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Celebration Singers  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A. -  
Community Life Center

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Tuesday Study Group - Joy Class  
7:00 p.m. German Choir Concert - Sanctuary  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A. -  
Community Life Center

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Fold "Insights" - Whitford Hall  
10:00 - 1:00 p.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch - Whitford Hall  
5:30 - 6:10 p.m. Wednesday Meal - Whitford Hall  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Covenant Discipleship - Parlor  
6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Carol Choir - Aldersgate Room  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Wesley Singers - Handbell Room  
6:15 - 7:15 p.m. Youth Choir - Choir Room  
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Disciple I - Katie Johnson Class  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. MS workshop - CLC  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Bethany Bells - Handbell Room  
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cerebral Palsy Foundation - Library

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

7:15 - 8:15 a.m. Men's Coffee - Parlor  
9:00 - noon Candles of Hope - Whitford Hall  
9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parents' Morning Out - Nurseries  
10:00- 11:30 a.m. Worship Committee - Parlor  
12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Disciple I - Parlor  
7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir - Choir Room

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

9:15 - 1:00 p.m. Parent's Morning Out - Nurseries  
8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A. -  
Community Life Center

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### ALL-SUMMER DAY CAMP

Duke Memorial's All-Summer Day Camp is rapidly filling up. Members who are interested in enrolling their children (first through sixth graders in the fall of 1995) should contact Jan Irvine (493-3756) or the church office for information and applications. Applications will be given priority in the order they are received.

## VALENTINE'S PARTY

Remember the children's Valentine Party this Saturday, February 11 from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. for children ages 3 through 5th grade. Please call Susan Grubbs at 383-2416 if your children are not signed up. She may still need parents to drive the older children to take Valentines to older folks, too.

## SUMMER CAMP

The *Simple Gifts* of God to us in nature, one another and within ourselves will be the theme and focus of summer camp, 1995.

Opportunities exist for both elementary kids and youth at Camp Chestnut Ridge, Camp Don Lee and Camp Rockfish. Brochures with dates, program information and registration forms are available at the Church office. Reservation forms are also available for family or group camping at Camp Kerr Lake. Join up for summer camp and simple gifts this summer.

## Prayer for Stephen Ministry

As you know, the Stephen Ministry training will begin on Friday, February 17, and continue through June 9th. We would like to undergird the Stephen Ministry program with prayers. If you would be willing to pray for all of the Stephen Ministers or a specific person, please call Sue Clifton at 596-0497 or Ann Stallings at 683-3467.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to begin our exciting journey of study, reflection and service in Christ's name. Training topics and dates are:

Feb. 17 - What To Do in the First Helping Contact; Feelings: Yours, Mine and Ours; Welcome Lunch  
Feb. 24 - Retreat - Relationship Exercise; The Art of Listening  
Mar. 3 - Effective Use of the Traditional Resources of Christianity  
Mar. 10, 17 and 24 - Assertiveness Training; Relating Gently and Firmly  
Mar. 31 - Confidentiality  
Apr. 7 - Small Step Approach; Telecare; The Next Best Thing To Being There  
Apr. 14 - No Class (Easter Break)  
Apr. 21 - Utilizing Community Resources; Being Professional  
Apr. 28 - Crisis Theory and Intervention; Jo-Hari Window  
May 5 - Ministering to those Experiencing Grief  
May 12 - Ministering to Depressed Persons  
May 19 - Ministering to those Experiencing Divorce  
May 26 - Ministering to Older Persons; Ministering to Shut-In Persons  
June 2 - When and How to Bring Closure to a Caring Relationship  
June 9 - Retreat - Supervision: A Key to Quality Christian Care  
June 11 - Commissioning of Stephen Ministers in Worship Service

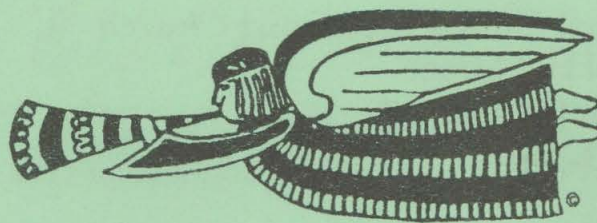
We ask for your prayers for the leaders and Stephen Ministers as we embark on this Christian Walk.



## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY MENU

Join us at 5:30 p.m. Wed. in Whitford Hall. Our menu for this week will be sliced turkey with rice and gravy, peas and dinner rolls. The dessert will be banana pudding.

Please remember to call (683-3467) before noon on Monday if you would like to join us and are not a regular. Please be reminded that the meals are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. If you have questions or suggestions, please call Laura or Tony Lombardo (493-2234). We hope to see you there.



## GERMAN CHOIR CONCERT

The United Methodist Singers, from Berlin, Germany, will present a choral concert in our Sanctuary this coming Tuesday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m. Founded in 1972, the choir includes United Methodist high school and college students as well as some professionals. Their tour is being sponsored by the German government, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, as well as the Africa University Development Office. A free-will offering will be taken to support Africa University. A nursery for small children will be provided.

## Women, Faith and Violence Workshop

Duke Memorial will host a very special workshop on Women, Faith and Violence on March 17 and 18. Sponsored by many interested state-wide groups, this conference will cover such topics as "Elder Abuse, Sexual Assault, Talking to Youth About Violence, Legislative Issues, Biblical Reflections and Worship Issues for Survivors. This conference will help people of faith and local congregation understand the causes of violence and find ways to support victims, promote healing, and reduce the incidence of violence. Members of Duke Memorial are encouraged to attend this resource in our midst. For further information, contact Jan Irvine at 493-3756.

## WESLEY WOMEN UPCOMING MEETINGS

One of several United Methodist Women Circles of Duke Memorial, Wesley Women meet the first Tuesday evening of each month. During the first few months of 1995, we are taking time to become better acquainted with one another. If you are an old or new member of DMUMC not affiliated with a circle we welcome you to join with us! If you would like more information about Wesley Women, please telephone Ann Wilson (220-1591) or Cathy Shepherd (493-4501). Babysitting will also be provided.

## VISITATION DAY

THURSDAY, FEB. 9 at 9:45 a.m. Meet in the kitchen, visit, and then go out afterwards to Nikos. Please call Ann at 683-3467 if you can go so she can make reservations. Visitation days have changed because of Stephen Ministry training on Friday mornings.

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The community Shelter for H.O.P.E. depends on local churches to feed its guests on Thursday - Sunday evenings. Your group can reserve an evening to prepare and serve a meal by calling Ann Williams at 682-2409.

## LIBRARY NOTES

### ANGEL BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

- 235.3 Adler, Mortimer The Angels and us.
- 291.3 Burnham, Sophy Angel letters
- Fiction Burnham, Sophy The President's angel
- Fiction Dwyer, Kelly Tracks of angels (Large Print)
- 133.9 Eadie, Betty Embraced by the light
- 291.215 Graham, Billy Angels: God's secret agents
- J 220.9 Hartman, Bob Angels, angels, all around.
- 704.9 Howard, Linn The angel tree Met. Museum Art
- Fiction Tazewell, Charles The littlest angel.

## INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

The Interfaith Hospitality Network has a volunteer training session on February 16, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (I-85 and Hillandale). A potluck dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. and the training session is from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Both those who have volunteered before and those who may be interested in doing so are encouraged to attend. Please contact Tim Turkington at 286-3613 if you wish further information and to advise him of your attendance at this meeting.

## DONATE A DOLL DAYS: Feb. 13-24

If you have a doll at your house that needs a new home bring it to Women-In-Action, 112 N. Queen St., Durham, NC 27701, 682-1431. They will be accepting the dolls from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Monday-Friday. The Girl Scouts will refurbish the dolls and return them to the Women-In-Action for the Christmas toy giveaway in 1995. They will also be happy to receive fabric and newborn clothes.

## NEEDED:

Jelly Jars with lids (8-12 oz) and plastic disposable containers, also with lids (12-24 oz).

Thanks, UMW

Alice Walker needs clean plastic gallon milk jugs with lids February 12, 1995. Please leave them on the counter in the kitchen.



**Duke Memorial United Methodist Church**  
504 W. Chapel Hill Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27701-3102  
Phone 919-683-3467

*Issue 4 file*

**Second Class Mail**  
**Paid at**  
**Durham, NC 27701**

**"INSIGHTS" (USPS553880) is published weekly, except biweekly June, July and August and will not mail week of Dec. 25 - Jan. 1 by Duke Memorial United Methodist Church at 504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701-3102. Second class postage paid at Durham, NC**

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to "INSIGHTS"  
504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, NC 27701-3102

## **DURHAM DISTRICT LAY RALLY**

Sunday, February 12, 1995  
3:00 p.m.

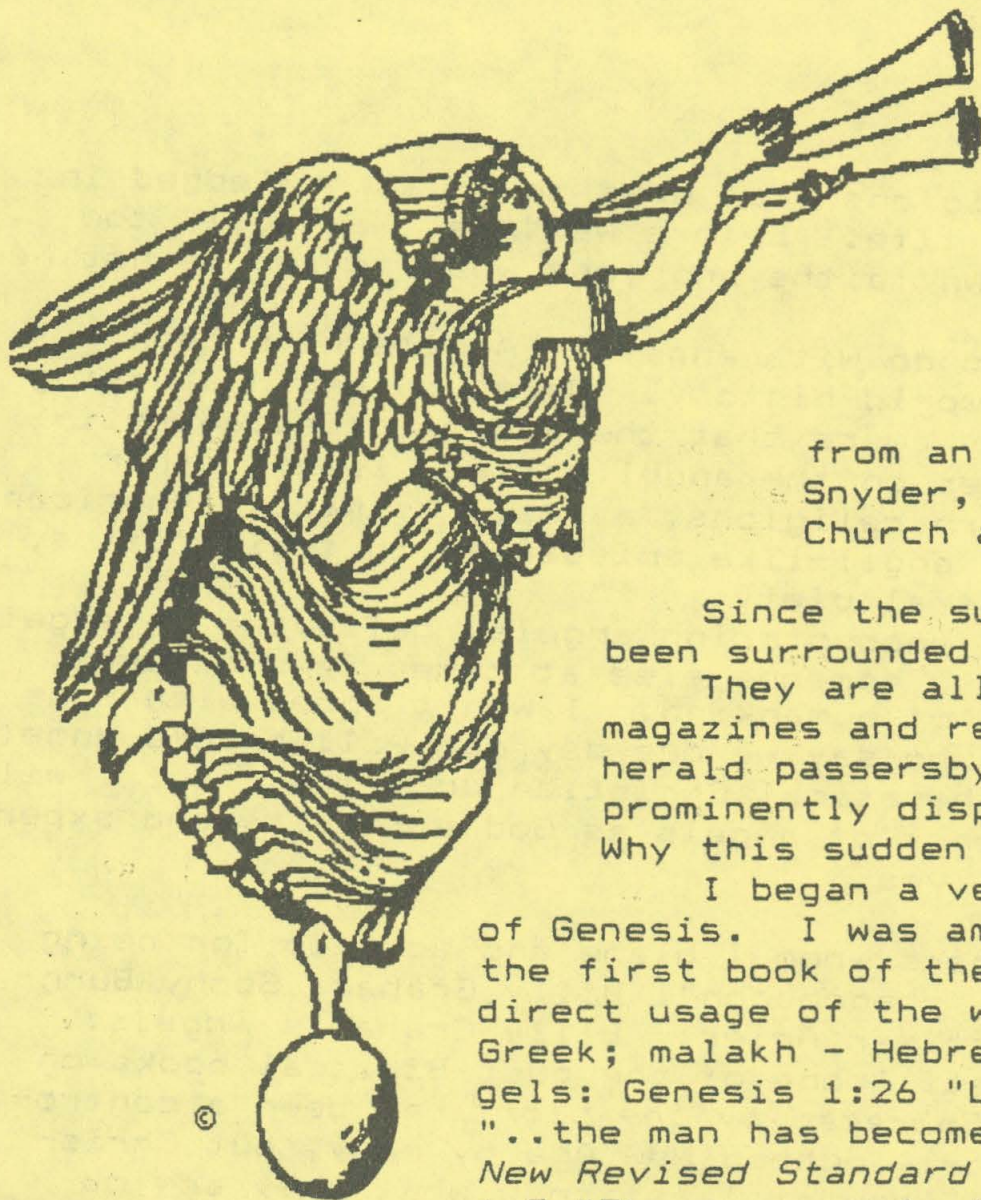
Duke Memorial United Methodist Church  
504 W. Chapel Hill Street  
Durham, North Carolina

Featured Speaker: Dr. Randolph Nugent, Executive  
General Secretary, General Board of Global  
Ministries

Introducing Lay Person of the Year

Babysitting will be provided.





# The *Angel* Phenomena

from an article by Charles  
Snyder, Book Review Editor,  
Church and Synagogue Libraries

Since the summer of 1992, I have been surrounded by a plethora of angels. They are all over in newspapers, magazines and retail shops. Book stores herald passersby with angelic volumes prominently displayed in their windows. Why this sudden interest in angels?

I began a verse-by-verse Bible study of Genesis. I was amazed at what I found in the first book of the Old Testament -- both direct usage of the word angel (angelos-Greek; malakh - Hebrew) and inferences to angels: Genesis 1:26 "Let us make men ...", "...the man has become like one of us..." *New Revised Standard Version*: and

6:7 "There were giants in the earth who were descendents of human women and the supernatural beings. They were the great heroes and famous men of long ago." *Good News Bible*.

"His Mysterious Ways" column in *Guideposts* magazine is verifiable testimony of God's continued, and often unexplainable action in lives today. *Time* magazine in its year-end issue for 1993, carried a full-page cover of an angel with the following title "The new age of angels. 69% of Americans believe they exist. What in heaven is going on?"

Here are some of the reasons I have garnered for:

## WHY THE ANGEL PHENOMENON TODAY?

First, it's now 1995 --only five years away from a new millenium. Every century brought a rash of concern for the "possible" forthcoming end of the world. Predictors, prophets, writers and religious leaders alike have shared in making their readers/listeners aware of this. Hence, there has been a pre-occupation with impending doom, fulfillment, world conflagration ending with paradise or the "other place" depending on what you have internalized and accepted in your faith journey.

Second, the baby boomers of the sixties and seventies who intellectually thought they had all the answers and the world on a string, are flocking back to the churches--some to their parents' established churches and some to the newer more experiential, spiritual finding and fulfillment churches.

Third, we of the western and Judeo-Christian traditions, have for too long ignored some of the great truths and contri-



butions from Eastern religions that need to be acknowledged in our religious growth and life. Before we "Aha, New Age!" too quickly, know your/our own faiths and just what is and is not new age.

What has all this to do with angels? Angels have been throughout Biblical and world history. Once you begin studying angels you become quickly aware that the Judeo-Christian religions do not have a corner on the angel market. Islam, other ancient and/or Far Eastern religions, as well as Native American religions have angels or angel-like emissaries in their faiths, along with one great central diety.

Looking for angels, encountering angels, believing in angels and even being an angel to someone else at times is a natural, Biblical, God-given need of humankind. I won't agree with some of the angel explainers who say we one day will become angels. That is New Age and old heretical Christian doctrine. But I will accept another's experience of angels as God's reality and experience working in their lives.

There are four writers whom I blame and acclaim for being the instigators of this "phenomenon": Billy Graham, Sophy Burnham, Betty Eadie and Mortimer Adler. Billy Graham's *Angels: God's Secret Agents* is still one of the best Biblical books on angels. Betty Eadie's *Embraced by the Light* has been a controversial book and definitely dubbed New Age by many, but Christians have to read it so they at least know what they are objecting to. Mrs. Eadie is a devout Christian and has relayed her near-death experiences with no other purpose than sharing her faith and belief in God. I do not agree with everything she says or interprets as having happened during the hours she "was dead", but I respect it as being a reality of her life and faith. I don't feel she is trying to convert anybody. Though she speaks of angels, it is not a book just about angels.

Dr. Mortimer Adler, editor of the *Great Books* began his summation of articles on the ideas prominent throughout history with "angel" as the first entry. When called to task for including such an ethereal, non-scientific, unproven, questionable term, his adamant defense was that "angels" were part of the religious writings of not only many of the great religions of the world, but also the greatest writers --Aquinas, Milton, Shakespeare, etc.

The fourth writer to inspire the profusion of angel books is Sophy Burnham who has written what people around the world wanted to share of their experiences and encounters with angels. Humankind, in this late 20th century technological, informational-explosion age, is seeking a closeness to God. Many have found it in their lifelong experiences as believing and caring members of churches and congregational families. Many want and seek assurance that the next exploding century will still be in God's control and care, as will their personal lives and future. Caring angels, guiding angels, protecting angels, guardian angels are the essence of God throughout all Judaic and Christian scriptures. They are a little bit of the unknown reality--showing that God is just as much present and part of life today as in the past -- and will continue in the future.