

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS AND AFTERTHOUGHTS

The Democratic and Republican national conventions have come and gone. The statistics stagger one's mind. If "overkill" is a possibility in nuclear warfare, how much more true it is of political conventions which are made to yield news whether there is anything to report or not. The "working press" (in all the media branches) seems to outnumber the delegates. The telephone bill stuns one's sensibility. The hundreds of miles of cable and wire; the cost inventory of TV and radio apparatus and the personnel listing to operate it all; the provision of a sufficiently large arena for the spectacle; housing, facilities for meals service, bar service (alas!), and the whole paraphernalia made a remarkable sight.

Comparisons with all kinds of meetings come to mind. A Methodist General Conference is an example of decorum and order compared to one of these conventions, through it is alleged that there are political overtones in Methodist meetings as in overt political assemblies. The ubiquitous eye of the TV camera makes one wonder if anything of substance can be accomplished by such a disorderly crowd. Certain events seem clearly designed to utilize maximum time of the convention and to afford every person a moment, however fleeting, in the national eye.

But there are many good things to be said. The first is that, somehow, despite the hoopla and the uproar, candidates are nominated and platforms are adopted. The coming together for a concentrated period of activity of leaders of every sort from all over the country surely has a leavening effect. The two party system comes to one of its best foci in the quadrennial conventions. It might be called a kind of emotional orgy, a reversion to adolescent behaviour for a large number of people; the same phenomenon may also be called a time to work off a lot of steam and to get ready for a really meaningful political process called the campaign for election at many levels of government. It focuses always on the White House and who will ride into office on whose coat tail, or who will be washed down the drain by whose unpopularity! In some ways, it is a survival exercise of the most obvious kind.

Be thankful for freedom for such activity! Now pray for guidance for the nation, for officers of government, for candidates, that somehow God will use this process for His ends and the good of His people everywhere.

-- Ed Smith

DISCIPLESHIP is an encompassing way of life in which every aspect and phase of one's life is brought under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES meets Wednesday, 27 August at 7:45 p. m. in the library. This is the preparatory meeting for the Fall Planning Retreat and accordingly a most important time. All members are asked with urgency to be present.

SUNDAY, 24 AUGUST 1980

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Dr. Thomas A. Langford

Acolytes: Karen Connery and Koren Sickles

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph M. Ballagh

Junior Church Leaders:

George and Tamela Davis

Carolyn Shipp, music

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

Capital Funds

In loving memory of Annie Kinlaw Herring
by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Anderson

Good Samaritan Funds

In loving memory of Blanche Rutherford
by Elizabeth Wilson

THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for our pictorial directory are W. L. Shipp, Doris Bridges, Hilda Coble, Jim Long and Danny Goodwin. This committee will meet in the near future, elect its chairman and organize for its business. The work of recruitment of members of the telephone committee is moving well under the guidance of Louis Robinson. The directory which is planned for us comes to the church without cost. Each family group photographed and appearing in the directory will receive a copy without charge. Selections will be made from colour prints so "you see what you will get" should you decide to buy prints of the photographs. There is no obligation to buy any print and there will be no pressure on any one to buy. The company can stay in business only by taking photographs of such quality that the potential customer wants to buy! The directory's greatest value to us will be found if all of us will cooperate in being photographed as an aid to knowing who we all are. Watch for announcement of the photographing period and listen for your telephone for an appointment!

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

Second Class Postage
Paid at
Durham, N. C.

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

BAPTISM: With thanksgiving to God, Constance Marie, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Haven, 2616 Erwin Road, was baptized Sunday morning, 17 August in the course of our morning worship service. She was born 5 May 1980 at Durham County General Hospital.

GRANDPARENTS!! The congregation and pastors rejoice with Anne and Buddy Thompson and with Jean and Byron Hawkins - the Thompsons because of the birth of Susanne Spencer to Thomas C. and Carol Thompson Worsley on 6 August in Durham and with the Hawkins because Byron Earl was born on 9 August 1980 in Greenville to Carol Yount Capps and Earl Capps. Every good wish to all family members involved.

MARRIAGE: Marie Fulmer Edwards and Jerry Wayne Davis were married in our sanctuary Saturday afternoon, 16 August, at 3:00. Marie's father is Dan K. Edwards. The congregation and pastors wish them great joy and every happiness.

HOSPITALIZED:

Duke Medical Center
Frank Bowers 2326 Duke North

IN MEMORIAM

Mittie Branch, August 12, 1980
"I am the Resurrection and the Life."

SYMPAHTY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to the family of Mittie Branch because of her death.

CLOTHING APPEAL: It is time again for Church World Service clothing appeal. Bring clean serviceable used clothing to Whitford Hall by Sunday, 24 August.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We have several Sundays open in September for those of you who wish to put flowers in our sanctuary. Please call the church office, 688-1901, or 688-2170. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 17 August 1980
Church School.....197
Morning Worship.....284

A GIFT has been given to the Good Samaritan Fund of Duke Memorial Church in loving memory of Mrs. Mittle B. Branch by the Lillie Duke Church School Class.

CHURCH CALENDAR AUGUST 24 - 29, 1980

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School (Promotion Sunday)
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
Monday	7:30 p. m.	EMV Planning Committee, Library
Tuesday	7:30 p. m.	United Methodist Men Cabinet Meeting, Library
Wednesday	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	10:00 a. m.	Bazaar Fellowship Workshop, Whitford Hall
	7:45 p. m.	Council on Ministries, Library
Thursday	6:00 p. m.	H. E. Spence Class Picnic at Jesse Cole's Farm (In case of rain, picnic will be in Whitford Hall)
Friday	7:00 p. m.	Singles Again, Whitford Hall