

THE BLESSINGS OF HASTE IN CHRISTMAS!

Along with many of you, I frequently bewail the pressures of the Christmas season. Yet - again, with many of you - I find a warm heart as well as body in rushing to get things done when motivated by love. Traditionally we are reminded that we ought to "rest beside the weary road" that we may hear the angels sing. By the time Christmas arrives, most of us are ready for a moment or two of rest, whether we get it or not!

Along with all that, I've been thinking of the good side of the haste and pressure of the season. Most of us produce best when a deadline is in front of us. We are well aware that too many deadlines, too much pressure can be lethal. But if we were to wait until we are perfectly prepared and ready to do something in an absolutely ideal way, most of us would be waiting when Gabriel sounds the final trumpet call.

Athletes have an expressive way of saying that they play better when the "adrenalin starts flowing." I can't vouch for the physiological accuracy of the statement but I do know the feeling. There just might be a concomitant feeling about Christmas rush. Even though we try to do our Christmas shopping in a rather leisurely fashion, starting on 26 December of the preceding year, I enjoy becoming for a time part of the large crowds that fill stores or malls - and the enjoyment is not from a superior sense of "I've got mine done already"! It does my soul good to see lots of people rushing here and there working on good deeds for people they love - and sharing some of that feeling.

There was a good deal of going and coming long ago. Joseph and Mary went up to be enrolled for taxation. Shepherds went from their fields to Bethlehem. The angels who sang certainly made quite a journey. The wise men made a long pilgrimage; we do not know the points of beginning - but in all these cases, we know where they went and why.

Our own rushing and haste of preparation can be blessed to us if it becomes for us a means of expression of love for God, for Jesus Christ, and for our fellowmen. I pray that these days before Christmas work out to that for you - every one - and so we come to the day with fullness of heart in thanksgiving to God for His greatest Gift, Jesus Christ.

- - Ed Smith

Sunday, 14 December 1980

Third Sunday in Advent

The Epistle: I Corinthians 4:1-5

The Sermon: Mystery or Marvel?

Advent Candle Lighter: Ruth Holsinger

Greeters: Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Kale

Junior Church Leader: Don Sellers

IOLA PARKER HONOURED: On 7 December at the eleven o'clock service of First UMC, Rocky Mount, a restored stained glass window was dedicated in honour of Miss Iola Parker for her years of service to children and youth. The window, "Jesus Blessing the Children", was saved from the old church built in 1905 and was restored and presented through the generosity of the E. W. Coleman family.

Iola is a member of the family of the Methodist Retirement Home and an affiliate member of Duke Memorial.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING: Zora UMC is a small congregation of black Methodists on Highway 15 north of Oxford. They have raised \$10,000 toward the construction of a multi-purpose fellowship hall building. The North Carolina Conference is giving \$10,000. The Duke Endowment will participate in this project. Churches of the Durham District are invited to share through a special Christmas offering. Zora will receive either \$1,000 or one-half of this offering, whichever is the larger figure. Your gifts will help and are invited. A special envelope will be in the Order of Service Sunday, 14 December.

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUNDS AND SIGHTS OF CHRIST-

MAS will be a delight to us all Sunday, 14 December, when the choirs present their Christmas program at 5:00 in the sanctuary. This is a time for God's people who constitute His church family at Duke Memorial to come together in worship and in joy. A light supper in Whitford Hall follows. Come and bring your friends with you - all of you will be glad!

POINSETTIAS brighten the sanctuary and gladden the heart - and they will be with us Sunday, 14 December and through Sunday, 21 December. They are given in honour of persons living or in memory of persons deceased. A listing will be part of the Order of Service Sunday, 14 December. Donors are asked to pick up their plants at the close of the morning service Sunday, 21 December.

THE CHRISMON TREE will be dedicated during the morning service, Sunday, 14 December. This year it is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Sorrell as an expression of thanksgiving to God and for the enjoyment of the church family.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to Dr. Joseph McCracken and his family because of the recent death of his sister, Mrs. Charles Miller.

FINANCE COMMISSION: The next meeting of the Finance Committee will be on Monday, January 5, 1981 in the library.

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

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GIFT WRAPPING FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

Too bad! You probably would have enjoyed wrapping gifts at Northgate Shopping Center to earn funds for Meals on Wheels. All of the member churches of D.C.I.A. (including us) are co-operating in the gift-wrapping project every weekend during December. Our Saturday is December 13 from 9:30 - 12:30.

"Wrapping for Meals on Wheels" will be:

Dottie Ritchie	Jeanne Coleman
Deanie Jackson	Juliane DeBerry
Jessie Martin	Connie Chandler
Susan Teer (Mrs. Roy)	Pat Humphrey
Gerry Boy	Susan Teer (Mrs. Rob)
Alice Tise	Linda Drew

They filled up our quota so quickly that we didn't have a chance to ask you to help. Sorry you'll miss the fun! Well...maybe you could stop by with packages to be wrapped and not miss out entirely!

(D.C.I.A) is currently attempting to raise \$32,000.00 to continue serving the 175 daily meals now being served through 1981. Federal funding was reduced in July, necessitating the raising of this money to maintain services.)

THE CONGREGATION AND PASTORS express their love and sympathy to Randle Smith because of the death of her sister, Janet, Friday, 5 December 1980.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 7 December 1980

Church School.....264
Morning Worship.....331

CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 14 - 20, 1980

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	5:00 p. m.	Choir Concert followed by Fellowship Supper
Mon.	11:00 a. m.	Circle 5, Luncheon at the home of Mrs. C. T. Morrison, 5836 Sandstone Drive
	6:00 p. m.	Lillie Duke Class Dinner
Tues.	11:00 a. m.	Circle 8, Covered Dish Luncheon at the home of Pat Coman, 217 Pineview Helen Upchurch, program
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch Sarah McCracken, speaker
Thurs.	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

SPECIAL THANKS to leaders of our Advent program on November 30:

- To Florrie Mercer and Bill Roth, directors of the play
- To Horace Mansfield, Kay Hammond, Jay Langford, and Betsy Reade for technical assistance.
- To cast members, too numerous to list here but who did a great job!
- To Caroline Sasser and her task force from the Education Commission and Faith & Arts Committee who planned the event.
- To Maurice Ritchie, who guided our thoughts and led us through the evening's activities.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In loving memory of Zelle Borland by:

Carol A. Wehrheim, Chicago, Illinois
Mary Bitting
Margaret Borland Koehler, Charlotte

In loving memory of Para Pace Taylor by:

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred F. Drake

Good Samaritan Fund

In loving memory of the following by General and Mrs. James W. Holsinger:

Dorothy Wilson
W. F. Mansfield
Word C. Clark
Mrs. Natalie Harris
Mrs. Lois Fowler
Mrs. Zelle Borland

A GIFT has been made to Meals on Wheels in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Kale, Rev. and Mrs. J. D. Young, and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Mattox by Mr. and Mrs. Horace W. Fowler.

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: Last Sunday, Mrs. W. A. Wilson, Sr. (Josephine) 304 Watts Street, became a member of Duke Memorial by transfer from First UMC, Alexandria, La. Her telephone is 688-0455.

Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Wilson, Jr. (Bill and Linda) became members of Duke Memorial, Linda by transfer from Dulin UMC, Falls Church, Va., and Bill from First UMC, Alexandria, La. They live at 302 Watts Street. Their children are Heather (nearly 5) and Stephanie, 2. Their telephone is 682-6293.

HONOUR WHERE DUE: The Alumni Association of Duke University has established a scholarship with an annual stipend of \$3,000 in honour of Anne W. Garrard, Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs at Duke from 1939 to 1971. This is recognition of a person of unusual and blessed ways with all of us. It couldn't happen to a nicer person, Anne! We rejoice with you.