

DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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NUMBER 9

Wendy Mason is a young English woman enrolled in Duke Divinity School who is working at Duke Memorial under the supervision of Margaret Anne Biddle. Recently Margaret Anne asked Wendy for some comments on the likenesses and differences of Methodism in England and in the United States. These are her comments:

Are we all "United Methodists"? When I first gave information to Duke University Records, I stated that my denomination was 'Methodist'; imagine my chagrin when my transcript read 'United Methodist'. Were I a 'United Methodist' I would be obsolete because it was in 1933 that the United Methodists, the Wesleyans and the Primitive Methodists and a few smaller groups joined to form the Methodist Conference. Since the Duke computer seems to require a two-word designation, I have now become a 'British Methodist'.

As I sit in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning I sometimes wonder whether the UMC and my tradition really are both Methodist. I'd never heard too much about Wesley before!

'Methodism was born in song' reads the preface to my hymn book and so I would expect to sing 4 or 5 congregational hymns at each of the two Sunday services which most of our churches hold. Choirs seem to be dying out in most of our churches, except for special services, when an ad hoc choir is formed. Save in a few of our aging big city missions Methodist organists are laymen giving their time voluntarily without remuneration. Relatively, the laity seem to have a much greater role to play in Britain, the minister is generally the only paid official in one of our churches, all the other necessary tasks being performed by members in their spare time. Incidentally, a minister is not maintained by one church, but by the Circuit.

Let me describe the church of which I am a member. Berkswich is a rather large church by British standards, having a membership of about 400. Our minister is also the Superintendent of the Circuit and with the aid of a supernumerary woman minister serves our Church plus the second largest one in our Circuit and several of the country churches. The Superintendent is responsible for organizing the quarterly preaching plan. Due to the large number of churches (approximately 13 in the Circuit, served by 4 full time ministers) to hold 2 services a week in the majority of the churches we are heavily dependent upon the voluntary, unpaid services of our local preachers. In short we hear a variety of preachers, good and not so good: our 'hymn sandwich' would amaze you.

Much of the work of the churches is conducted by its members; my mother is a Pastoral Care Leader and is responsible for keeping in touch with members of a 'cell'. This helps to build community.

Sunday School, or rather Junior Church is for those under eighteen. Other groups are the evening 'Youth Fellowship', 'Women's Fellowship', 'Men's Fellowship' and 'The Wives' Group'. Apart from these, various mid-week fellowship groups meet in homes, attracting members of both sexes aged anything from 16 to 90. From time to time one of these groups will instigate a churchwide event, perhaps a concert or bazaar.

In many ways, I feel that our system is more dependent upon lay participation than is the system I have found here. I have been asked whether British Methodism is dying; supplement to our hymn book in 1969, the 1972 publication of our new liturgy and the complete organizational restructuring that has been effected; apart from a slight rise in membership I hope that we are ready to face the '80s.

Having been brought up in Methodism, it is hard to say much in a short article. If you would like to know more, please just ask me - after all, we are all Methodists, aren't we?

The world was Wesley's parish, may it be ours,

God Bless You,
Wendy Mason

DISCIPLESHIP: A therapist once said: "If only you can go far enough into pain with people, the healing that is there in creation will take over."

SUNDAY, 2 March 1980 Second Sunday in Lent
The Gospel: St. Matthew 15:21-28
The Sermon: Pets and People
Acolytes: Brett Henry and David McCotter
Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Horace Fowler
Junior Church Leaders:
Tom Adkinson and Don Sellers
Louise Few, assistant

Lord Jesus, be with me in my time of pain
And heal me by the presence of your love.
Allyn S. Norton

RUTH ANN GREENFIELD, a junior at Duke University, has recently been elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Greenfield, 1212 Virginia Avenue, Durham.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION to Dr. Thomas A. Collins for his visit with us may be addressed to him, 407 Roanoke Ave., Roanoke Rapids, N. C. 27870.

THE BULLETIN
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 *DID YOU KNOW???????????
 *
 * - that Deborah Brown can name all of the
 * books of the Bible? Deborah is a member of
 * our Elementary III-IV class. Great going,
 * Deborah!!!
 *
 * - that our Biddie Basketball team ad-
 * vanced to the second round of their tourna-
 * ment this past Friday. Their regular season
 * record was a super 8 wins against 2 losses.
 * Congratulations, fellows!
 *
 * - that our Senior team won their tourna-
 * ment and ended the season with an undefeated
 * record. They will travel to South Carolina
 * the last weekend in February to play in a
 * tournament there. Good luck!!!!
 *
 * - that the Jr. and Sr. UMYFs are engaged
 * in an intense contest to see which group can
 * RECYCLE the most ALUMINUM. The losing group
 * must treat the winning group to a party. The
 * Contest deadline is March 16th. Continue
 * bringing your cans, foil, pie tins, etc., or
 * give them to your favorite Jr. or Sr. High!
 * (You don't know how hard it is to be objec-
 * tive about this, because I am on the Sr.
 * team and I want to tell you to bring it all
 * to me! However, I promise that any aluminum
 * brought in undesignated will be divided
 * fairly between both groups!
 *
 * MAB)
 *
 * *****

THE CONGREGATION AND PASTORS express to Mr.
 and Mrs. C. T. Byerly their love and sympathy
 because of the death of Charlie's brother,
 Basil H. Byerly in Sanford.

CORRECTION: Mrs. Ethel E. Armstrong became
 a member of Duke Memorial on 31 December 1978
 by transfer of her membership from First Broad
 Street UMC, Kingsport, Tennessee. By a most
 unfortunate oversight, her name was never pub-
 lished in the Messenger. Mrs. Armstrong is a
 member of the Methodist Retirement Home fami-
 ly. We apologize to her and her family mem-
 bers for this seeming negligence on our part.

HOLY COMMUNION is scheduled for nine o'clock,
 Sunday, 2 March in the sanctuary. These "early"
 services are not of the "come and go" variety
 so it is desirable that all participating be
 present at the hour of beginning.

THANK YOU! A great big thank you to all who
 participated in any way in the Church World
 Service Clothing Appeal. 522 pounds of good
 used clothing were packaged last Tuesday for
 use anywhere in the world where the need ex-
 ists. We are asked to furnish 15¢ per pound
 to cover handling charge. If you did not have
 an opportunity to donate clothing and would
 like to help, a monetary donation would be
 appreciated.

Anne Clark, Projects Chairman UMW

UMW CIRCLES 1, 2 and 3 will meet at 10:00 a.m.
 at the church on March 3, 1980.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet at
 11:00 a. m. in the Bradshaw Room. Mrs. Ruth
 Holsinger will give the opening meditation.
 Mr. A. B. Craig will speak and show slides
 from his recent trip to Russia. The emphasis
 will be on Russian Churches with some slides
 on the new buildings for the Summer Olympic
 games.

Lunch will be served by Circle 5, Mrs. Louis
 Blalock, chairman.

All women of the church are invited to partici-
 pate.

REMEMBER THE MISSION COMMITTEE BIBLE STUDY on
 the Parables of Jesus which begins this Sunday,
 March 2.

HOSPITALIZED:

VA: J. W. Holsinger
 DCGH: R. D. Blaylock 5300
 Laurance Aydlett 6131
 George L. Crane 7320
 Duke: Dorothy Wilson Cabel 3307

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 24 February 1980
 Church School.....213
 Morning Worship.....359

CHURCH CALENDAR MARCH 2 - 8, 1980

Sun. 9:00 a. m. Holy Communion
 9:45 a. m. Church School
 10:00 a. m. Bible Study, Whitford Hall
 (Combined adult classes)
 10:55 a. m. Morning Worship
 4:00 p. m. Confirmation Class
 4:30 p. m. Bible Study, Bradshaw Room
 5:00 p. m. Children's Choirs
 6:00 p. m. UMYF
 7:00 p. m. Task Force on Church
 Calendar
 Mon. 11:00 a. m. United Methodist Women
 Tues. 6:00 p. m. Methodist Men
 7:45 p. m. Administrative Board
 Wed. 7:00 a. m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
 10:00 a. m. Fellowship Bazaar Workshop
 12:10 p. m. Devotions and Lunch
 Dr. Alex Vesic, speaker
 Thurs. 7:30 p. m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal