

PREPARATION

There is an old story about a young man in college who was terribly disappointed and upset with his first semester grades. This story is set in the time when grades went directly to parents, with or without student permission. In panic, he sent a telegram to his brother, "My grades are poor. Prepare Father." The brother wired back, "Father prepared; prepare yourself."

The great events of life require preparation and planning of all of us. Some events which can have a majestic setting take place in a simple setting but nonetheless by their very nature lend great meaning to what happens. So it is with a "simple" home wedding. So it was with the birth of a Baby long ago, in circumstances that seem "romantic" but were in fact primitive and poverty-stricken. A king in a stable - how can that be?

Advent is a time of preparation. We look backward to an event the anniversary of which soon we celebrate but we also look forward to a great event to come. The birth of Jesus, is the one; the full establishment of the Kingdom of our Lord is the event in the future. Each time we pray, "Thy Kingdom come", we remind ourselves - or ought to do so - that there is a future dimension in Advent.

In our churches and in our homes, as in our personal thinking, we have a variety of customs of preparation. Advent wreaths in homes have come to have wide-spread popularity in recent years. Some of us re-read (or read for the first time) some Old Testament passages relating to the prophecies of Messiah. Christmas preparation is nearly universal even among people who seem to have no discernible religious faith. Christmas shopping, cooking, card sending, home decoration - these and many other ways allow us to make preparation.

The greatest preparation is always the inward one. Advent is a time of joy but it is also a time of repentance, for our sins and for the sins of mankind. It is a time to reflect soberly on why a Messiah is necessary and thus to realize our own helpless condition. It is a time to give thanks gladly that in Jesus Christ, God is indeed with us. When by the work of God's Holy Spirit, we prepare inwardly, the outward manifestation in joy takes place in the course of events. Christians, prepare!

-- Ed Smith

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: All women of the church are invited to join The United Methodist Women for their Christmas meeting in Whitford Hall at 3:00 p. m. on Sunday, December 9. The program will include a devotional, special music, installation of officers for 1980 and presentation of life memberships.

The social hour will be hosted by circles 4 and 7, Mrs. Elizabeth Bookhout and Miss Doris Bridges, chairmen.

Please remember to bring a cake of soap to be included in kits for migrant workers.

The Executive Committee of U. M. W. will not meet in December.

OUR THANKSGIVING OFFERING for Meals on Wheels amounts to \$616.00. Thank you for your generous support of this outreach in love to persons in need.

WHO GOT ELECTED? Local elections get reported in the press; elections in church bodies receive less publicity. Our Charge Conference on 20 November elected church and Sunday School officers for 1980. A complete listing of new officers is available by request to the Church Office.

THE GIFT OF LIFE: Duke Memorial is among the Durham congregations that work with the American Red Cross blood collection program. For many reasons blood collection in our city is lagging at this point. Let only one figure suffice: through October, we were 719 units behind our schedule for 1979. As a center of medical treatment and research, our county uses a great deal of blood. It can come from only one place - our veins! Give the gift of life this year by taking a few minutes on 26 December - yes, the day after Christmas - and go to the blood collection center, 1000 East Forest Hills Blvd., behind Forest Hills Shopping Center and give your individual gift of life to some one. This is a special day - your response will make it indeed special.

PLEASE CONSULT the schedule for Advent events printed in the last edition of the Messenger in order to make advance entries in your calendar. Each weekly edition will bring up to date what is scheduled for that week.

9 DECEMBER 1979, Second Sunday in Advent

The Gospel: St. Luke 21:25-33

The Sermon: Portents: Profit or Problem

Greeters: Dr. and Mrs. Marcus E. Hobbs

Junior Church Leaders: Danny & Lynn Goodwin

Louise Few, assistant

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

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504 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

BIBLE READINGS: December 9 - 15, 1979

December	9	I Timothy	1	-	6
	10	II Timothy	1	-	4
	11	Titus	1	-	3
		Philemon	1		
	12	Hebrews	1	-	4
	13	Hebrews	5	-	7
	14	Hebrews	8	-	10
	15	Hebrews	11	-	13

PUBLICATIONS SCHEDULES: There will be no issue of the Messenger the week of 23 December. The Messenger which is mailed on Tuesday, 18 December and the Order of Service for Sunday, 23 December, will be printed quite far in advance of those days. The Messenger mailed on 18 December will include notations on activity through Saturday, 5 January, 1980. Please give to the Church office now material for these publications. Thank you.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS: Long-standing custom leads us to make a special Christmas offering for work in the Durham district. Sixty percent of this offering goes to the Durham Urgan Ministry and the remaining 40% to the District Superintendent's discretionary fund for use in situations of extraordinary need in our district. The horrible famine and needs in Cambodia have led Methodist bishops to ask a special two million dollar offering during the remainder of 1979 for Cambodian relief.

These needs are real and worthy of our attention and response. Mark envelopes or check "Christmas" or "Cambodia" and our financial secretary will be able to follow your wishes. Give - as God has blessed you! He has made us able - are we willing?

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH:	Frankie Williams	7324
	Elizabeth Jones	4117
	Annie D. Morton	7316
Duke:	Bill Few	MICU
	Dorothy Wilson	2119

ALTAR GUILD WORKERS FOR DECEMBER:

Dianne Haynes
Doris Blalock
Polly Robinson

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 2 December 1979

Church School.....250
Morning Worship.....347

INVITATION TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church invites you to their Annual Open House on December 8 from 2:00 until 4:00 o'clock.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

Altar Guild

In loving memory of Thomas E. Allen, Jr. by:
Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Browning
Mr. and Mrs. A. LeRoy Cox
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. White, Jr.
Mrs. Minnie W. Delamar
Mrs. Maude W. Dunn
James E. Stovall, Roxboro, N. C.
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Reade, Jr., Richmond
Dr. and Mrs. John Glasson
Iowa National Mutual Insurance Company,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Good Samaritan Fund

In loving memory of Mrs. D. C. Hall by:
Mrs. Mary Casteel West, Lakeland, Fla.
In loving memory of Thomas E. Allen, Jr. by:
Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Roycroft
Mrs. Robert H. Pate
Mr. and Mrs. Zack Lyon
In loving memory of Jack B. Cliff by:
Mrs. Dorothy T. Keller, Nashville, Tn.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to Reverend and Mrs. E. C. Crawford because of the death of their daughter, Joann Crawford Brady, on Wednesday, 28 November 1979, and to Harold & Ellen Bivins because of the death of Harold's mother, Mrs. May Bivins, in Wilmington, Friday, 30 November 1979.

DON'T FORGET - Door Decorations on all classroom doors should be completed for the Open House on Sunday, December 16, following the Pageant and Music Program at 5:30 p. m.

CHURCH CALENDAR

DECEMBER 9 - 15, 1979

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	3:00 p. m.	UMW Christmas Program in Whitford Hall
	5:00 p. m.	Pageant Rehearsal
Mon.	10:00 a. m.	Circle 10, 43 Beverly Dr. Home of Mrs. Dillard Teer
	12:00 Noon	Circle 9, covered dish luncheon with Mrs. George Lindsay & Mrs. Tom Cranford, 1023 Southwood Drive
	7:45 p. m.	Circle 4, 1307 Alabama Ave. Home of Elizabeth Bookhout
Tues.	6:00 p. m.	Lillie Duke Class Dinner in Whitford Hall
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast in Whitford Hall
	12:10 p. m.	Advent Devotional and lunch Anne Clark, speaker
Thurs.	6:00 p. m.	Katie Johnson Class Dinner in Whitford Hall
	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal