

DEBTS THAT YOU DON'T PAY

One of the conditions of membership in the original societies of the Methodist connection was that one would not "take up goods without a reasonable probability of paying for them." To avoid crippling indebtedness is still a good principle, our national policy notwithstanding. When a person applies for a place in full membership as an ordained member of an Annual Conference, the bishop is required to ask, "Are you in debt so as to embarrass you?" This usually provokes some titters at Annual Conference sessions. The serious intent is to recognize and accept the fact that ministers often are not well paid and that should there be a heavy burden of debt, life will likely be miserable for many years, for the person as well as for the whole family involved.

In our statutes are many laws relating to debts, collection of them, bankruptcy proceedings and related matters. A major national political issue has been the willingness of our national government to intervene to prevent bankruptcy of some of our largest corporations. For some people, life seems to be a succession of moves from bankruptcy to the next bankruptcy - so the statutes specify the minimum period between such proceedings!

In the New Testament is the injunction, "Owe no man anything but to love one another; for he that loveth hath fulfilled the law." (Rom 13:8). If one would deal fairly with others, surely one will see to the payment of all obligations equally, one will avoid purchases which are beyond one's means. To deal with others as we trust they will deal with us is to avoid being a creditor with no hope of repayment.

All that said, as I reflect on the lesson for next Sunday, I realize that there are some debts that many of us have (or think we have) which are not to be repaid. I doubt that the topic for the homily on the outside bulletin board of the Church will produce an influx of persons seeking justification for non-payment of debts. It would be great if it helped to produce an influx of folks seeking to grasp some of the essential teachings of the Scriptures. This simple paragraph is an invitation to you to be part of the group as we look together at something rather unusual in the Bible!

-- Ed Smith

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT: Virginia Winters (Windy) Lies, born 7 January 1981 in Wayne Memorial Hospital to Dr. Stephen Craig Lies and Kathryn Loede Hilliard Lies. She is the maternal granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Hilliard, 3615 Hope Valley Road, Durham. She is the maternal great granddaughter of Mrs. Dora Perry Crutchfield, 1711 Kent Street, Durham. We rejoice with the entire family connection because of Virginia's birth.

25 January 1981

Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Epistle: Romans 12:16b-21

The Sermon: Debts You Don't Pay

Acolytes: Ashley Chewing & Kelly Harris

Greeters: Betty Brunson & Ruth Mixon

Jr. Church Leaders: George & Tamela Davis

THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH STAFF are most grateful for all the Christmas remembrances of every sort which came to them from members of the congregation. They were gratefully received as evidences of the ties which bind us together. Thank you, each one.

FOR MANY YEARS, Jack Cliff was chairman and prime mover in the Duke Memorial Visitation Committee. In recognition of his unusually long contribution to this aspect of our church life and in appreciation of Jack's total Christian witness, the Visitation Committee in its meeting on Wednesday, 14 January 1981 voted to name itself the Cliff Visitation Committee.

HOLY COMMUNION is scheduled for Sunday morning, 1 February, at 9:00 in the sanctuary. The service will be completed by 9:30.

CONTACT telephone ministry has a training class for prospective workers set beginning on Tuesday, 3 February 1981. The class continues weekly for sixteen weeks. It will meet at Asbury UMC, Markham Avenue. For further information and data, please call 683-1595. Thank you.

OOPS!! We think that someone has borrowed the second volume of The Covenant by James Michener before it was processed into our library. We merely need to locate it; could you please call and tell us if you have it?

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)
504 West Chapel Hill Street
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THE LAY RALLY for the Durham District will be held in the Civic Center in downtown Durham Monday, 9 February 1981. The principal speaker is the Reverend Maxie Dunham of Nashville, Tennessee, editor of The Upper Room and best known for his leadership in Prayer Weekend programs in churches throughout the southeast. The program will begin at 6:45. Serving dinner will begin at 5:30. Tickets for the dinner are available at \$3.50 through our Lay Leader, Chick Craig, or through the Church Office. Attendance at the dinner is not a necessary condition of sharing in the evening program. Dinner or not, plan to be present and blessed through Maxie's witness and leadership.

A GIFT has been given to the Good Samaritan Fund in loving memory of Mrs. Helen Reams by Lillie Duke Sunday School Class.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to the family of Mrs. Helen Lyon Reams because of her death.

IN MEMORIAM

Helen Lyon Reams
January 16, 1981

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH Louise Horton CICU-8

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 18 January 1981

Church School.....225
Morning Worship.....278

CIRCLE 6 will meet Tuesday, January 27, at 8:00 p. m. at the home of Mrs. Jessie Martin, 4514 Berini Drive. The program will be "Bringing Up Your Children in the Church" with Mrs. Ann Marie Langford as resource person.

ALTAR FLOWERS: We have several openings for altar flowers. If you would like to put flowers in our sanctuary please call the church office, 688-1901. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin Sunday afternoon, 15 February at 4:00 and continue on succeeding Sunday afternoons at the same hour. The sessions will end at 4:45. Children should be at least eleven years old or in grade five. Older children are welcome. The last class will come about Easter. Children desiring to be confirmed as members of the church will, with the consent of their parents, be received into the church at a date to be determined by the group.

OVERHEARD AT THE JANUARY WORKSHOPS LAST MONDAY:

"What happened to this room - it sure looks different from last year!"

(Reference was being made to the Aldersgate Room, used on Sunday mornings by the Homebuilders Class. Recently, class members painted, cleaned and decorated their classroom. Not only do these improvements benefit the class, but they also provide a lovelier environment for many other groups from our church and from the district who use this room. Thanks, Homebuilders!!)

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 25 - 31, 1981

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	5:00 p. m.	Jr. and Carol Choirs
	5:00 p. m.	Faith & Arts Committee, in Library
	6:00 p. m.	Sr. High UMYF
Tues.	8:00 p. m.	Circle 6, 4514 Berini Dr.
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch Holly Eggleston, speaker
	1:00 p. m.	UMW Executive Committee, in Bradshaw Room
	7:30 p. m.	Commission on Education, in Bradshaw Room
Thurs.	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir

BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 26 at 8:00 p. m. Duke Memorial
Mid. vs. St. Pauls, at Central Y
Thurs., Jan. 29 at 8:00 p. m. Duke Memorial
Midgets vs. St. Marks, at Central Y

YOUTH SERVICE --- Sunday, February 8, 1981 --- 10:55 a. m.

"Community Unity" will be the theme of the Service of Worship that has been planned by our Senior High Youth. They will lead our worship service on February 8th. As part of the Service, the Junior and Carol Choirs will sing selections from the musical "100% Chance of Rain".

It is a special joy to watch our youth develop in churchmanship and we eagerly anticipate their leadership in worship on February 8th.