

# DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

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NUMBER 1

## DENNIS STRIKES AGAIN!

Dennis, now drawn by Hand Ketcham, has been around a long time. A comic strip or cartoon does not long endure unless it does something more than amuse. Last Sunday's strip with Dennis spoke to us all. He had decided to "be a better boy in 1982". That is an absolutely painless resolution, one which any one could undertake. That decided, he asked Mr. Wilson in what particular ways he would be a better person in 1982 and suggested a number of specifics. The end of the strip was Dennis going off to make a few specific suggestions to his "friend" Margaret, leaving Mr. Wilson steaming in the background.

How true this is to our nature. Sweeping pronouncements, resolutions, condemnations, are made or adopted with little or no opposition and usually less conviction. But the specific points in life where we can improve and change things are just the matters from which we shy away. So it is with our confessions of sins and shortcomings. There is hardly any more majestic wording in the language than that of the General Confession which is in our Order for Holy Communion. That language and wording ought to be the devout expression of our souls.

Somehow, though, I think that when we begin in a serious way to consider our personal sins and shortcomings, we easily find refuge in the wording of the General Confession. Many of us may from time to time have a toothache; but the ache which we know best is that which strikes a tooth in one's own mouth. The heart of evangelical Christianity is that we individually before God come to grips with our own sins and seek His mercy and guidance to come to newness of life in Christ. We do not usually seek such newness of life because of generalities but because, like those who long ago came to John Wesley, "we desire to be saved from our sins and to flee the wrath to come".

Back to Dennis: Mr. Wilson welcomed every word of Dennis' resolution to "be a better boy". Far less welcome was a listing of some points in which Mr. Wilson himself could be a better man. "Let us confess our sins" is far different from "let me confess your sins"! When we enumerate the shortcomings of each other, the net result is deepening of the troubles we already know. Then we come before God in honesty and humility of spirit and confess our sins, then wonderful things begin to happen.

These are some of the things in my mind as the year changes. God bless you, every one!

-- Ed Smith

## GIFTS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION

A Christmas Gift was received from Mrs. Minnie W. Delamar and Mrs. Maude W. Dunn in loving memory of their sister, Mrs. Ruth W. Swain.

A gift has been given to the Good Samaritan Fund of Duke Memorial Church by Dr. and Mrs. Aleksandar Sedmak Vesic in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bozidar Vesic and Mr. and Mrs. Anton Sedmak.

A memorial gift has been given to Duke Memorial by Mrs. U. Dale Reed of Mount Holly in loving memory of Mr. F. L. Gamble.

## FROM THE HADDOCKS

Jean and I would like to thank everyone for their support and love expressed through the reception and gift given on December 27. Most of all we would like to thank each person for their love throughout Bill's ministry here. We hope that you will find time to visit us at Fletcher's Chapel. -- Bill Haddock

UNITED METHODIST MEN and THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meet on Tuesday evening, 5 January, at 6:00 and 7:45 respectively.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet Monday evening, 4 January, 7:30 p. m. in the library.



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

Second Class Mail  
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Durham, N. C.

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

ALL OFFICERS of Duke Memorial Church and Sunday School will find classes in their special areas of concern in the Durham District workshops to be held at Duke Memorial, 7:30 - 9:30, Wednesday, 6 January. These are usually excellent sessions, designed to be practical and helpful to all with leadership responsibilities. Profit from them.

CHRISTMAS REMEMBRANCES of every sort to members of the Church Staff are greatly appreciated. The thoughtfulness of many members of Duke Memorial is ever reason for thanking for staff members.

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH:

Ellie Lewis	4108
George Lindsay	6117

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 20 December 1981

Church School	240
Morning Service	428

SUNDAY, 3 JANUARY 1982

Second Sunday after Christmas

Holy Communion

Installation of 1982 Administrative Board  
Acolytes: Lani Adkinson and Deborah Brown

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Here it is the beginning of a new church year and the coming of a new calendar year. We need YOU as we plan new agendas and programs. We know there are folks in our church family who "would like to do some job" in the church, but don't know who to call; we don't know you're willing! Here's an opportunity to connect!

Areas needing volunteers and leaders to contact for further information:

1. Junior Church Team - a great chance to relate to groups of children, opportunity to do your own religious thing in an informal church setting or follow a program set by the Junior Church leadership team. Contact Holly Eggleston, 493-1611 (at night).

2. Commission on Education - instrumental in planning educational programs for all phases of church, a wonderful way to learn how facets of church inter-relate.

Contact Holly Eggleston, 493-1611 (night).

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 3 - 9, 1982

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Holy Communion
Monday	10:00 a. m.	Circles 1, 2 and 3
	11:00 a. m.	U. M. W. General Meeting, Bradshaw Room
	7:30 p. m.	Finance Committee, Library
Tuesday	6:00 p. m.	United Methodist Men, Whitford Hall
	7:45 p. m.	Administrative Board, Bradshaw Room
Wednesday	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch; Ken Howard, Leader
	7:30 p. m.	District Workshop
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal