

DUKE MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

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THE POWER OF DECISION

We will long remember the Van Day Carnival for its excitement, the joy of working together, the success of our efforts, and the many interesting incidents which occurred that day. We will continue to share this eventful day in our church's life for a long time, and I want to share one of the events with you through this space in The Messenger.

Caroline Ritchie, who was three years old on Van Day (August 20th), had not completely given up her baby bottle yet, even though her parents had urged her to do so and her big sister Laura didn't need one. Caroline still needed her bottle to get to sleep at night.

A few weeks prior to Van Day, Caroline, apparently caught up in "giving" things to the Church to sell for the Van, announced to her startled parents that since Van Day came on her birthday she would give up her bottle then and donate it to be sold to raise money for the van.

Well, the day came, and sure enough, Caroline came to the sale with her baby bottle in a bag to sell. I rather cautiously questioned her to make sure she knew what she was doing (after all, I didn't want to be accused of taking a bottle away from a three-year-old). Meanwhile, Polly Mixon happened over, heard what was going on, and astute communicator with children that she is, quickly exchanged a quarter for the bottle. Caroline seemed delighted and turned the money over to her dad to be given to the Church van.

Her still skeptical parents were "prepared" for that first night (if you know what I mean), just in case Caroline didn't really know what she was doing. Two weeks later when I inquired to find out how it went, her mother said, "Just fine." Oh, she had a sigh or two a few days later over the loss, but no return to the bottle whatsoever. I got the impression her parents still find it hard to believe it's gone so smoothly.

This is a lovely story in and of itself and I hope you enjoy hearing about it. As I reflected on it, I became aware that there were valuable meanings which could be seen in this event. Caroline's action is a specific instance of a sometimes forgotten determinant of human behavior -- FREE CHOICE. How refreshing to be confronted with this fact in such a compelling way. So often we hear that Zodiacal signs, genes, chemical imbalance, social environment, faulty relationships, etc., make us who we are. Here was a young lady (only three) who made a conscious decision which determined her behavior. Is it too much to suggest that she was "responsible" for her behavior? Maybe I'm carrying this thing too far (as we preachers are commonly accused), but I was reminded of a basic assumption of the Christian faith which is deeply rooted in the Methodist tradition. One element in determining who we are and who we become is our own ability to choose. Admittedly, there are "givens" (genes, chemicals, environment and relationships) which influence who we are, but even after we accept these, there's a lot of room left for the influence of our own choices in deciding who we become.

Caroline took a new step in her growth by a conscious decision; what choices can you and I make which would "free us" to grow toward becoming who we can be and ought to be?

-- Bob Wallace

THE APOSTLES is the name of a display on a table in the lobby of the "middle" building. This display is the work of the fifth grade Sunday School class. Carol Lawrence led the class in creating these likenesses of the apostles. Take a look at it and realize that this is one more instance of the creativity of our leaders and our folks. What is your Sunday School class doing that could be so displayed?

11 SEPTEMBER 1977

Third Sunday in Kingdomeide

The Epistle: Galatians 5:16-24

The Sermon: Directions and Results

Acolytes: Roy Forrester and Mike Hammond

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Massey

Junior Church Leaders: Mrs. Lloyd Bailey

Mamie Jo Harrell, Assistant

Mrs. John Penick, Music

MINISTRY SUNDAY will be celebrated at Duke Memorial Sunday, 18 September. The speakers will be the Reverend B. Maurice Ritchie of Duke Divinity School and the Reverend Andrew Langford, a senior in Divinity School, who grew up in Duke Memorial.

GIFTS have been made to the Margaret Faw Cannon Library as follows:

In loving memory of Russell Leroy Rogers, who died August 27, 1975, by Mrs. Russell L. Rogers, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Rogers, Jr.

In honor of Mr. J. V. Hoyle from the 6th grade in love and appreciation for all he has done for the 6th graders of this church through the years and with the hope that his retirement from teaching will be only for a year.

COLLEGE CARAVAN is scheduled for 12-13 October this year. The group meets at the Methodist Building in Raleigh and goes by chartered bus to our three Conference colleges, Methodist, Louisburg and Wesleyan. The inclusive fee for the trip is \$10.00. For further information, telephone Margaret Anne Biddle, 477-9019, or the Church Office. Thank you.

COMMISSION ON MISSIONS will meet on Friday, September 9, at 7:30 p. m. in the library.

THE BULLETIN
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CHURCH HISTORY: Copies of Ninety Years of Duke Memorial Church: 1886-1976 are available through the church office during the regular office hours and on Sundays following the morning service. The price is \$7.50 plus N. C. sales tax, or \$7.80 in all. It will be a help and avoid change-making problems if you will bring checks for the number of copies you wish. Thank you.

THE CHURCH VAN has been ordered! Continued thanks go to all who have made this possible and particularly the committees that worked so well and long on Van Carnival Day.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will have its September meeting on Monday, September 12, at 11:00 a. m. in the Bradshaw Room. The speaker will be Mr. George Miller, representative of Durham County in the North Carolina Legislature. A short question period will follow his address.

Circle 3, Mrs. Edith Toms, chairperson, will serve the luncheon.

Circle 1 and 2 will meet at 10:00 a. m.

Circle 10 will meet on Monday, Sept. 12, in the Church Parlor prior to the general meeting.

Circle 9 will meet on Monday, Sept. 12, at 3:00 p. m. with Mrs. Albert Long, 1421 Woodland Drive.

ATTENDANCE 4 SEPTEMBER 1977

Church School..... 293
Morning Worship..... 401

FINANCIAL REPORT

Due each week	\$ 3,802.41
Received last two Sundays	5,649.03
Received to date	130,540.93
Needed through last Sunday	136,886.76
Deficit	6,345.83

OUR KNOWN HOSPITAL SICK to be remembered in your prayers:

DCGH:	Lucile S. Coburn	7207
	Margaret Martin	6124
	Ruth Davidson	6102
DUKE:	Alda Turrentine	Cushing 3105

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 - 17

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	6:00 p. m.	Junior and Senior UMYF
Mon.	11:00 a. m.	United Methodist Women
	6:30 p. m.	Circle 4 Covered Dish Supper in Fellowship Hall
Wed.	10:00 a. m.	Craft Workshop
	8:00 p. m.	Staff Parish Relations Committee in Library
Thurs.	6:00 p. m.	H. E. Spence Class Picnic
	6:30 p. m.	Minnie P. Gates Class Covered Dish Supper
	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday and Saturday		Council on Ministries Retreat

CHURCHWIDE LUNCHEON - September 18

The Congregation is cordially invited to a Luncheon Honoring our Church School Teachers and Workers immediately after church on Sunday, September 18. Church School teachers will be guests of the Commission on Education. Adult tickets will be \$2.25 and Children's tickets will be \$1.00. Please make a reservation by returning the blank below or by calling the church office. This is an important event in the life of our church and we hope many persons will be present to recognize the tremendous contribution made by our Church School staff.

Reservation for Church School Luncheon:

Adult _____ Child _____

Signed: _____

CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

On Friday, September 16, at 8:15 p. m. at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Highway 751, Anna Wilson, flutist; Ruth Phelps, accompanist; and Billy Stewart, guitarist will present a program of works by J. Ibert, Villa-Lobos, Martinu, and Telemann.

NEW CHOIR MEMBER: Selma Gore, the newest choir member is blonde and can be spotted singing second soprano next to Barbara Penick. Since Lois Funderburk left, Barbara has had to carry the inner part by herself. We welcome Selma to our group. Selma and her husband, Tom, live at 905 Lambeth Circle.

MEALS ON WHEELS is working on the fall schedule of workers. Volunteers are needed, either for one day a week or two days per month. Meals for delivery are picked up at Trinity UMC in downtown Durham. Delivery is completed in nearly all cases by 1:00 p. m. Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Kale can witness to the worthwhileness of this work. For information or to be enrolled, call Pat Turner, 682-3145 during office hours, or at her home, 489-7550 up to midnight any day. Thank you.