

Can You See? Can't You See?

How often in anxiety or perplexity we say to some one, "Can't you see?". Sometimes we put it in a more hopeful vein, "Can you see?". What we talk about is something that is obvious to us and appears completely out of their field of vision. None of us is exempt from one or the other sides of this question as it applies to some particular situations. One of my own blindnesses lies in not being able to perceive in some kinds of abstract paintings some of what seems immediately evident to others. Conversely, I can wax eloquent and get thrilled over the grain pattern in a piece of wood that to others appears best as a candidate for the fireplace!

It is possible that in the area of our religious convictions we meet about as much of this "Can you see? Can't you see?" as in any other aspect of our life. Jesus seems to have had the same kind of problem with those who knew Him and who witnessed some of the great acts that He did. Any one with normal vision could see what had happened; but how few could comprehend the meaning of what they saw!

The Gospel lessons for Sunday describe a healing and also an event which bystanders took to be a resurrection from the dead. St. Matthew recorded these events not simply to tell something of what happened long ago but also to speak to us something of how we may perceive what is happening around us today. It is never helpful for one to say to another in a tone of exasperation, "Can't you see?". It usually is helpful if in a spirit of loving, humble service and witness, we seek to share with others our own experience and vision of who and what Jesus Christ is, what He does, what He means to us.

"Making the Connection" is part of the answer to "Can you see?", "Can't you see?". The first connection has to be between God and the one who would ask the question. What a Christian has to share is not the product of his own wisdom and powers; it is the result of the grace of God at work in his life. So acknowledged, the questions that arise can be answered in a way helpful to us all.

Read St. Matthew 9:18-26 and think about "making the connection" and how it touches your own life. Come Sunday, 16 November and let us share our reflections!

-- Ed Smith

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS WEEK A LETTER FROM YOUR-SELF? Remember the circumstances in which you wrote that letter. Reflect on it and pray about it, what you said to yourself and what were your intentions in writing it. These are steps in discipleship! - take them!

BLOOD IS NEEDED at holidays and all other times. The Red Cross blood center will be open Friday, 28 November, the day after Thanksgiving. Is there a better way to express thanksgiving to God than to give "the gift of life" to one of His children? Durham's use of blood is at a very high rate because of the centers here for treatment of persons having cancers. Be thankful for these facilities - and provide them with what is essential! Thank you.

16 NOVEMBER 1980

Twelfth Sunday in Kingdomtide

The Gospel: St. Matthew 9:18-26

The Sermon: Make the Connection

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. Marcus G. Copelan

Junior Church: The Elementary V Sunday

School Class will present a puppet show

SET THE TONE FOR THANKSGIVING - not by buying a turkey but by experiencing a simple life style meal! Sunday, 16 November, as preparation for Thanksgiving, and as a way of learning more about the urgent need for people and money to continue Meals on Wheels, you are invited to a simple life style meal in Whitford Hall following the morning service. See what 50¢ and a little imagination will do! This meal is to raise our consciousness, not money for Meals on Wheels. Our Thanksgiving offering is planned to provide the opportunity to give for this blessedly wonderful community service. Change your plans for next Sunday - and come on to Whitford Hall after the morning service!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Can you help? Did you know that many children remain in foster homes longer than necessary because their cases do not get on the court calendar for consideration? There is great need for volunteers who can go through records and do the necessary paper work to get these cases before the court. If you are interested in helping in this way, call the Child Advocacy Office (682-1129) for more information.

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

Second Class Postage
Paid at
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Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist Church
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WEDNESDAY NOON SERVICES will begin on the first Wednesday in Advent, 3 December, and continue each week through Wednesday of Holy Week, 15 April 1981. The services will be led by members of our congregation. They begin at 12:10 and adjourn at 12:30 for a light luncheon in Whitford Hall.

THANKSGIVING DAY at 10 o'clock we will join in our thanksgiving service of praise and worship.

COME SHARE THANKSGIVING 1980: For the second year, the Council on Ministries has designated the Thanksgiving period as a time for outreach to the students at Duke University. Once again, we are inviting Duke students who face the prospect of Thanksgiving alone here in Durham to come celebrate this special day with the families of Duke Memorial. Wouldn't you like to take part in this unique chance to share? If you would be interested in hosting a Duke student for Thanksgiving dinner, please contact the Church office (688-1901) by Wednesday, November 19. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Mentzer at 682-2133 or 688-9079.

U.M.W. Circle Chairmen for 1981-82 will meet Friday, November 14, at 10:00 a. m. in the Library. Thanks!

Louise Ervin

CHURCH CALENDAR NOVEMBER 16 - 22, 1980

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	12:15 p. m.	Churchwide Luncheon Meals on Wheels Program
	3:30 p. m.	Music Committee, Library
	4:30 - 6:00	Advent Play Rehearsal with Jr. Choir (4:30-5:00)
	5:00 p. m.	Jr. and Carol Choirs
	6:30 p. m.	Advent Task Force
	6:30 p. m.	UMYF - Roller-skating (meet at Wheels at 6:30)
Mon.	10:30 a. m.	Circle 5 with Mrs. B. H. Mixon, 1200 Leon Street Apt. 8
	3:00 p. m.	Circle 9 with Mrs. A. M. Carroll, 925 W. Markham
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Thurs.	6:00 p. m.	Minnie P. Gates Class Dinner Whitford Hall
Fri.	7:00 p. m.	Singles Again

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION

In loving memory of Mrs. A. H. (Zelle) Borland by:

Mrs. Johnsie McF. Wall, Monroe, N. C.
Mr. and Mrs. T. S. White, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Alan Whanger
Mrs. J. S. Harvey
Fred Thomas Bible Class, Asubry Church
Circle 5 of UMW, Duke Memorial Church
Wednesday Bridge Club, Durham
Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Hubbard, Jr.,
Severna Park, Maryland

In loving memory of Philip Umstead by:
Julia Wyche Cherry, Greensboro

In honor of Eunice Mattox by:
Julia Wyche Cherry, Greensboro

LIBRARY FUND

In loving memory of Mrs. Lucille Shore Coburn, Mrs. Arlene Hall, Mrs. Annie Herring, and Mrs. Lillian Neagle by Circle 3 of UMW., Duke Memorial Church

In loving memory of Mrs. A. H. (Zelle) Borland by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Coman

In loving memory of Mrs. Velma M. Smythe (Florrie Mercer's mother) by the Granville-Vance Subdistrict ministers and wives, Townsville, N. C.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES to William O. Coffin and Isabel DeHoff who were married in our sanctuary, Saturday, 8 November 1980 at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 9 November 1980
Church School.....227
Morning Worship.....361

NEW ACOLYTES: Having completed their training the following received acolyte pins last Sunday: Preston Barnes, Kathy Bowen, Christopher Chambers, Ashley Chewing, Walter Curtis IV, Kelley Harris, Amy Layne, Para Penick, Melissa Sellers. Thanks to Acolytes Marti Tyor, Kelly Eggleston, and David Younts for helping with the training sessions.