

# DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XVI

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NUMBER 37

## WHAT IF. . .?

What if every one asked to do a good deed did it with joy and dispatch? What if I were to do all the good things that come to mind in lieu of often thinking of them and then going on to the matter at hand which demands immediate attention? What if life's priorities arranged themselves instead of my having to make the choices - and bear the responsibility? What if I realized that today is the "good old times" that we'll think of twenty years hence? What if each morning we all got out of bed with zip and zeal, ready to meet the day's problems as poorly disguised opportunities? What if . . .?

Make your own list. There is some help and health in so doing in that it at least allows us to ventilate (maybe to ourselves only) some of our feelings. Sometimes such a procedure helps us to get things more clearly into perspective in terms of what really needs to be done and what we merely wish were ours to do today. There is no health or help at all when such a process reduces us to inaction and near-paralysis simply because the world isn't ideal - nor are we - and yet imperfect as we are in a very imperfect world, this is still where God in His mercy and wisdom has put us.

Add one more "what if": What if, all the above granted, we were to follow the advice of the writer of Ecclesiastes in 9:10 (just for fun, look it up rather than my citing it for you - what if you did that and got involved in longer reading?), especially the first two clauses of the verse. Some people think that Ecclesiastes is a strange book to be in the Bible, that it is more a book of practical folk wisdom with some of it from an almost skeptical point of view more than from a "religious" perspective. Assume for a moment that you take seriously the counsel of this writer, unknown to us, whose writings are literally from another world and age. What would happen?

One of the inevitable and desireable consequences would be that every one of us would to some degree gain or regain a sparkle and zest for life that many have not known in a long time. That in turn would automatically work toward lining up what is to be done each day. Once this is done, each day would contain more reasons for thanksgiving and joy and fewer reasons for frustration and dissatisfaction. When that gets going, add the ancient injunction, "Whatsoever thou doest, do all unto the Lord." Can you imagine how wonderful life would then be? What if . . .?

-- Ed Smith

## 13 SEPTEMBER 1981

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
The Epistle: Galatians 3:16-22  
The Sermon: His Word Is His - or Is It?  
Acolytes: Scott Bagley and Wyatt Dixon  
Greeters: Mrs. David Carpenter  
Mrs. Sue Bryant

## PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Bibles will be presented during the 11:00 o'clock service this Sunday to the following Third Graders:

Elizabeth Browning	Laura Ritchie
Paula Penick	Nick Tise

## SEPTEMBER 20 - COVERED DISH DINNER and SUNDAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

*Everybody come. . . . bring lots of food. . . . join the fellowship.....!!!!*

5:30 p. m. -- Dinner in Whitford Hall, followed by Visitation in the Church School, ending by 7:30 p. m.

Featuring: Visits between teachers and parents - Learn what your child will be doing in Sunday School this year!

Drop by and admire the sparkling, attractive preschool rooms, where Sunday School and Weekday School meet!

GUIDED TOURS FOR MATURE ADULTS ONLY WILL BE OFFERED!

Games.....Presentations.....Laughter.....Full tummies!

BE SURE TO COME - Bring your Family, your neighbors, anyone!



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

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

CIRCUIT RIDERS AND EMC: A planning committee for Duke Memorial's Every Member Commitment met in July. After lengthy discussion on procedures, the committee agreed that this is the year for Duke Memorial to use the Circuit Rider plan, because of its simplicity, the involvement of every household in the church, and the promise of moving rapidly with the work.

Edith Toms is chairman of our Every Member Commitment this year and so also heads up the Circuit Rider Plan. 18 October is Circuit Rider Sunday; the goals this year are participation by every member and pledges sufficient to cover the budget for 1982.

Circuits have been arranged by geographical areas of our town. Circuit leaders will soon be calling every household on their lists to explain the plan and secure the cooperation of all in a joyful endeavour. Alternate plans will be provided for those persons who for physical or other reasons cannot "ride a circuit"; one of the intentions of the telephone calls is to work out details on this matter.

Be ready - be willing - and rejoice!

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DUKE MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
FALL FESTIVAL  
NOVEMBER 12, 1981

- Chairmen: Hilda Coble: 286-2697  
Ella Glasson: 489-5110
- Aprons: Louise Ervin: 383-5321
- Baby Boutique: Elizabeth Bookhout: 286-9738  
Martha Brown: 682-1060  
Janet Smith: 489-2210
- Bake Sale: Martha Brown: 682-1060
- Book Nook: Berta Lane: 286-2803
- Children's Table: Jeanne Bagby: 489-5550  
Ann Tyor: 489-2661
- Christmas Room: Gloria Johnson: 477-7635  
Pat Coman: 489-4117  
Anne Clark: 489-3897
- Confections: Grace Cooke: 286-4859
- Country Store: Monica Bollinger: 471-2013
- Flower Arrangements: Edith Johnson: 489-3673
- Jams and Jellies: Byrd Brinkley: 489-3223  
Lila Fagan: 489-3760
- Jewelry: Virginia Ballagh: 471-5190
- Lunch: Gladys Cuncan: 688-1638  
Lucille Mortland: 286-3782
- Miniatures: Indye Cunningham: 286-4731
- Needlework and Wednesday Workshops:  
Mary Hix 286-7695  
Betty Craig 489-0666  
Sarah McCracken 489-2421  
Mary Page Tidwell 688-2937  
Sue Bryant 489-7526
- Pillows: Evelyn Lyon 489-2951  
Reid Burton 489-9789
- Plants: Gibby Williams 489-3167  
Madge Wannamaker: 493-5324
- Publicity: Ellen Sewell: 471-3809
- White Elephant: Rubye Haywood: 286-4800  
Mary Byerly: 286-2463

A SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM at Calvary UMC Wednesday evening, 16 September at 7:30 will afford an opportunity to consider both challenges and possibilities of this area of our church life. Contact Pastor Haddock for further information, please. Attendance is open to all interested persons.

THANK YOU, TOM COBLE! We now have nine beautiful display placards that can be used in advertising programs, sharing news from a Sunday School class, etc. We also have wooden bases in which these display placards can be set to be free-standing. We have all this because Tom Coble made them for us. If you or your group wishes to borrow them, contact Margaret Anne.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Dr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Haven announce the birth of a daughter, Katherine Anne, at Durham County Hospital on 8 August 1981. Congratulations and best wishes to this fine family.

CHURCH CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 13 - 19, 1981

- Sun. 9:45 a. m. Church School  
10:55 a. m. Morning Worship  
5:00 p. m. Carol and Junior Choirs
- Mon. 11:00 a. m. United Methodist Women  
6:30 p. m. Circle 4, Whitford Hall
- Tues. 10:00 a. m. Circle 8 with Evelyn Lyon,  
15 Glenmore Drive
- Wed. 10:00 a. m. Bazaar Workshop
- Thurs. 2:00 p. m. Minnie P. Gates Class  
picnic, Lake Hyco  
7:30 p. m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**BIG ANNOUNCEMENT COMING NEXT WEEK!!!!**

You will want to watch for the list of courses that will be offered in the Christian Workers School this year. Once again, it will be held at Duke Memorial, with a Sunday youth rally at Trinity. Dates are Sunday - Monday, September 27 - 28.