

## SOAPERS AND SERMONS

As one who is particularly thankful for the privileges of television - including the small knob or button that turns off the set when one wishes it off - I marvel at the capacity of this electronic marvel to bring people together. The royal wedding viewing audience was estimated at from 600,000,000 to about a billion persons. Thank God, the occasion for the telecast was a worthy, joyful one, and the parts of the presentation that I saw generally were in excellent taste. It was in thinking about how this wedding drew together so many millions who vicariously were present that I fell to thinking about soap operas (a subject of which I have almost no personal knowledge at all) and the audience that waits each day for that day's episode.

As I listen to people talking about these television subjects, I sense that often in half an hour there really is very little "movement" of the story. There are many flashbacks (for the benighted souls that missed out on what took place yesterday), long closeup studies of faces intended to involve the viewer in analysis of the emotions of the person playing the part, naturally a few commercials and so it goes. One company has TV billings in the neighbourhood of \$485,000,000 annually - quite literally all to sell soap and related products. And, if the programs don't sell the soap, without ceremony or ritual they are discarded and another effort is made to find a more efficient means of moving the goods.

The continuity of the programs seems to mean a lot to those who view them regularly. What would happen if we were to be seized with the desire to find the continuity in church services of worship and in sermons? Some pastors have told me that announcing a series of sermons - almost without respect to the subject - is guaranteed to see an increase in attendance. When preachers follow a lectionary, there is a continual series; to be specific, there are usually two in a year. From the First Sunday in Advent through Pentecost, the general subject is the person and work of Jesus Christ. Beginning with Trinity Sunday and continuing through the end of the church year, the general subject is in the area of Christian doctrine and teaching. There is a visible continuity for those who will seek it.

A French literary critic long ago laid down the principle that a good story never answers all the questions and never "wraps up in a neat package" the subject considered. It leaves space for the reader to draw some conclusion, to participate in the process. Sermons are intended to do the same - are you with it? If each one comes out of the previous Sunday and is grounded in it, do you get the continuity? Why not consider it this way? You all come and try!

-- Ed Smith

GOING! GOING! This is the last request for information as to shortages, non-receipt or dissatisfaction with materials received from Bel-Air Church Directory company. Your patience with the slowness of response of this company is commendable. So far as the church office knows, there is but one matter outstanding and it will speedily be resolved. Thank you, every one of you.

THE DISTRICT INTERPRETATION RALLY set for Wednesday, 12 August, at 7:30 in Trinity UMC, downtown Durham, is an excellent opportunity to know something of the financial program and undertaking of the United Methodist Church. Certain church officers have been notified of the expectation of their attendance; because it is an open meeting, every one is welcome.

NORTH CAROLINA ATLAS, portrait of a Southern State, has been given to the Margaret Faw Cannon Library in loving memory of Irving E. Allen by the H. E. Spence Bible Class. This is a unique publication by the U. N. C. Press and edited by three professors at U. N. C., Charlotte. We are quite proud to have this volume for research on our State.

MEMORIALS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION:

In loving memory of Alma Stuart Forrester by:  
Katie Johnson Bible Class  
Bennett Place Chapter, U. D. C.  
Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt T. Dixon, Jr.  
Mrs. Margaret B. Best  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Coble, Jr.  
Henderson Laundry, Inc.  
Mrs. Evelyn Petty  
Dr. and Mrs. William W. Stead  
Gladys V. Proctor  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Ross, Jr.

Good Samaritan Fund

In loving memory of Irving E. Allen by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Rufus H. Powell, III  
In loving memory of May B. Pitcher, mother of Mary Casteel West, by:  
Mrs. Estelle B. Hall  
Mrs. Rubye Haywood

SETH WARNER, substitute organist in August, will present a recital on the Benjamin N. Duke (Flentrop) organ at Duke Chapel on Sunday, August 9, at 5:00 p. m. The public is cordially invited.

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

Second Class Mail  
Paid at  
Durham, N. C.

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

LIBRARY NOTES

A beautiful volume entitled Appalachian Wilderness - The Great Smoky Mountains by Eliot Porter has been donated to our Library by Mrs. Jack B. Cliff. We are most grateful to have this book in our collection.

The following books have been given to the Library by Miss Rhoda Fitzpatrick. These books were in the Library of her father, Mr. W. W. Fitzpatrick.

Bishop - The Day Christ Died  
Caldwell - Dear and Glorious Physician  
Douglas - The Fisherman  
Slaughter - The Crown and the Cross  
Slaughter - The Galileans

We appreciate these additions

The Library Staff wishes to express sincere appreciation to Ann Marie Langford for the gift of The Harvest of the Spirit written by her husband, Dr. Thomas A. Langford. A serendipity of the book is the interspersing of free verse written by Ann Marie.

The Reverend Mr. William A. Haddock and wife, Jean, have given a large print edition of The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence. They gave the book in memory of Jean's grandmother, Esther Cords.

HOSPITALIZED:

DCGH: Ellie Lewis 4123

9 AUGUST 1981, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

The Epistle: Romans 8:12-17

The Sermon: As the Spirit Moves  
(Third in a series)

Acolytes: Lisa Harris and Amy Layne

Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. J. Herbert Pearce, Jr.

Junior Church Leader: Tamela and George Davis

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to put flowers in our sanctuary please call the church office, 688-1901 or 688-2170.  
Thank you.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 2 August 1981

Church School.....258  
Morning Worship.....206

FINANCIAL REPORT

Needed each week	\$ 4,504.67
Received last week	2,848.97
Received through last week	131,782.79
Needed through last week	139,644.77
Deficit	7,861.98

CHURCH CALENDAR AUGUST 9 - 15, 1981

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
Tues.	4:30 - 9:00 p. m.	UMYF, Swimming Party & Vespers at the Bollinger home
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	10:00 a. m.	Sew-Vols and Bazaar Workshop, Whitford Hall
Thurs.	10:00 a. m.	Bible Study in Library

PLEASE NOTE:

"Fun at the Movies" on August 12 has been CANCELLED.