

PLAUDITS AND PIETY

In ancient Rome, the "games" in the coliseum were often preceded by parades. Men who shortly would be engaged in combat in which some would be slain marched around the arena. Animals that would be turned into the arena to fight armed men or, occasionally, each other, were hauled around in their cages. That part of it was festive; what followed was deadly. The plaudits were easy to take - and if silence prevailed when one went by, that was not a great problem. Then came the moment of destiny toward which all this pointed. All of life focused in a few minutes and for many, life ended in those minutes.

On Palm Sunday, our processional is a gentle reminder of the way in which Jesus of Nazareth entered Jerusalem centuries ago. It was the most popular day of His short life. The plaudits came easily from the people and were as easily received. According to the Scriptures, Jesus knew that the masses did not understand His mission; even more to the point, He knew that His disciples also failed in understanding. Yet, He went into Jerusalem anyway.

Palm Sunday brings many other scenes to our minds. The one that is most common for many of us is the contrast in the plaudits easily given Jesus and the equal ease with which those who welcomed Him abandoned Him. There is no Biblical evidence that Jesus was crucified by those who welcomed Him; to the contrary, the Bible speaks of a careful conspiracy to put Him to death, a conspiracy by a small number of powerful people. Those who had welcomed Him simply disappeared, going, one presumes, to their usual daily tasks.

Piety is added to plaudits when one remembers the reason for the plaudits and one's life is committed in service to the One applauded. Piety is the devout offering of life, time, ability, substance, in living out daily what is implied in the verbal praise we give to Jesus. Few things are easier than to join in whatever is popular and the thing to do at the moment. What is popular may be good or it may be evil. So the Giver of the Law (Ex.23:2) says, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."

To follow Jesus Christ in devout living is sometimes popular and often unpopular. It is always the right thing to do; it is always profitable for our souls and usually for our bodies and our place in the world. But plaudits do not inevitably lead to piety. Plaudits for Jesus Christ ought to lead us into discipleship. How is it with your soul?

-- Ed Smith

SYMPAHTY and loving concern from the congregation and pastors is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Billy Barnhill because of the death of Billy's sister, Mrs. Ethel Locke in Winston-Salem, Monday, 26 March 1979, to the family of Mrs. Blanche Reade Powell because of her death on 28 March, and to Delaina Buehler and family because of the death of her father, William Underwood, in Burlington on March 30.

EASTER MONDAY is a holiday and the church office will be closed. In event of an emergency, please telephone Mr. Smith, 489-2210, Mr. Settle, 684-7547, or Mrs. Massey, 489-5179. Because of this holiday, material for the Messenger for the week of 22 April should be in the church office Wednesday morning, 11 April, Thank you!

GOOD PICKINS!: An accumulation of gloves, change purses, spectacle cases and the like is in a box in the Church office, available for your inspection. All items in this box which are unclaimed will be placed on a table in Whitford Hall at our next Fellowship Supper, 29 April, with an invitation to all comers to help themselves! If you have lost such items, please look over our collection prior to that date. Thank you.

A GIFT has been given to the Susan Lynne Cheek Memorial in loving memory of Mary Lyon Terry Cheek by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dozier and Mary Ellen Dozier.

THE EARLY BIRDS: "The early bird gets the worm (food)", so the saying goes. The Duke Memorial Early Birds get an early Sunday School class (food for the mind and spirit). This new class for adults had its first meeting on March 25. It was announced earlier that it would begin meeting on a regular basis the Sunday after Easter, but such was the enthusiasm of those at the first meeting that it was decided not to wait that long, but to begin immediately meeting each Sunday. The class meets in the Prayer Room, and begins promptly at 9:30 and ends at 10:15. This will be a discussion-type Bible study class, and will begin with the book of Acts. Responsibility for teaching will rotate among several of the members, with Mary Whanger beginning. If the time and the type of class suits you, come join the Early Birds!

BIRTHS: The congregation and pastors rejoice and give thanks with Clyde and Eydie Baucom because of the birth of Andrew Story on March 16, 1979; and with Charles and Cathy Medlin because of the birth of Lynn Marie, 25 March 1979.

PALM SUNDAY SPECIAL MUSIC: The acolytes, the Carol and Junior Choirs marching with palm branches held high, the Sanctuary Choir and the ministers will make up the procession opening the service on this festal day.

Five Duke students playing brass instruments are our special guests. We will hear the quintet in the prelude and offertory and on the hymns.

"All glory, laud, and honor to Thee,
Redeemer, King,

To whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring."

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)
504 W. Chapel Hill Street
Durham, N. C. 27701

Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist Church
504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

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FALL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 24, 1979
Chairmen
Aprons: Louise Ervin
Baby Things: Elizabeth Bookhout
Baked Goods: Martha Brown
Candies and Goodies: Grace Cook
Children's Room: Ella Glasson and Ann Tyor
Christmas Room: Ann Clark and Pat Coman
Country Store: Monika Bollinger & Pam Whilden
Crafts: Betty Craig, Mary Hix & Evelyn Lyon
Flower Arrangements: Edith Johnson & Susan Teer
Pickles and Jams: Byrd Brinkley & Lila Fagan
Plants: Madge Wannamaker & Gibby Williams
Publicity: Ellen Sewell and Jean Weynand
Trash 'n' Treasures: Rubye Haywood, Mary Byerly
and Ann Stallings
South Square Charity Bazaar: Edith Toms

FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL MINUTES: On March 25, Mike Hammond was elected financial secretary of the Youth Council. Christie Bollinger was elected secretary. Committees were formed to (1) Plan a budget and (2) assess facility needs for youth programming.

SPECIAL SUNDAY SCHOOL SESSION: If you are interested in knowing about the Moravian Sunrise Service at Old Salem, or about the Moravian Church, then please join us in the Bradshaw Room Sunday, April 8, at 10:00 A. M. Sterling and Anita Hennis from Chapel Hill will be guest speakers.

SIGN UP NOW for the trip to Winston-Salem on April 15th to participate in the Easter Sunrise Service at Old Salem. We will leave from the Church parking lot at 3:00 A. M. (that's right - A. M.!) and return in time for the 11:00 o'clock Worship Service at Duke Memorial. Please register by April 8.

AN INVITATION: On Sunday morning, April 8, you are invited to come by the Church Library, where a special display of new books will be set up for viewing all morning - and for checking out after church.

You will find 15 new children's books never before seen on our shelves. There will be best sellers, historical novels, biographies, a super book on program-development for Junior High UMYF advisors - well, so many we can't describe them all here. Drop by and see if you can resist the tempting titles!

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH: Lonnie Long 4111
Ethel Cheek 4102

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
Sunday, 8 April, 10:55 a. m. Palm Sunday
Sermon: "Suffering Does Have A Point"
Wednesday, 11 April, 12:10 p. m. Bradshaw Room
Lenten Devotions: Leader: Dr. Alan Whanger
Thursday, 12 April, 7:30 p. m., Sanctuary
Maundy Thursday Holy Communion
Friday, 13 April, 7:30 p. m. - Sanctuary
Good Friday Service of Prayer and Meditation
Sunday, 15 April, 10:55 a. m. Easter Worship
Sermon: "Bu This We Know"

WESLEY STUDY TOUR
Exciting news - the St. Simons trip is on! Ten persons have registered to date. Space is still available, but if you are interested, it would be well if you could call Margaret Anne Biddle soon to put your name on the list. Deadline for registration is April 13.

We are very pleased that Arthur Kale has sgreed to be study leader for the tour. Knowing Arthur, we can probably expect a reading list soon to help us prepare for the trip. We know that under his leadership, we will participate in a quality learning experience.

We are projecting a happy balance of structure (for study and group experiences) and free time (for play, exploration, etc.). You will be relieved to know that both Arthur and Margaret Anne believe in lots of free time!!

P. S. We've heard bad rumors about the Wesley Oak!

PALM SUNDAY, SUNDAY, 8 APRIL 1979
Processional for Palm Sunday
The Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-11
The Sermon: Suffering Does Have A Point
Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Williams
Acolytes: Mike Hammond & Tommy Vaughan
Junior Church Leaders: Danny & Lynn Goodwin
Altar Guild Workers for April: Inez Gunter, Lee Ona Phillips, and Mary Cox

BIBLE READINGS APRIL 11 - 17, 1979					
Apr. 11	2 Sam. 1 - 2	Apr. 14	2 Sam. 10-12		
	12 2 Sam. 3 - 5		15 2 Sam. 13-14		
	13 2 Sam. 6 - 9		16 2 Sam. 15-16		
			17 2 Sam. 17-18		

ATTENDANCE: 1 Apr. 1979
Church School.....279
Morning Worship...347

FINANCIAL REPORT:	
Needed each week	\$ 3,931.85
Received last Sunday	4,527.11
Received to date	52,542.39
Needed through last Sunday	51,114.05

CHURCH CALENDAR APRIL 8 - 14, 1979		
Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:00 a. m.	Special Sun. School Ses.
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	3:00 p. m.	UMYF
Mon.	10:00 a. m.	Circle 10,410 Everett Pl.
	3:00 p. m.	Circle 9,16 Breton Place
Tues.	8:00 p. m.	Youth Council Budget Com.
Wed.	10:00 a. m.	Fall Festival Workshop
	11:00 a. m.	Music Committee, Parlor
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions led by Alan Whanger
		Lunch in Whitford Hall
Thurs.	7:30 p. m.	Maundy Thursday Communion
	8:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Fri.	7:30 p. m.	Good Friday Service