

A CHRISTMAS SONNET

O World, look up and see the transient gleam
 Of stars that shine this Christmas night;
 And see again the star of Wondrous Light,
 The star that still leads men to hope -- to dream
 Of Peace, Good Will, and Brotherhood Supreme.
 How dare we mortals let the missiles' flight
 And fearful warfare dim that vision bright --
 Christ's Way of Love and Light--one holy theme.
 Whereby all want and fear and hate give way
 To life abundant over all the earth,
 And men affirm their dignity and worth.
 For heaven touched earth with its radiant ray,
 Giving Joy and Hope through that glorious birth
 And making God real on Christmas Day.

Blanche Wellons (1957)

A CHRISTMAS WISH: Thankful to God for the privilege of serving Him through Duke Memorial, the members of the Church staff express to our whole family and to our friends the wish that all that the coming of Jesus Christ means be known in our lives. The light shining in the darkness has never been more timely. May Hope, Peace, Joy, Love -- not just of the candles of the Advent wreath but of Jesus Christ Himself -- be with us all in these days and each day of the New Year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES in general will not meet on Sunday, 23 December, in order to make possible the worship service at an hour earlier than usual. Classes that desire to meet are asked to adjourn prior to the worship hour.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION is at six o'clock. For this communion, the Order for the Service will begin at five minutes past six. This is in contrast to the usual "come and go" procedure for late afternoon-early evening services at Communion. Please be present at six o'clock to be part of the worshipping family of God.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT DUKE MEMORIAL is at seven o'clock in Whitford Hall. This is meant to be a time of joy for us all, across generations. Bring babies, children, older folks, everyone. This meeting combines a bit of a Methodist Class meeting with something of a candlelight service and a trace of a Moravian Love Feast. The only folks who should not come are those who want no part of a joyful, warm hearted experience! I believe we have no such people at Duke Memorial! "You all" all come!!

A STAINED GLASS NATIVITY SCENE created by Agnes Wilson Stephenson of Raleigh, a former member of Duke Memorial, is in the library in the middle building, main floor. Pay a visit and enrich your Christmas season. All of us thank Agnes for this remembrance not only of the birth of our Lord but also of this, her home church in Durham.

POINSETTIAS in the sanctuary are available for pickup by those who have given them following the morning service on 23 December. Please pick up your plant or arrange for some one else to do so. Plants which are not claimed will be used to add cheer to the Christmas season for selected persons in our community. Thank you.

THE CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES Christmas Eve at noon and will re-open Thursday, 27 December, with the usual hours. New Year's Day is also a holiday for the Church staff. In event of need or emergency, please call Mr. Smith, 489-2210, Mr. Settle, 682-3398, Mrs. Massey, 489-5179, or Miss Biddle, 477-9019.

MESSENGER: There will be no Messenger for the week of 30 December.

HOLY COMMUNION is the Order of Service Sunday morning, 6 January. Members of the Administrative Board for 1980 will be installed at the same service.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBERS OF METHODIST MEN: The January meetings are postponed to Tuesday, 15 January, at the usual hours and places.

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

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS through our buildings are the work of many persons. In particular, thanks are expressed from all of us to Edith and Al Johnson for decoration of Whitford Hall; to Lucille and Buck Mortland for the Chrismon tree; to Pat Coman and Sarah McCracken for decorating this tree; to Maude Dunn for making the Advent wreath (as she has made every one used at Duke Memorial!) and to Mary and Charles Byerly for the boxwood used in the wreath. Altar Guild members have worked overtime at their December tasks. Libby Younts and Jane Lynch have major responsibility for the pageant of 16 December as Ken Howard has major responsibility for staging and lighting. Thanks to them all from all of us!

BIBLE READINGS: December 23 - 31, 1979

December 23	Rev. 1 - 2
24	Rev. 3 - 5
25	Rev. 6 - 8
26	Rev. 9 - 11
27	Rev. 12 - 13
28	Rev. 14 - 16
29	Rev. 17 - 18
30	Rev. 19 - 20
31	Rev. 21 - 22

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN at the December meeting awarded life membership pins to Sue Bryant, Elizabeth Chesson, Polly Mixon and Elizabeth Wilson. Special gifts to missions in honour of Sarah McCracken and Dorothy Wilson were made. A President's pin was given to Louise Ervin. These awards are given in recognition of outstanding service through United Methodist Women. Eugenia Dixon was chairman of the committee on Special Gifts and Memberships.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

A CHRISTMAS GIFT to the Duke Memorial Scholarship Fund has been made by Minnie Delamar and Maude Dunn in memory of their sister, Ruth W. Swain, whose birth date is December 31.

THE CHRISTMAS PROJECT of Circle 10 was a gift to the Good Samaritan Fund.

ALTAR GUILD MEMORIALS in loving memory of Thomas E. Allen, Jr. have been made by:

C. E. Phillips and Sons, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dozier
Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Reade
North Carolina National Bank Corp.

23 DECEMBER 1979, Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:30 a. m. A Service of Lessons and Carols
(Music begins at 10:10 with the tower bells)

Acolytes: Beth Buehler and Louise Few
Greeters: Rev. and Mrs. Maurice Ritchie
Junior Church: No Junior Church

SINGLE - AGAIN: BY CHOICE OR BY CHANCE --

If you have experienced the trauma and pain of a separation, divorce or death of a spouse, Saturday, 12 January 1980 offers an important opportunity for you. The Durham District Adult and Family Life Council will offer a day-long seminar at Duke Memorial, 9:30 - 4:00. The featured speaker will be David McDowell-Fleming, director of CONTACT teleministry in Durham. Mrs. Naomi TePaske, guidance counselor at Hope Valley Elementary School will be leader for children in grades 1 - 6 on how to express their feelings. Cost of the seminar is \$5.00 for each adult and \$2.50 per child. This cost includes lunch. Make reservations with Ms. Cheryl Gaunt, 2836 Chapel Hill Road, Apt. 10-F, Durham, 27707. Make checks payable to Durham District Adult and Family Life Council.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: The next meeting of the UMW will be on January 7, 1980.

IN APPRECIATION: The members of the Methodist Retirement Home who use the Duke Memorial van wish to thank Duke Memorial for this transportation. We thank Mayor and Mrs. Harry Rodenhizer and their helpers for chauffeuring us to our various meetings. We thank all those who contributed to the comfort and attractiveness of our home. Happy, happy Christmas to all!

CHURCH CALENDAR December 23 - 29, 1979

Sun.	10:30 a. m.	Service of Lessons and Carols in Sanctuary
	7:00 p. m.	Churchwide carolling
Mon.	6:00 p. m.	Holy Communion in Sanctuary
	7:00 p. m.	Christmas Eve at Duke Memorial, Whitford Hall

CERTAIN ITEMS, regularly part of the Messenger, are omitted this week because of early printing of this issue. The next issue will be mailed Wednesday, 2 January 1980.