

STEWARDSHIP AND SCHOOLS

School bells have about disappeared as a means of signaling to the community that formal educational activity is being resumed at this season. If nothing else tells us, our friendly merchants through advertisements make us aware that it is school time again. Perhaps it is as well that school bells are no more. Students often detested them. At least a few of the professors I had in college and seminary ignored them, sometimes as to the beginning of sessions and always at the supposed conclusion of a class period!

Discontent with our schools is likely at nearly an all-time high. From all sides comes complaints; even more interesting than the complaints is that often diametrically opposed reasons are given for the trouble. Johnny can read but poorly; Susie can't add two and two. Neither can speak their mother tongue in an effective way as a means of communication. Discipline was never worse. More money, less money; more bussing, no bussing; hard-nosed educators, warm-hearted educators; more men in the teaching system, fewer authority figures; deprived background, advantaged to the point of disaster; on and on go the pairs of "reasons" for our troubles in our schools.

I suspect there is some truth in nearly all these allegations as well as a lot of simple prejudice. It is not my prerogative nor my wish to produce an oracular utterance in this statement. But it is my earnest desire to encourage every parent to realize that schools cannot by their existence, or even their earnest work, correct all the deficiencies of our homes. No more can they amend our ways of child-rearing when the TV is the principal "sitter" or "taker-up" of time of children. It is reasonable to suppose that children whose parents find them too much to handle and children whose parents are so busy providing the supposed "necessities" of life that they find no time for love and the joy of companionship are going to be children whose teachers find life difficult.

We can and we ought to work as vigorously as possible to correct the deficiencies of our schools, all sorts, at all levels. Money and more money is not necessarily an answer to the problem, social "scientists" notwithstanding. The personal element of our lives involved both with the school system and most particularly with the children we send might be the most useful sort of stewardship we would provide in stewardship of our schools.

-- Ed Smith

WELCOME IN THE FALL with a family outing at Camp Chestnut Ridge on Sunday, September 17, 1978. Afternoon activities will include volleyball, horseshoes, swimming if weather permits, and just relaxing with good friends. A covered dish dinner will follow at 5:30 p. m. and then vespers will close the evening. Directions to the camp will be in the next Messenger.

LABOR DAY: Monday, 4 September is a national holiday and is so observed in the offices of Duke Memorial. In event of an emergency, please telephone Mr. Smith, 489-2210, Mr. Settle, 684-7547, Mrs. Massey, 489-5179.

SUNDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 1978

Second Sunday in Kingdome tide

The Gospel: St. Luke 10:38-42

The Sermon: Priorities

Acolytes: Lisa Harris and Gray Harris

Greeters: Harry and Dorris Rodenhizer

September Altar Guild Workers:

Eugenia Dixon

Lillian Anderson

Iva Elder

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING which normally would be held on 5 September has been postponed to 12 September in order to receive program recommendations from the Council on Ministries Retreat scheduled for 8-9 September.

THE MESSENGER for the week of 10 September will be printed early. Items for inclusion should be in the church office at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, 30 August.

YOUNG READER'S BIBLES will be presented to children in the third grade Sunday, 10 September, as part of the morning worship service.

LIBRARY NOTES: The Foxes' Union by James J. Kilpatrick has been placed in the Library. Mr. Kilpatrick is a syndicated newspaper columnist, and many will associate him with The TV Program "60 minutes." His book describes the Rappahannock mountain country, the natives and their folksy ways and the joy and beauty of the life of his family in Rappahannock. The reader is refreshed and delighted with his reflections.

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH
504 W. Chapel Hill Street
Durham, N. C.

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OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Susan Greenfield, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Greenfield, 1202 Virginia Avenue, was confirmed as a member of Duke Memorial Thursday, 24 August 1978. A note of welcome to her will be good for you and for her!

COMING EVENT!

As you begin planning your Fall calendar you will want to note the DURHAM DISTRICT CHRISTIAN WORKERS SCHOOL, September 24 and 25, at Duke Memorial Church.

Excellent teachers have been secured to teach a wide variety of courses - hopefully, one just right for you!

1. HELPING YOUNGER CHILDREN LEARN TO WORSHIP - for teachers and workers with younger children.

2. HELPING ELEMENTARY CHILDREN LEARN TO WORSHIP - for teachers and workers with elementary children.

3. HELPING YOUTH WORSHIP - for teachers and counselors of youth.

4. LEADERSHIP SKILLS FOR DISCUSSION GROUPS - for teachers of youth and adults.

5. THE BOOK OF REVELATION - a general Bible course for all persons.

Over 200 persons in our District participated in the School last September and gave very positive and enthusiastic evaluations of their experience - which leads us to recommend it very highly to you!

BAPTISM: With great joy and thanksgiving to God, Amanda Starke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Roycroft Teer, 2801 Welcome Drive, was baptized last Sunday, 27 August. She was born on 1 December 1977.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In memory of Mrs. Lela Young Holton by Roy E. Sommerfeld.

Altar Guild

In loving memory of Mrs. Lela Young Holton by Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Phillips, Jr.

CIRCLE 9 will not meet on regular meeting day, September 18, but will meet instead on Monday, September 25, at 3:00 p. m. with Mrs. Albert Long at 1421 Woodland Drive. Margaret Anne Biddle will be the speaker.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 27 August 1978
Church School.....275
Morning Worship.....303

SYMPATHY: The congregation and pastors express love and sympathy to the family of M. B. Fowler, Jr. who died Sunday, 27 August 1978.

IN MEMORIAM

Marian Butler Fowler, Jr.

27 August 1978

"In my Father's house are many mansions."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3 - SEPTEMBER 9, 1978

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
Monday		Holiday
Wednesday	10:00 a. m.	Prayer Group in Library
	10:00 a. m.	Fall Festival Variety Crafts Workshop
Thursday	6:00 p. m.	H. E. Spence Class Picnic
	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:00 p. m.	Council on Ministries Retreat in Room 228
Saturday	8:00 a. m.	Council on Ministries Retreat in Fellowship Hall