

THANKSGIVING 1979

Comparisons are said to be odious and some of them are! At the same time, they are often useful standards of measurement. Sometimes we are led to false senses of achievement because we come to comparisons from a wrong base of beginning. A single illustration of each can be of value.

Comparison can be a useful standard of measurement as in comparing one's score in golf to par. Not many sports offer an objective standard for measurement of one's performance. Inevitably, though, one compares the score also to one's opponent, or indeed, to a teammate. I am not much of a golfer, but if I play a person with only one leg who also has severe arthritis in his hands, I well might manage to overcome him. That would give me a false sense of achievement and would be an odious comparison in addition, since there was no equality in beginning the match.

As we come to the blessed season of Thanksgiving, often we are told to compare our selves to others and to be thankful. There is a reasonable ground for such comparison - but it can easily lead us to think of ourselves as intrinsically of greater worth and therefore richer, stronger, healthier, more overweight, or whatever standard of measurement one proposes. At this Thanksgiving time, one thinks of the people of Cambodia, victims of apparent genocidal policies of their own government. Thank God we are not in such a situation - but do not from that conclude that we are better than they, or more precious in God's sight.

Is it not possible for us to be thankful simply in terms of counting God's mercies to us in humble appreciation without casting an eye at less fortunate persons that thereby we may have an ego trip for ourselves? I believe it is possible so to be thankful. At the same time, in gratitude for God's goodness and gifts to us, we must share with others whose needs are evident and are needs to which we can respond. At Thanksgiving, Duke Memorial church family has given annually in heartening fashion to support the work of Meals on Wheels, a program of specific aid to persons in our own community. This year we will do the same. Other calls for other worthwhile projects will come - let us thank God for the ability and capacity and wish to respond! This is the Thanksgiving call. Praise God from Whom flow all blessings and from Whom comes every incentive to good works.

- - Ed Smith

THANKSGIVING MORNING SERVICE is at ten o'clock in the sanctuary. Mr. Settle will be the preacher for the day. Our offering for Meals on Wheels is our Thanksgiving special gift project. The entire offering that morning goes to this worthy work in our community. If you will not be able to be present, please make your checks payable to Duke Memorial, mark them "Meals on Wheels" and place them in the offering plates on the Sundays before or following Thanksgiving Day.

"WHITE GIFT OFFERING" on November 18:

As part of our observance of Thanksgiving, all children and youth in our Church School are invited to bring a gift of food to be shared with others through a community agency. "White gifts", food wrapped in white tissue paper, should be brought to Church School classes on the 18th. Each class will bring its offering to the Sanctuary and place it at the altar, where it will be blessed during the 11:00 o'clock service.

BIBLE READINGS: November 18 - 24, 1979

November 18	Acts	26 - 28
19	Romans	1 - 3
20	Romans	4 - 7
21	Romans	8 - 10
22	Romans	11 - 13
23	Romans	14 - 16
24	I. Cor.	1 - 4

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: If you would like to share the beauty of this seasonal flower with others in the sanctuary on 16 and 23 December and then claim your plant for your own home or for a gift, please inform the church office, 688-1901, 688-2170, of your intention prior to 2 December. The cost is \$10.40. We will need to know the names of the persons honored or remembered by your gift. Thank you.

THE EAGLE SCOUT AWARD will be presented to Tripp Reade at our morning worship service. This is a distinction of great significance and you are invited to join with Tripp and his family in a meaningful experience.

FOR YOUTH ONLY

- 9:45 Church School Classes
- 5:00 Both Junior and Senior Highs meet in Choir Room to practice GODSPELL music, which will be performed later in the evening.
- 5:45 Snack Supper (Bring 50¢)
- 6:30 Junior Highs - Program on "What Do I Do When I Fail".
- Senior Highs - Program on Human Sexuality.

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

Second Class Postage  
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Durham, N. C.

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

NEW MEMBERS AND BAPTISM: With thanksgiving to God and great joy, we welcomed into Duke Memorial's family Mr. and Mrs. James Layne and their children, Amy, Eric and Emily. Jim and Becky transfer their membership from Brown Deer, Wisconsin United Church of Christ. Amy and Eric are received as preparatory members. Emily was baptized last Sunday so becomes a preparatory member. They live at 23 Jefferson Drive, Durham 27712. Their telephone number is 383-7241. A visit, note or call of welcome will be good for them and for you!

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: Thanksgiving and Christmas bring days when the church office is closed. In addition, staff vacation time enters the picture. There will be no issue of the Messenger for the week of 23 December. The Order of Service for 23 December will be prepared well in advance of the day as will the issue of the Messenger which will be mailed on Tuesday, 18 December and which will contain announcement of all scheduled activity for the period 23 December - 7 January. Please give to the church office all material to be included in these issues well ahead of the date involved. Thank you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. William Laxton, Springfield, Virginia, on the birth of a son, William George Laxton, Jr. born October 15th in Fairfax County Hospital. Grandparents are George and Laura Cleeves, Durham, North Carolina.

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH: Frankie Williams	7324
Tom Allen	7311
Sudie Cole	5310
Marvin Cole	6117
Anne Garrard	7205

Duke: William Few ACU

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 11 November 1979

Church School.....203  
Morning Worship.....244

ALLOCATION OF FALL FESTIVAL FUNDS 1979

Money made at the Fall Festival will be used for local outreach projects (45%), global mission projects (45%), Duke Memorial Church (10%). Everyone is encouraged to make suggestions for use of the money. Please fill in the following form and turn it in to Evelyn Petty, Treasurer of UMW, or the Church Office by December 1.

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Amount of money \_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient \_\_\_\_\_  
Your name \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason \_\_\_\_\_

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION

In loving memory of Jack B. Cliff by:  
C. A. and Miriam Cox, Washington, D. C.

To N. C. Conference Work, North Shaba, Zaire

In loving memory of Dr. H. E. Myers by:  
Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Mattox

Music Fund

In loving memory of Dr. H. E. Myers by:  
C. Gordon Anderson, New York  
Mr. and Mrs. K. Bruce Anderson,  
San Francisco, California  
Mrs. Kathryn B. Anderson, New York

Good Samaritan Fund

In loving memory of Jerry Lee Whitford by:  
Mrs. Owen Reese, High Point, N. C.

COMMUNITY SERVICES of Duke Memorial include provision of meeting places for many groups. Overeaters Anonymous meets weekly here and has done so for slightly over a year. We have received a word of thanksgiving for the use of our facilities. The writer says, "with the help of the group and My Higher Power, I've been able to lose 122 pounds since August 1978. Praise God." Such weight loss is like a gift of longer life to the person involved. We do serve in quiet ways, some so quiet that most of us never even know about it!

SUNDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1979

Thirteenth Sunday in Kingdomtide  
The Epistle: Romans 13:1-7  
The Sermon: Split-Level Citizenship  
Acolytes: Denise Griffin and Amy Tilley  
Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Thomas  
Junior Church Leaders: Libby Younts  
Louise Few, assistant

CHURCH CALENDAR November 18 - 24, 1979

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	5:00 p. m.	Special Studies
Mon.	10:30 a. m.	Circle 5 with Mrs. James Truesdale, 105 Pinecrest
Tues.	7:45 p. m.	Charge Conference in Bradshaw Room
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast in Whitford Hall
Thurs.	10:00 a. m.	Thanksgiving Service in Sanctuary