

DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XVI

FEBRUARY 1, 1981

NUMBER 5

LIBERTY AND/OR LIBERATION

The release of the fifty-two American citizens wrongly held by the government (or non-government at times) of Iran has had remarkable consequences in our country. There is well-nigh universal rejoicing - and equally, nearly every one is asking questions. As with many events between nations, the whole story may be years in being told. It seems to me that there are often matters which by being aired help no one and may indeed be a hindrance. Even so, we wonder and ask.

These fellow citizens are liberated by the actions of many people and obviously, the involvement of several governments. We do well to remember that some substantial minority opinion in Iran consistently held that they were wrongly taken and should have been released unconditionally at the outset of the whole affair. At least one such person was himself jailed for his insistence on this position. A country which cannot govern itself - and Iran has been fairly consistently in that position since the expulsion of the Shah - falls victim to many kinds of persons who for an equally large number of reasons would seize power following the revolution.

Liberation came through the intervention of many. No one dreamed of asking the hostages whether they wished to be freed; that they did so wish was axiomatic from the beginning. When the Foreign Minister of Algeria said to Undersecretary of State Christopher, "I deliver to you these citizens of the United States", the conscience of the world was touched as rarely it is except in times of horrible natural disaster.

Some of the hostages suffered more than others because they had sought by escape to claim liberty for themselves. Liberty (for our thought here) is something we claim for ourselves; liberation is what is offered us by others; and their expectation is that it will be received gladly. By either route, at last the hostages are "out" and getting back into the world that for them is normal.

God offers liberation to every person through Jesus Christ. I am continually astonished at how many folks freely and casually pass up the greatest gift that even God can offer. Liberation is not forced on us; in a sense, it is God's offering and through God's offer, we respond and claim liberty - from sin, from self, from guilt. We don't become perfect but we do make steps by God's grace toward real life and eternal life. Who can turn down such an offering? Please don't!

-- Ed Smith

SUNDAY, 1 FEBRUARY 1981

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 a. m. Holy Communion

10:55 a. m. The Epistle: Romans 13:8-10

The Sermon: A Debt You Must Pay

Acolytes: Robert Gorham and Tommy Vaughan

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cole

YOUTH SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 8, 1981

The senior high youth group decided, in September, to conduct a Sunday morning worship service. After consulting the pastor, they were given a date, and he talked with them about the purpose and parts of a worship service. They studied alternatives, chose parts, selected or wrote the parts they had chosen, and practiced delivery. You will be given the opportunity to share in this service of worship on February 8. Those participating are Mike Hammond, Jolyn Garbutt, Marti Tyor, Carol Plass, Louise Few, Sid Allen, Lisa Harris, Dottie Reade, Rose Miller, Fuller Sasser, and John Allen. Others assisting in the worship service will be the junior high youth, ushering, and the Junior Choir, presenting a special cantata, "100% of Rain".

THE STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE will meet in the library Monday evening, 2 February at 7:30. A major item of the meeting is preparation of recommendations to the District Superintendent and the Bishop concerning pastoral appointments to Duke Memorial for the Conference year beginning 1 June 1981. Fred Clark is chairman of the committee and other members are: Grace Boddie, Alan Whanger, Delaina Buehler, Ran Few, Polly Mixon, Iris Byerly, Charlotte Corbin, Jim Mentzer. Your expressions and comments in aiding members of the church staff to serve more effectively and efficiently should be made to these committee members.

BISHOP WILLIAM A CANNON is a patient in Rex Hospital, Raleigh, recovering from a broken hip. He is in room 4025 and cards and notes may be addressed to him there.

HOLY COMMUNION is scheduled next Sunday morning at 9:00 in the sanctuary. Mr. Haddock will be the officiant.

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH Louise Horton

MICU-8

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
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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: As we learn more of how the release of the American citizens held in Iran was worked out, you may wish to express appreciation to the diplomatic services of the countries involved. Notes addressed simply to the Ambassador of the country involved, that country's embassy, and Washington, D. C. 20001 should insure delivery.

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, Eunice Mattox, Nicholas Fagan, 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.

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN February 2, 1981

Circles 1, 2 and 3 will meet at 10:00 a. m. At 11:00 a. m. the General meeting will begin in the Bradshaw Room. Janet Smith will begin with a meditation followed with a program by Nellie Baker. Mrs. Baker will speak on Susanne Wesley, John Wesley's mother. Mrs. Baker's husband, Frank, is the world's foremost authority on John Wesley and she has worked closely with her husband on his writings.

The business meeting is an important one. The 1981 budget will be presented by Jean Weynand and Fall Festivals allocations will be proposed by Elizabeth Bookhout.

Circle #5, Anna Brown, chairman, will serve lunch. There is a nursery for pre-school children.

THE CONGREGATION AND PASTORS express their LOVE AND SYMPATHY to the family of Doris Walker who died Friday, 23 January 1981; and to Ruth Davidson whose brother, Charles W. Bevins, died January 15, 1981 in Youngstown, Ohio.

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Walker
23 January 1981

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 1 - 6, 1981

Sunday	9:00 a. m.	Holy Communion
	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	12:15 p. m.	Lunch in Whitford Hall, Orientation for Neighborhood Groups
	5:00 p. m.	Junior and Carol Choirs
	5:15 p. m.	UMYF
Monday	7:30 p. m.	Staff-Parish Relations Committee in Library
	8:00 p. m.	Duke Memorial Midgets vs. Westminster/St. Stephens, at Central Y
Tuesday	6:00 p. m.	Methodist Men, Whitford Hall
	7:45 p. m.	Administrative Board, Bradshaw Room
Wednesday	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch, Larry Amick, speaker
	7:30 p. m.	Maundy Thursday Committee, Library
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday	8:00 p. m.	Duke Memorial Mites vs. Trinity Avenue Presbyterian at Central Y