

DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XIII

SEPTEMBER 10, 1978

NUMBER 36

WORDS AND LETTERS

Church newsletters vary greatly from one church to another. Some represent an effort to avoid extremes of position or statement; others resemble a metropolitan area tabloid with 96 point bold face type to declare a regular meeting. "Cuteness" in language or vocabulary is the hallmark of yet others. Some use half a dozen type faces in each issue. Some even try simple, straight communication of the life and intention of the congregation. That is where your Messenger is!

Recently I was jolted by an invitation given to the young adults of a sister Methodist congregation to "come out and share in an exciting program on euthanasia"! Visions of what would be "exciting" on this subject flashed through my mind. Perhaps there would be a demonstration by a volunteer? Would any satisfied "customer" be on hand to testify to his everlasting satisfaction with the process? Could one who had administered euthanasia to another witness to his satisfaction with what he had done? Statistics and example of nearly intolerable human suffering would not be part of the "exciting" program for they are but sober reflections of our human situation and therefore not "exciting".

Nearly all of us search for new ways to say the same things. Madison Avenue finds one of its reasons for being in this process. It is easy to get involved in an ever-faster race of hyperbole and exaggeration. I certainly do not want to sound like an advocate of dull uniformity or stodgy language especially when something wonderful is to be said.

Can you really improve on "I love you" to express your feelings to another? Is it possible to improve on St. Paul's statement that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us", These statements are exciting because they speak to us of new life, better life, new dimensions - excitement in itself, not something declared to be exciting simply to attract attention.

Away with the claimed "excitement" of a meeting to consider ways to end human life. That end comes in due time. Let us face urgently and joyfully, and with excitement, to the source of life, God Himself, known in Jesus Christ - that is something about which to be excited. I hope you are; I know I am. God loves you and I do too.

-- Ed Smith

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet in the Bradshaw Room at 11:00 a. m. on Monday, September 11. The Reverend Doctor Wilson O. Weldon, District Superintendent for the Charlotte District and former editor of The Upper Room will be the speaker.

Luncheon will be served by Circle 8, Mrs. Sarah McCracken, Chairman.

Circles 1, 2 and 3 will have their regular meetings at 10:00 a. m.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of United Methodist Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a. m. on Friday, September 8.

CHILDREN COMING INTO THE THIRD GRADE of our Sunday School will be presented copies of the Young Reader's Bible during our morning service, 10 September.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting on 12 September at 7:45 in the Bradshaw Room will receive the report of the Council on Ministries' retreat the preceding weekend and will act on objectives and goals for Duke Memorial for 1979. Program planning and goal setting and defining are important parts of our work. This meeting can have great meaning.

SUNDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1978

Third Sunday in Kingdomtide

The Gospel: St. John 11:19-45

The Sermon: Sign Power

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Copelan
Junior Church Leaders:

Mrs. Eunice Mattox, Teacher
Carol Christmas, Assistant
Barbara Penick, Music

THE BULLETIN Thursday 7:30 p. m.
DUKE MEMORIAL
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SENIOR UMYF NEWS

On September 10, the Senior UMYF will hold a "Welcome Party". It's to welcome everybody back from their summer adventures and also to welcome tenth graders into Senior UMYF for the first time.

A cookout, games, and a special "Welcoming Ceremony" have been planned. The site of this happy occasion will be a farm in Hillsborough (a secret destination!) Transportation will be provided from the church, leaving at 4:00 p. m. and returning at 8:00 p. m. (Bring 50¢ for supper).

BECAUSE OF LABOR DAY HOLIDAY and the necessity of maintaining our mailing schedule, some items normally in the Messenger are omitted this week. Next week we will give the statistical items missing in this issue.

SYMPATHY: The congregation and pastors express love and concern to the family of Frank W. White who died 28 August at Hillhaven-LaSalle Convalescent Center.

IN MEMORIAM

Frank Washington White

28 August 1978

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

CALLING ALL JUNIOR HIGHS!!!

"Biddle's Bombers or Settle's Stealers?" - that is the question! Two super softball teams are being formed, made up of Junior Highs and captained by the famous "Babe" Biddle and "Slugger" Settle.

The teams will meet each other face-to-face on the Wrightwood Softball Field on Sunday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m. After the Stealers are slaughtered by the Bombers, there will be a Cookout supper. Please bring 50¢. (Junior Highs: after the impartial drawing of names, you will be highly recruited by your team captain - what a relief it will be to find out that you did make the Bomber squad!).

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In loving memory of Mrs. Lela Young Holton by:

John C. Umberger and Family,
Kingsport, Tennessee

Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hanes,
Chapel Hill, N. C.

Music Fund

In loving memory of Mrs. Blanche Miles Hodges by Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Collins.

FAMILY OUTING

Camp Chestnut Ridge September 17
Afternoon activities, Covered Dish Supper
Vespers (5:30 p. m.)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10 - 16, 1978

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	4:00 p. m.	Senior High UMY "Welcome Party"
	5:00 p. m.	Junior High Softball game and cookout
Monday	9:45 a. m.	Circle 10 in Parlor
	11:00 a. m.	United Methodist Women
	6:30 p. m.	Circle 4 Covered Dish Supper in Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	7:45 p. m.	Administrative Board in Bradshaw Room
Wednesday	10:00 a. m.	Prayer and Bible Study
	10:00 a. m.	Fall Festival Workshop
	7:30 p. m.	Commission on Education in Library
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal