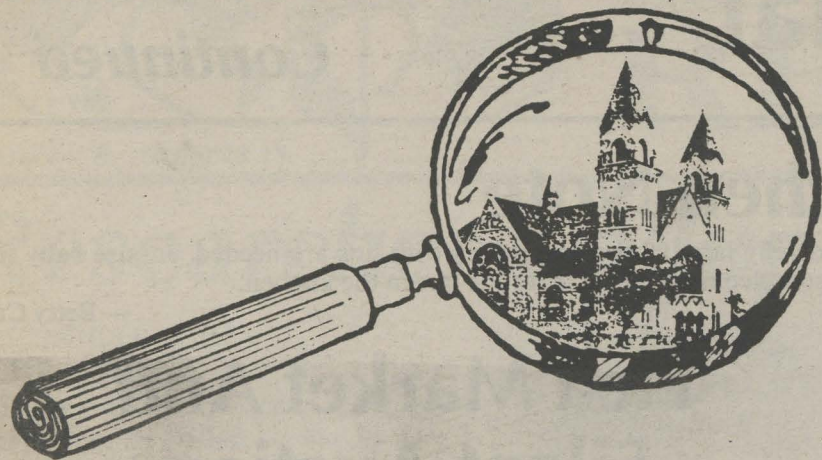


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DUKE UMC  
504 W CHAPEL HILL STREET  
DURHAM, NC 27701



# Insights edition

**Duke Memorial United Methodist Church**  
504 W. Chapel Hill St. Durham, NC 27701 (919) 683-3467  
Ministers: Mark W. Wethington, Clinton W. Spence

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 15

931180

Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275

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JULY 17, 1992

## Welcome New Staff Member

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee regrets to report the resignation of Marion Eberwein as our Financial Secretary effective July 3. Marion has been an important part of our support staff and we shall miss her greatly. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

At the same time, we are happy to report the employment of Vicki Spencer Hall of Oxford as our new Financial Secretary. Vicki is in the UNC School of Dentistry part-time working toward her degree of dental hygienist. We enjoy having her as part of the Duke Memorial family since June 29.

Shirley Few, Chair  
Staff-Parish Relations Committee

## Wonderful Experiences had by all at Lake Junaluska Music Week!

Eleven children and four adults from Duke Memorial UMC along with a thousand other children, youth and adults had a fantastic six days at Lake Junaluska during the week of June 21 to 26. We sang and climbed the hill to Lambuth Inn, worshiped, climbed the hill to Lambuth, ate, climbed the hill to Lambuth, swam, climbed the hill to Lambuth, were entertained, climbed the hill to Lambuth, met new friends, climbed the hill to Lambuth, saw old friends and attended classes on worship and other arts, and yes, climbed the hill to Lambuth.

Worship services were one of the highlights of the week. We experienced God's presence through sacrament, visuals, music, dance, Word, and community. Our youth sang in worship and participated in several outstanding concerts. Duke Memorial was one of the largest children's groups represented from the southern jurisdiction. Those attending were: Becky and Lee Ballard, Jennifer Boring, Laurie, Cory and Mary Coffman, Para, Daria and William Drake, Sarah Fisher, Sherry Knight, Pam, Matthew and Nathan Spence, and John Semingson.

Special thanks to United Methodist Women, Elizabeth Wilson, and Agnes Stephenson who so graciously donated scholarship money for several of our youth to attend.

Music Week at Junaluska includes choirs and activities for children, youth AND adults with nationally acclaimed clinicians. Consider joining us for next year's trip!

## Music And Drama Camp:

"St. Francis, Poor Little Man Of God"

Words And Music By Doug Wagner

August 17-21, 9:00 a.m. To Noon

(Registration Open To rising 3rd To 7th Graders)

Mail in your registration TODAY!!! Extra forms are available in the church office. Please note that all registrations are to be mailed to Susan McFall at the address listed on the form. Registrations were due July 1, but enrollment is still open. Don't miss out on this wonderful week!

## Visitation Team Calendar

Thursday, July 30

9:30-10:00 a.m. Meet with Mark Wethington about taking Communion to shut-ins.

10:00 a.m. Go out visiting

12:15 p.m. Meet for lunch at Papagago's Restaurant

August Visitation Dates — August 13

August 17

Please meet in the church parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Hope you can join us.

**More Duke Memorial  
News On Page 2-L**

## A Word from the PASTOR



**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 A.M.**  
**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:55 A.M.**



Rev. Mark W. Wethington

I give thanks for the warm affection and gracious expressions of love which have been shown to me and my family during these first weeks. You are obviously a Spirit-filled church and it is a joy and privilege to be in ministry with you.

As I begin my ministry among you, I obviously come with certain set patterns of worship and service to which I have grown accustomed. In my former appointment I have tried to be faithful to the church's tradition in general, and our United Methodist heritage in particular.

In recent years, we United Methodists have sought to recover elements of our biblical and traditional roots particularly as regards our liturgy. The Emmaus account helps us to understand the basic pattern of worship which our United Methodist Church has adopted. As the disciples were joined by the risen Christ, so in the power of the Holy Spirit the risen Christ joins us when we gather to worship. As it was to them, so to us are 'the Scriptures opened'; we are invited to hear the Holy Word as it is read and preached. And then we are invited to respond. In the Emmaus account, the disciples responded to the Christ by accepting his invitation to join him around the table. And he was "made known to them in the breaking of the bread." So the risen Christ can be known to us in Holy Communion.

It would be my hope that we as a congregation might begin the pattern of 'knowing Christ in the breaking of the bread' on the first Sunday of every month. It has been the experience of Christians that more constant Communion causes this Sacrament to become a more natural part of our worship together, and fosters our oneness as the Body of Christ.

Grace and peace be with you all.

## Vacation Bible School

Thanks so much to the following wonderful adults and youth who helped to make Vacation Bible School so exciting and fun:

Co-Directors: Jennifer Nifong and Kathy Glasson

### TEACHERS

Nursery:

2 year olds:

3 year olds:

4 year olds:

5 year olds:

First Grade:

Second Grade:

Third Grade:

Fourth-Sixth Grade:

Art Teacher:

Music Teacher:

Playground Helpers:

Neelam Kwatra

Louise Rollins

Doris Forman

Deborah Moore

Kathy Reedy

Patti McLendon

Martha Lynn Ballard

Jane Day

Dana Pope

Susan Grubbs

Libby Averett

Kathy Searles

Karen Bradsher

Mary Whitfield

Canada

Joan Gray

Tamela Davis

Ann Stallings

Mark Coffman,

Hunt Davis

### YOUTH HELPERS

Hilary Coman, Melinda Thumm

Scott Fedyshyn, Shannon Stucky

Eric McFall, Jessica Parnell

Heather Sewell, Merrill Davis

Adam Justice, Kelli Stucky

Tracy Long

Kevin Gray

Allen Browning, Kevin Grogan

Joey Browning

Gina Fisher, Thomas Stallings

Sherry Knight



# Durham, Duke Memorial

Continued

## A look ahead . . .

Tentative Calendar For  
August 3-August 8

MONDAY, AUGUST 3	
INSIGHTS INFORMATION DUE FOR AUGUST 14-AUGUST 30	
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out	Nurseries
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting	
NO COM MEETING	
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen, A.A.	Community Life Center
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4	
12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group	Room 241
8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A.	Community Life Center
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5	
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out	Nurseries
10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch	Whitford Hall
7:30 p.m. Bethany Bells	Handbell Room
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6	
YOUTH — OKLAHOMA TRIP — AUG. 6-AUG. 15	
12:00 p.m. Thursday Study Group	Mary Whanger's home
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room
7:30 p.m. Multiple Sclerosis Society	Community Life Center
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7	
JOY CLASS MISSION TRIP — AUG. 7-AUG. 15	
7:30 p.m. Friday Evening Study Group	Call Donna Elium (382-8228)
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A.	Community Life Center
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8	
No activities scheduled.	

## June Pledge

Budgeted	\$27,728.55	Operating budget under for year:	\$27,724.21
Received	21,498.00		
Under	6,230.55		
CCF June	\$4,752.00	Total CCF to date:	\$597,184.28

We are looking for a few good folks who:

- want to stay young
- enjoy having fun
- would like to grow in their faith
- seek fine returns on their investments and
- wish to be part of a team ministry with vivacious, lovable Christian youth!

Are you looking for someone like that, too? Then call Laurie Coffman (683-3467) for possible placement by September.

## United Methodist Happenings

**NEW YORK (UMNS)**—Multi-million-dollar relief appeals have been launched by the National and World councils of churches to minimize the impact of the drought in Africa affecting millions of people, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief expects to announce a major role in those appeals soon.

Through a combination of drought and civil war, starvation has been a problem in Eastern African countries such as the Sudan and Ethiopia, but now southern Africa is being affected.

\*\*\*

**LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (UMNS)**—A plan to enable establishment of new United Methodist congregations in Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries is showing results quickly, according to officials of the World Methodist Council.

Eight new congregations are meeting in Czechoslovakia, often in "cultural halls" formerly used by the Communist party there, and sites for additional congregations have been announced in Estonia and Latvia.

Missionary workers are on the job, each linked to a supervising minister in the United Methodist Church there.

The new congregations are linked with churches in the United States and other parts of the world.

**NASHVILLE (UMNS)**—Fund raising for the new United Methodist-related university in Africa received boosts this spring and summer from at least seven annual (regional) conferences in the United States.

Included were a \$450,000 gift from an anonymous donor in Central Pennsylvania and an additional pledge of \$50,000 toward the school's permanent endowment.

Other gifts include money for a bridge and main entryway on the campus in Zimbabwe and additional funds for scholarship and faculty.

\*\*\*

**WASHINGTON (UMNS)**—The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing prayers at public school graduation exercises drew generally favorable reactions from United Methodists contacted by the denomination's news service.

In a typical comment, the Rev. Robert A. Moore, pastor of Washington Park United Methodist Church in Providence, R.I., where the case originated, said he long has felt "uncomfortable about the use of prayer at civic events" and believes the ruling "preserves the separation of church and state in a positive way."

The Rev. Maxie Dunnam, a prominent pastor in Memphis, Tenn., called the decision "appropriate" but said he believes it fails to confront "the larger issue of how this pluralistic nation of ours can deal with the issue of religion in public places."

## Kitchen Note

Jam and Jelly jars (12 oz. or smaller) with lids are needed. Jr. size baby food jars are also welcomed. Please leave the jars in the kitchen.

— Betty Craig

## Flea Market And Silent Auction Coming Soon!!!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

MAKE A DONATION FOR THE CHOIR TODAY!



The Sanctuary Choir needs your donations of FURNITURE, HOUSEWARE, BOOKS, AND ANYTHING else we might be able to sell for our huge flea market and silent auction, August 28 and 29 in Whitford Hall. see, everyone can lend a helping hand.

Silent Auction ideas:  
antique items  
quilts and handmade goods  
a dinner party  
a free weekend at your beach house!

Storage space is available. Items may be delivered to the church during regular office hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F). If you need the items to be picked up, please call Jim Crawford at 493-1954 to arrange a suitable time.

We have not yet received too many donations. Below is a list of some suggestions for the silent auction. As you can see, everyone can lend a helping hand.

collectibles  
services (accountants, caterers, musicians, dentists, doctors, lawyers, etc.)  
Duke memorabilia  
Other ideas welcomed!!

## Day Camp

Children's Day Camp spaces are still available for July 20-July 24. Send in application forms quickly. If you've misplaced yours please contact the church office.

### Camp Scholarship

\$45 donations needed for scholarship for underprivileged children to go to Day Camp. Contact Ann 683-3467 or mail in to office — made out to Duke Memorial and marked "Scholarship — Day Camp."

## Religious Newsbriefs

**LONDON (RNS)**—Faith-healing evangelist Morris Cerullo was denounced by several disabled people and challenged by a leading physician during his recent eight-day crusade.

The controversial Mr. Cerullo, whose organization is based in San Diego, claimed thousands of miracle cures of various ailments during his meetings at the Earl's Court exhibition hall. But some disabled people were outspokenly skeptical, and the Greater London Regional Association for Disabled People staged several protests during the week of the crusade.

\*\*\*

**NEW YORK (RNS)**—The Supreme Court's recent ruling upholding the right to distribute religious literature in airports will be a boon to evangelical Christian groups, according to a lawyer for a coalition that filed a brief in the case.

"In a society that is becoming increasingly insular, finding locations where significant numbers of people can be reached with the gospel message in a short time frame becomes more and more difficult," said James M. Henderson Sr.

He filed a brief in the case on behalf of the American Tract Society, Christian Advocates Serving Evangelism, Free Speech Advocates and Concerned Women for America.

**WAKE FOREST, N.C. (RNS)**—The Association of Theological Schools has placed Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest on probation in the second such action by an accrediting agency.

The association said Southeastern needs to improve its internal evaluation procedures and general tone and asserted that trustees exercise inordinate control.

Similar concerns were raised by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools when it put the seminary on probation late last year.

\*\*\*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (Episcopal News Service)**—Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Edmond L. Browning filed a "friend of the court" brief in the Supreme Court of California recently seeking to overturn a capital punishment decision.

Although the brief did not comment on the guilt or innocence of the convicted defendant in the case, it contended that prosecutors in Alfred Sandoval's murder trial unfairly quoted or paraphrased biblical passages to bolster their call for the death penalty.

"The church finds it offensive that the state attempted to persuade a jury to impose capital punishment by invoking biblical passages," Bishop Browning said in the brief.





## Researcher Gallup finds 'saints among us'

By CYNTHIA B. ASTLE  
Associate Editor

Saints are alive and well in America, says George H. Gallup Jr., and he has the data to prove it.

Their presence, contends the eminent researcher and author, bears witness to the transforming power of the Gospel and to the work of a transcendent God in the everyday lives of humans.

These findings from a two-year study are profiled in Mr. Gallup's latest book, "The Saints Among Us," co-authored by Timothy Jones.

### 'Not deep enough'

"Surveys in religion haven't gone deep enough," Mr. Gallup told the Review. "We know very little about people's religious lives, even though their faith experience is a focal point in the lives of many people."

For the "saints" survey, the Gallup Organization asked 12 questions of 1,052 Americans. The 12 questions—intentionally written as Judeo-Christian understandings of holiness—took Mr. Gallup 10 years to refine, he said (see accompanying illustration).

The "saints among us" are those who answered all 12 questions with "strongly agree" or "agree." They made up 13 percent of the total respondents to the survey.

### Behavior questioned

The apparent saints then were asked six questions on behavior to compare their lives with those of the American public at large. Questions focused on such things as willingness to help those in need, attitudes toward people of other races, and the ability to forgive when hurt.

Mr. Gallup, an active Episcopal layman, said he wasn't surprised by the findings about saints "because I'm a Christian who believes in the power of the Gospel to transform."

However, the findings debunk many commonly held perceptions of who and what a "saint" is.

Mr. Gallup's book identifies six characteristics of the saints among us:

### God a vital part

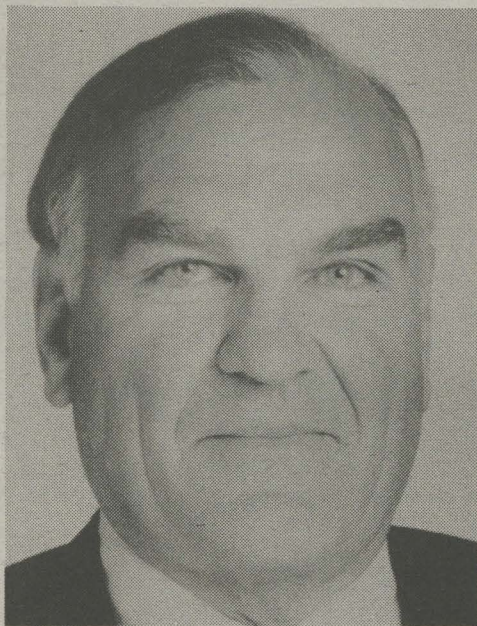
■ God forms a vital part of saints' daily lives. "Loving God is first in their lives," said Mr. Gallup. "All else flows from that."

■ Saints respond to the experience of God with exceptional commitment.

■ The outcome of saints' "journey inward" toward God is a "journey outward" to meet the world's needs.

■ Saints tend to lack racial prejudice. Eighty-four percent of those who met the survey's characteristics of sainthood said they wouldn't object to living next to a person of a different race. This figure beats the general population's responses by 20 percentage points.

■ Saints lead relatively fulfilled lives. Ninety-three percent character-



George Gallup Jr.

ized themselves as "very happy" in contrast to 86 percent of the rest of the population.

■ Saints are often among those whom society considers the "last and least." For instance, the "typical" saint is an older black woman who lives in the South and earns less than \$25,000 a year.

### Book proves timely

Mr. Gallup said the book's publication has proved particularly timely in light of the recent uprising in Los Angeles and other upheavals in American society.

"We're all searching for goodness," the researcher said. "We long for it. This book shows that such goodness is available to all through the inspiration and example of the saints. The power of their lives is felt to an extraordinary degree."

"I would like people to be inspired by their example of holiness."

## Most churches don't cultivate saints

One finding of the new book, "The Saints Among Us" (see story above), will sting many denominations:

Most churches don't do enough to cultivate saints.

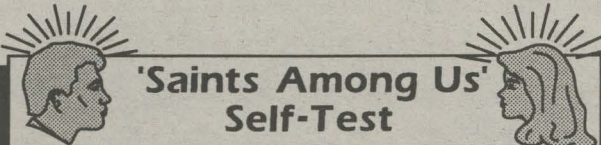
"Lots of people in church need to be evangelized," asserted researcher George H. Gallup Jr., one of the book's co-authors.

"Their prayer lives are poor. They're biblically illiterate. They come to church on Easter and they have no idea why they're there."

Mr. Gallup contends that the way for congregations to cultivate saints is to foster numerous small groups in which people can learn the ways of Christian faith from each other.

His book urges churches to foster small groups and offers discussion questions for such groups to use.

"You can't simply be a spectator in church," he said. "You must share



### 'Saints Among Us' Self-Test

Reprinted by permission of George Gallup Jr. and Morehouse Publishing.

	Strongly Agree		Strongly Disagree	Don't Know		
My religious faith is the most important influence in my life.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I seek God's will through prayer.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I believe that God loves me even though I may not always obey him.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I try hard to put my religious beliefs into practice in my relations with all people, regardless of their backgrounds.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I receive comfort and support from my religious beliefs.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I believe that Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I wish my religious beliefs were stronger.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I believe in the full authority of the Bible.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I do things I don't want to do because I believe it is the will of God.	1	2	3	4	5	0
God gives me strength, that I would not otherwise have, to forgive people who have hurt me deeply.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I try to bring others to Christ through the way I live or through discussion or prayer.	1	2	3	4	5	0
I wish my relationships with other Christians were stronger.	1	2	3	4	5	0

UMR ILLUSTRATION BY CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

If you answered "1" or "2" to all 12 "saintly" characteristics above, you fit the characteristics of sainthood described in the accompanying story.

what's on your mind and heart. You must listen to others' experiences."

Most of all, Mr. Gallup said, small groups must teach Christians how to pray.

"We pray, but we don't listen [to God]," he said. "Part of this, I think,

is because people aren't really sure there's a God who's interested in us, who can be here and now working in our lives.

"We all struggle to deepen our sense of God."

—CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

### Share your views on 'saints' test

The above "self-test" from "The Saints Among Us," a new book by George H. Gallup Jr. and Timothy Jones, offers some provocative evaluations about holiness among Christians.

"FaithLine" invites your responses to these evaluations. What—if anything—did you learn from the "saints" test? How would you put into practice what you've learned? In what ways might your congregation benefit from a discussion of the "saintly" characteristics the test poses?

Call "FaithLine" at 214-630-6499 to record your responses. Or send your responses by facsimile to 214-630-0079. Responses must be received by midnight (CDT) July 24.

A representative sample of responses will be published in a future issue of the Review.



# UMC has breakthrough in Estonian congregation

By CYNTHIA B. ASTLE  
Associate Editor

The first public expansion of church facilities in Estonia since the Baltic nation gained independence from the former Soviet Union last year is taking shape in a new United Methodist center.

The congregation of Parnu United Methodist Church broke ground Pentecost Sunday (June 8) for a \$500,000 church complex that will include a sanctuary, parsonage and community center facilities in the 60,000-population port city on the Baltic Sea.

Contributions from U.S. United Methodists helped secure the initial \$150,000 the Parnu church needed to start construction, said the Rev. Kenneth McIntosh, South Central Jurisdiction mission interpreter for the General Board of Global Ministries.

Ministries the congregation intends to operate from the six buildings in the new "Agape" Community Center include:

- ✓ Sunday school classes;
- ✓ A Christian bookstore;
- ✓ Aid for people with disabilities;
- ✓ Counseling and shelter for children from broken homes;
- ✓ A conference and concert hall;
- ✓ An office for the Estonian Bible Society.

## Media report on project

The congregation's project has drawn great interest in Estonia. Its local and national media, including newspapers, radio and television, have reported on the buildings' progress, said the Rev. Ullas Tankler, Parnu UMC's pastor.

Mr. Tankler and his family visited the United States last summer to announce the project just at the time Estonia declared its independence from what was still the U.S.S.R.

Parnu town council members have pledged to raise 10 percent of building costs, he said.

"The trust toward the [United] Methodists is growing in the town," Mr. Tankler said in a letter to the Reporter from Parnu. "I think the reason for that is that we are not making our plans in secret [as Christians were forced to do under communism]."

"We ask for advice from the specialists in the areas where we wish to give our contribution, like the work with the handicapped, or the children in crisis or the cultural affairs. All this has tremendously increased the number of good contacts between the congregation and people from 'outside'."

The recent groundbreaking was attended by about 300 townspeople and church members (see accompanying picture).

## Significant growth

A highlight of the ceremony was a Christian drama presented by Sunday school pupils. Class attendance has grown from 30 to 160 in the past three years, said Mr. Tankler.

Although the Parnu congregation officially numbers less than 100, support



from the United States helps it serve a wide constituency among its neighbors, the pastor added.

In addition to starting construction on its buildings, the Parnu church began a radio ministry last month, Mr. Tankler indicated.

"Local radio is a completely new thing for our town," he wrote. "We are working toward having a regular time there right from the beginning."

The church also hopes to have a television ministry in the near future.

Parnu United Methodists recently distributed food gifts sent by U.S. United Methodists through the United Methodist Committee on Relief. They gave boxes of food to families in the neighborhood of the new church site.

"This is why we as God's people are here: for others," Mr. Tankler wrote.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REV. ULLAS TANKLER

**PARNU, Estonia**—The Rev. Olav Parnamets, United Methodist superintendent of Estonia, turns a spadeful of earth to signify the start of construction for facilities for the Parnu United Methodist Church. The Rev. Ullas Tankler, pastor of the Parnu congregation, stands behind him.

"We want to share what the Lord has given us. We want to proclaim His good news and serve people among whom we live in the way He served."

Because of the uncertainty of the Estonian economic situation, contributions for the Parnu church are administered in Helsinki, Finland, by United Methodist Bishop Hans Vaxby

(Northern Europe Area). Finland and Estonia are 50 miles apart across the Gulf of Finland.

Contributions to aid construction of the Parnu United Methodist Church and Agape Community Center may be sent via annual conference treasurers to Advance Special Project No. 115362-AN.



BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES PHOTO BY JOHN C. GOODWIN

## Godspeed to the Ukraine

**NEW YORK**—Members of the Morristown (N.J.) United Methodist Church worship together in John F. Kennedy Airport before departing for Moscow, Russia, en route to a two-week mission stay with families in Kerch, Ukraine. Among the 36 were (from left) Morristown UMC's pastor, the Rev. James White; Tracy Gilris, Stephen Pepe, Jamie Kovacs; youth minister Jeffrey Markay; and the Rev. Patricia Brown, mission evangelism director for the General Board of Global Ministries. A similar exchange will take place in August when a Kerch group visits Morristown.



# 'Well-connected' congregations flourishing

By CYNTHIA B. ASTLE  
Associate Editor

Uncertain politics in eastern Europe haven't deterred the enthusiasm of U.S. United Methodists for the three-month-old "Connecting Congregations" program sponsored by the World Methodist Council.

In fact, if your congregation wants to get "connected" with a fledgling European congregation, you may have to wait in line, says the Rev. H. Eddie Fox of Nashville, the council's World Evangelism Director.

## Fellowship and mission

Initially the program is linking U.S. congregations with eastern European United Methodist churches in an ongoing program of fellowship. These can include exchanges of correspondence and visits; mission in eastern Europe and financial support for fledgling congregations in Europe.

The program's goal is to provide a worldwide network linking congregations among the 68 Methodist denominations—to-talling 54 million members—which are members of the council, said Dr. Fox.

Eight congregations were started in Czechoslovakia in the first phase of the program announced in late March by Dr. Fox and United Methodist Bishop Heinrich Bolleter (Central and Southern Europe Area).

Sites for the eight congregations were identified by Czechoslovakian United Methodist leaders. Ironically, four are near Prague, the Czech capital, while the other four are near Bratislava, the Slovak capital. This means the newly connected congregations may be separated internationally in the near future if the proposed partition of Czechoslovakia takes place.

Missionary workers—mostly in their 20s—who are assigned to lead

the new congregations have come from existing United Methodist churches in Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Fox visited the new congregations in June. He said many of them worship in local cultural halls which were formerly meeting places for the Communist Party. One fellowship meets in a railway station.

Attendance ranges from 10 to 40.

## Members age 15 to 27

The newest Czech congregation, formed in June in Zdar, has a congregation ranging in age from 15 to 27.

The Zdar congregation's leader, Ladislav Kukla, told Dr. Fox: "God has protected all of us and now we are serving God."

Meanwhile, sites for new "connecting congregations" in two Baltic countries—one in Karsa, Estonia, the other in Riga, Latvia—were announced recently by the Rev. Olav Parnamets, United Methodist superintendent of the Baltic area.

*Information on the "Connecting Congregations" program is available from the Rev. H. Eddie Fox, World Evangelism Director, 1008 19th Ave. S., Nashville, Tenn. 37212.*

## 'Connecting Congregations' makes an impact

"Connecting Congregations" (see related story above) made an impact in early June at a regional event in Herrnhut, Germany.

This was to train indigenous evangelists for eastern European countries.

Nearly 80 evangelists—some beginners, others veterans—from eastern Europe, the United States and Brazil participated. Classes were conducted in three languages to meet communication needs.

The event, one of 20 such world-re-

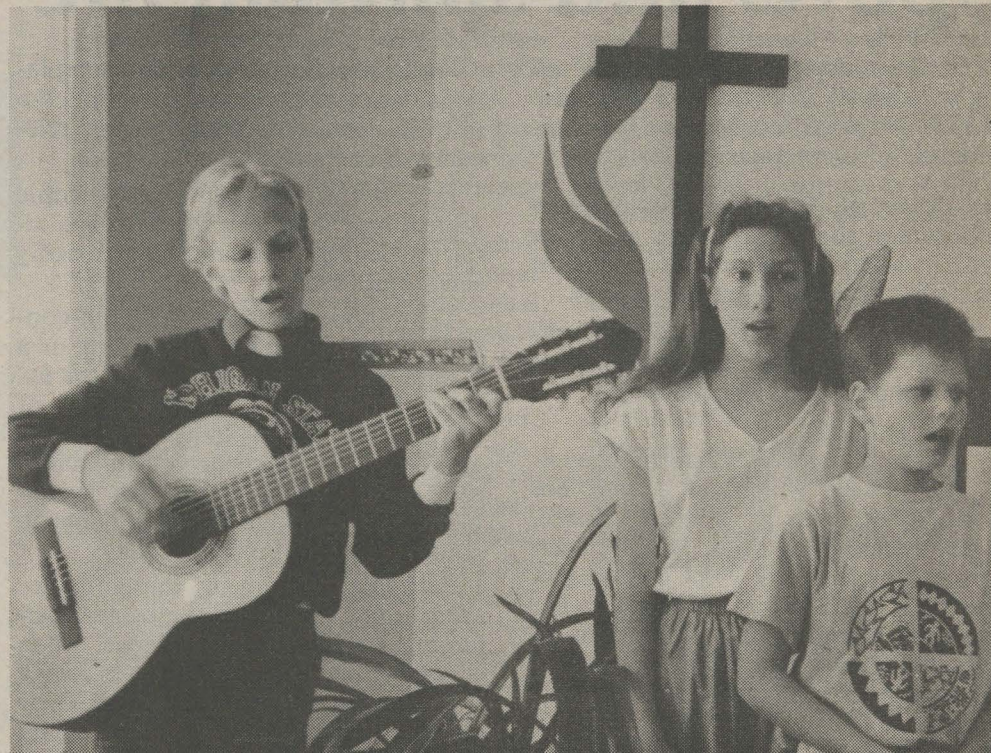


PHOTO COURTESY OF H. EDDIE FOX, WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL

**JIHLAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA**—A youth choir at Jihlava United Methodist Church, a "connected congregation," indicates the predominantly young membership of Czechoslovakian United Methodists. The Jihlava congregation provided two missionary workers now leading new United Methodist churches in Czechoslovakia.

gion evangelism schools anticipated over the next five years, was sponsored by the World Methodist Evangelism Institute.

The institute is a joint endeavor of the World Methodist Council and United Methodist-related Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta.

The Rev. George E. Morris, director of the institute, said the newly assigned Czechoslovakian missionary workers were "a powerful presence" in

the training sessions on establishing new congregations.

Herrnhut holds a special place in Methodist history. It was the site of a Moravian congregation visited by John Wesley shortly after his "heart-warming" experience at Aldersgate in 1738.

The Rev. H. Eddie Fox, World Evangelism Director for the council, said the site's historic significance was a key factor in its selection as a training locale.

—CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

## Faith connections

Compiled from news and staff reports

**NO NEW AREA:** The South Central jurisdictional conference will not consider creating a new episcopal area during its 1992 sessions, as reported in the July 3 Review. Rather the conference will be asked to create a task force to recommend in 1996 whether a new area should be created. The four annual conferences in Missouri and Kansas are asking for the study. The Review regrets the error.

**IMAGES OK:** Female images should be used for God to give a more balanced understanding of the deity and to avoid marginalizing women, according to a report adopted recently by the British Methodist Conference. "If the use of female imagery is disallowed we are in effect saying that God may in principle be imaged in terms of every aspect of creation except the human female," the report said. "This position we believe to be intolerable." At the same time, the document cautioned that "in no way . . . do we wish to bully those who cannot bring themselves to using such language."

**PRACTICE OPPOSED:** Medical practices at a merged United Methodist-Roman Catholic hospital in Kansas have drawn strong objection from United Methodism's Kansas West Annual

Conference. Before the merger of Hadley Medical Center and St. Anthony's Hospital, women could have tubal ligations performed in conjunction with Caesarean sections or other surgery. Now such a procedure requires a review by the Catholic-dominated ethics committee. **Marcia Bannister**, a United Methodist from Hays, Kan., said, "It's not right to impose a specific religious and ethical philosophy on people requesting medical care."

**MAJOR DROUGHT APPEAL:** Efforts have begun to minimize the impact of a drought in 12 African countries affecting millions of people. Multi-million-dollar appeals have been launched by both the World Council of Churches and National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. According to **Willis Logan**, director of the NCC's Africa office, the goal is to avoid the level of widespread starvation that occurred in Ethiopia in the 1980s. The new twist is the drought affecting southern Africa. "The very countries that in the past have been food-exporting countries are experiencing drought themselves," said Mr. Logan. The United Methodist Committee on Relief, already collecting donations through **Emergency Appeal No. 101250-4**, expects to announce a major

African drought campaign in July.

**MISSION COORDINATOR:** The Rev. **R. Bruce Weaver**, interim associate general secretary of the United Methodist Committee on Relief, has been named coordinator of mission in the Commonwealth of Independent States. He will coordinate church development, evangelism, Christian education, humanitarian assistance and funding opportunities in the former Soviet Union. A longtime pastor and district superintendent in the North Texas conference, Dr. Weaver will also work with Bishop **Ruediger Minor**, appointed by the Council of Bishops as episcopal supervisor in the region. For administrative purposes Dr. Weaver will be a special assistant to the Rev. Robert Harman, chief executive of the General Board of Global Ministries World Division.

**STEWARDSHIP FOCUS:** "Equipping annual conference and district stewardship leaders" will be the focus for the 1992 National Association of Stewardship Leaders' Conference Sept. 14-27 in Nashville. More information is available from the Section on Stewardship, General Board of Discipleship, P.O. Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202-0840.





## Editorial

# Sports and spiritual life

*"Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we [Christians] an imperishable one" (1 Corinthians 9:23).*

The apostle Paul's analogy between sports and the spiritual life offers an insight worth pondering on the eve of the 1992 summer Olympics Games.

Unfortunately, the image of "self-control" with respect to modern athletics is tarnished in recent times.

Two examples:

The first involves performance-enhancing drugs which, of course, are banned for Olympic athletes. Hence, when Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was stripped of his 1988 gold medal after testing positive for steroids, the scandal skewed public perceptions of the Olympics. Cynics were prompt to wonder how many athletes do NOT get caught.

The second example relates to concerns voiced about the contemporary link between money and athletics. Case in point: the recent failure of a U.S. decathlete to qualify for this year's Olympics. Talk-show hosts were bombarded by callers laying the blame, fairly or not, on "financial distractions" stemming from his ties to a well-known shoe company's ad campaign featuring the athlete and his main competitor.

We believe the reality of such temptations facing today's athletes—and the rest of us!—gives 20th-Century relevance to St. Paul's point:

Self-control, whether by an Olympic athlete or a follower of Christ, is a vital, exceedingly demanding but richly rewarding virtue.

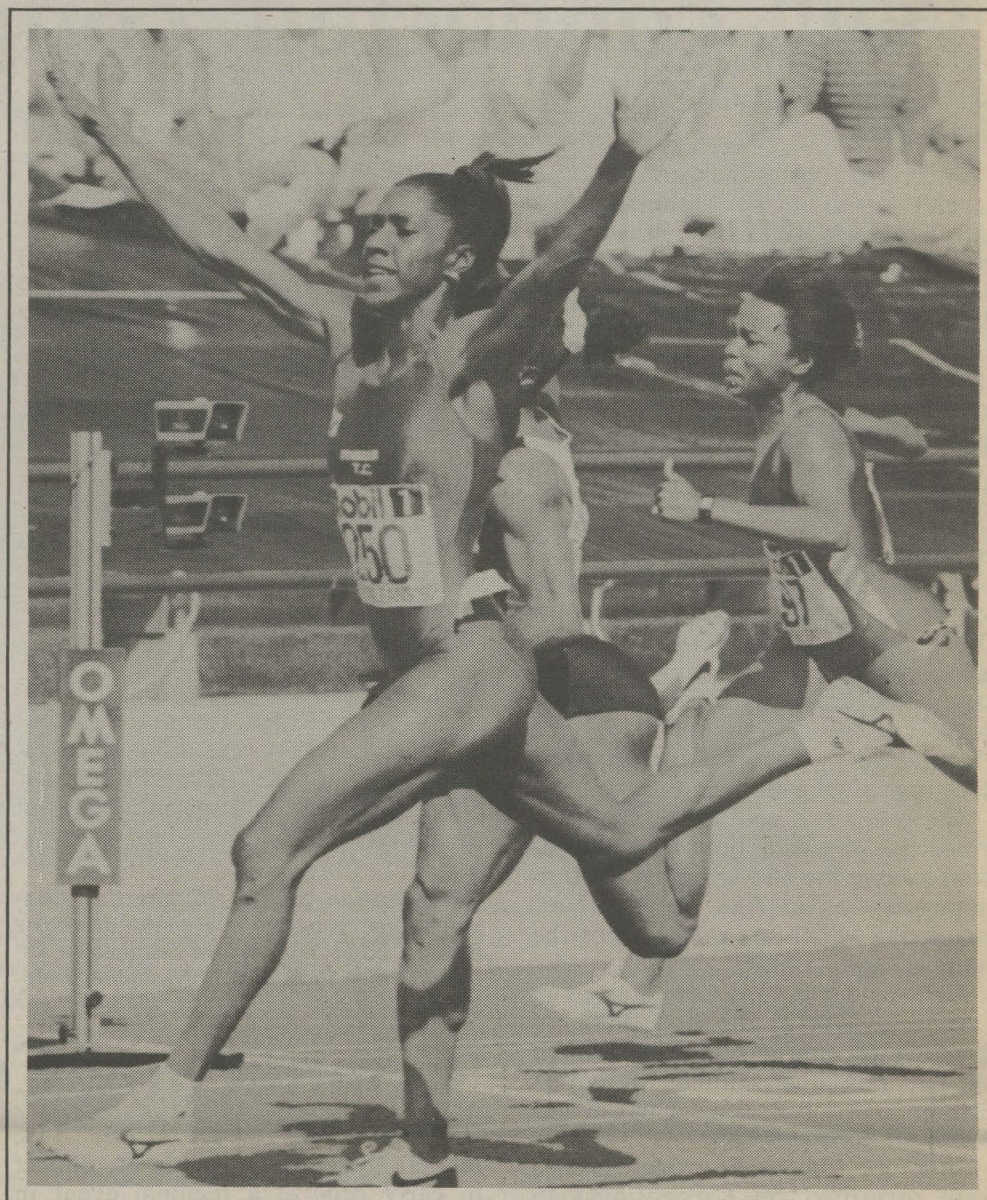
Temptations to stray from self-control, whether in physical training or a disciplined moral life, have always existed. But so-called "advantages" of the modern world—mass production and relatively inexpensive availability of body-changing drugs, for example—have introduced enticements to stray unknown in biblical times.

Particularly inspiring, therefore, are those times when one overcomes such temptations and excels. Hence, when superbly conditioned athletes wave from the Olympic victors' stand, their elation points beyond the immediate moment.

At a deeper level, their achievement resonates with the spirit in each of us that aspires, often against enormous odds, to excellence: to do and to be our very best—spiritually, morally and physically.

Take time, therefore, to watch at least some of the Olympic Games on television this summer. They're certain to be packed with life's drama, ranging from joy to despair.

If you're perceptive, you just might glimpse via the athletes' strain for victory—over themselves as much as any opponent—a vision of the eternal victory promised those who faithfully "run the race" set before us as followers of Christ.



Sprinter Gwen Torrence celebrates winning the women's 100 meter sprint at the recent Olympic Trials. The self-control required to "win," whether as an Olympic athlete or a follower of Christ, is a vital, exceedingly demanding but richly rewarding virtue. Unfortunately, the biblical image of "self-control" with respect to modern athletics is tarnished in recent times.



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## Letters to the Editor

# Are we first United Methodist church?

Congratulations to the Holiday Park UMC in Pittsburgh, Pa., on their 25th anniversary on Oct. 1, 1992 (see Review, July 3).

However, the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Tupper Plains, Ohio, predates Holiday Park UMC by several weeks.

The former Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist congregations held their first combined service on July 7, 1968, with formal union occurring on Sept. 8, 1968, when the district superintendents of the former EUB and Methodist churches clasped hands in symbolic union to announce the formation of the new St. Paul United Methodist Church.

I was privileged to serve as pastor of St. Paul from 1976 to 1983. However, I learned that St. Paul was not the first "United Methodist Church."

One of St. Paul's charter members (now deceased) told me that Dr. Harold Dutt told him that the Peace United Methodist church in Columbus, Ohio was the first, at least in the West Ohio Conference.

Richard W. Thomas  
Cridersville, Ohio

### Editorial hit, campaign praised

I must take exception to the June 19 editorial headlined, "How to get from 'to' to 'into'."

Primarily, you will never get them "into" unless you first get them "to," a point virtually ignored.

Granted, you want your parishioners to move further into and grow, but you have to begin where they are—outside the doors of the institutional church.

Luther and the German pietists recognized that there was an "ecclesiola in ecclesia"—a "little church in the big church." However, even Luther saw the need to get folks into the larger church.

Psalm 34:8 says, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good." As I understand it, the RIAL campaign is simply seeking to have outsiders "taste" the church.

Hats off to RIAL's "Invite A Friend" campaign! It is not an end-all, but it certainly a start in the right direction.

Charles Robert Bruce  
St. Cloud, Florida

### Views of Cuba criticized

I would like to begin by giving

thanks to the Lord and to you for the opportunity to share my views as a young Christian and a patriotic Cuban.

I believe that as Christians we have had to suffer much more, because we know Cubans have been deprived of the basic freedom of religion and worship of God. We know of many churches and schools that were closed and taken over. We know of many Christians that were sentenced to death because of their religious beliefs and speaking out about them.

It seems to be that we have forgotten these events and I was outraged to read articles in your newspaper that give a positive picture of the situation Cuba, including the story headlined "Growing Cuban church, a great sign of hope" in the June 5 issue.

We should never forget the many tears shed by mothers whose sons were executed because of their beliefs.

We as Cubans have had to suffer a difficult exile in this beautiful and free country, yearning to see our Cuba free. We thank the Lord every day for the opportunity to live in a free country.

Ibis Campos  
Wellington, Florida



Here I Stand

Homosexual issue: Less politics, more ministry

By ROBERT L. KUYPER

Doing yard work on my day off, I just happened to come into the house where I could hear the telephone ring.

The caller was a colleague who told me that a male prostitute who wanted to stop his homosexual behavior had come to him for counseling. He asked me what he should do to minister to this man.

We quickly determined that the prostitute's basic problem was a drug addiction which caused him to sell his body to get money to pay for drugs. We agreed my colleague should refer his visitor to a drug treatment program.

This is one example of the many real-life ministry questions I have encountered as a United Methodist pastor and the national coordinator for the "Transforming Congregations" program, which seeks to assist homosexual people who want to change.

Report being made available

Some of these real-life ministry questions are mentioned in the report of the denominationwide Committee

"Here I Stand" is a forum through which Review readers may express opinions and concerns about issues facing the church. The Rev. Robert L. Kuyper is minister of Trinity United Methodist Church in Bakersfield, Calif. (California-Nevada Annual Conference).



Any reader may submit an article for consideration (two typed, double-spaced pages maximum length) to "Here I Stand," United Methodist Review, P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, Texas 75266-0275.

to Study Homosexuality. This report was received by the 1992 General Conference and is being made available to local congregations for study.

The report points out that ministry with homosexual people differs according to one's theological perspective on the acceptability of homosexual practice.

If one believes that homosexual practice can be appropriate within the context of a committed relationship, one's

ministry is more likely to take the form of assisting gay men and lesbians to accept their orientation.

However, if one believes, as I do, that homosexual practice is incompatible with Christian faith, then one's ministry must take another form.

I think the General Conference gave clear direction on what form United Methodist ministry with homosexual people ought to take when delegates amended one of the recommendations in the homosexuality study report.

The amended recommendation, adopted by a vote of 783 to 159, reads: "We recommend the development of resources consistent with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, which support ministry to and with homosexual persons by individuals, groups, local churches, annual conferences and the general church with the understanding that these resources will reflect diversities of informed viewpoint."

This statement calls us to minister in ways consistent with our Social Principles, which say: "Homosexual persons are individuals of sacred

worth . . . although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality. . ."

So far the debate over homosexuality has been one of politics, being for or against the practice of homosexuality. Now the discussion turns to the issue raised in the amended recommendation: How do we minister to people?

He gave ministry answer

When the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus seeking to find out if Jesus was the messiah, Jesus did not give them a political answer. He did not give them the vote of the Sanhedrin or the number of messianic synagogues. Rather, he gave them a ministry answer, pointing to ministry that was being done.

If we are to follow our Lord, we too will seek ministry answers.

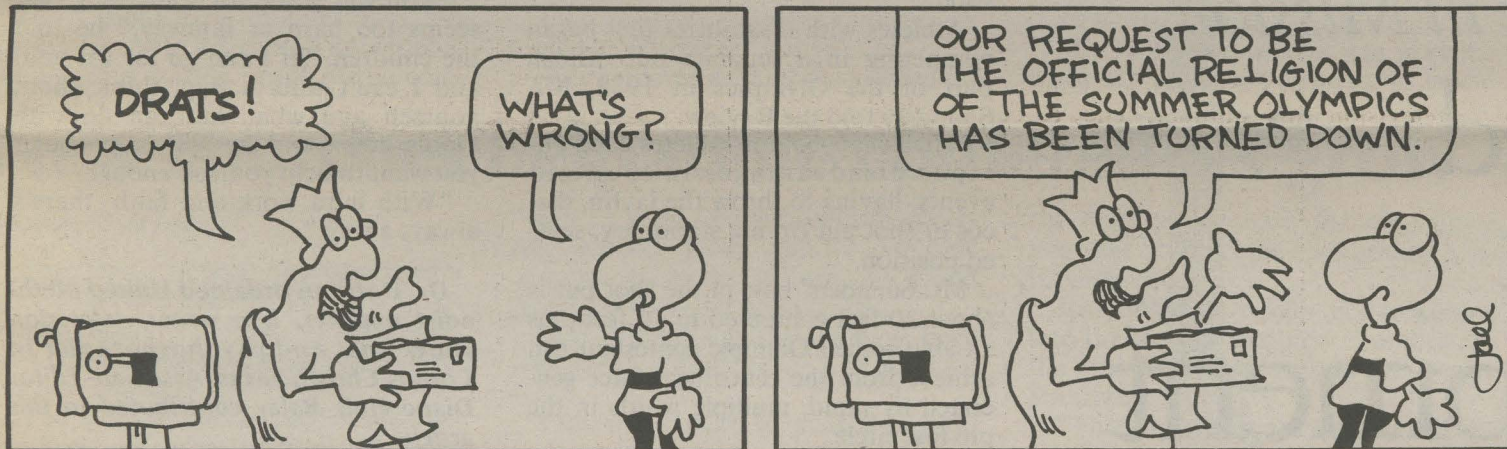
When the prodigal son returned home, he was faced with a loving father and a demanding, legalistic older brother. That is the choice before The United Methodist Church. I pray that we will choose the ministry of the loving father.

What others are saying

"... We are often unwilling to face [racism] responsibly because it can be messy and painful. . . We must learn each other's languages, share each other's space, participate in each other's lives even as God participated in the pain of all human life through Christ the incarnate son of God. Only then will we be working together to let . . . God's Kingdom of peace and justice reign."

—The Rev. John Farley, Los Angeles, Calif.

Pontius' Puddle



Faithfully yours

Thanking God for those who stay, those who go

Some stay. Some go.

I worshiped on a recent Sunday morning in New York City with some who have chosen to stay.

The Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian U.S.A.) nestles between two much taller buildings scarcely a bagel's throw from the United Nations building.



Arriving a few minutes late for the 11 o'clock worship service, I was surprised at how few people were there—scarcely more than 25—in a sanctuary that could seat 250.

Suspicion confirmed

A visit afterwards with a well-dressed 40ish man confirmed my suspicion: This was a struggling congregation, a downtown church with an aging membership. As recently as a few years ago, he said, they weren't even sure that they could "make it."

The turning point came when they realized that, small as they were, they had a mission: outreach to the vast homeless population of New York City.

He said his church "can't solve the problem by ourselves, but we can join with others who are working on it and make a difference," primarily as advocates and caregivers.

"We're Christians," he said, fire in his eyes. "We're here to stay."

Some stay. Some go. Two days later, I worshiped in the same city with some who have chosen to go.

On a balmy Tuesday evening in lower Manhattan—a 15-minute subway ride from the Presbyterians—36 people from the Morristown (N.J.) United Methodist Church gathered with a handful of others at the historic John Street UMC.

Founded in 1766, John Street claims to be the "oldest Methodist society in America." Like the Church of the Covenant, it's inconspicuous, al-

most hidden from the glitz of nearby Broadway by a clutter of small shops, offices and warehouses.

Something big welled up

This night, though, the sound and feel of something big welled up inside the walls of venerable old John Street. Pilgrim-like, the people from Morristown had come there to touch their tradition and draw strength, courage and blessing from the spirit of Methodists past.

They would need all the spiritual gifts they could get because they were about to embark on a long and uncertain journey. In just a few days, they would be more than 5,000 miles away, in the former Soviet republic of Ukraine. There they would meet new friends and, in ways yet to be learned, share the love of Jesus Christ.

"The very rafters of this place echo in witness to mission!" boomed the John Street pastor, the Rev. James R. McGraw.

Then Mr. McGraw quoted the fa-

ther of American Methodism, Francis Asbury, also once a preacher at John Street, as Asbury prepared to leave England for America:

"Whither am I going? To the new world. What to do? To gain honor? No, if I know my own heart. I am going to live to God, and to bring others so to do."

Braced by such reminders of their spiritual past and by Holy Communion's soul food for the journey ahead, the Morristown pilgrims went out into the New York night.

As they did, I looked into the eyes of the youngest pilgrim, nine-year-old Stephen Pepe. I saw there brightness enough to outshine Broadway and light the way to Ukraine and back.

They were, I thought to myself, eyes that said: "We're Christians. We're here to go."

Some stay. Some go. I thanked God for both.

—STEPHEN L. SWECKER  
Mr. Swecker is the Review's Faith Forum page editor.





## Strength, faith propel Olympic athlete

By JAMES EDWARD DOTY

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—When wheelchair-bound Kevin Saunders says, "I'm going for the gold in Barcelona!" his listeners don't scoff.

Mr. Saunders, a member of First United Methodist Church in Corpus Christi, was named Best All-Around Wheelchair Athlete in the World in 1990 when he won the wheelchair pentathlon at the World Track and Field Event in the Netherlands.

The multi-event athlete has won several world competitions since that time, including winning the pentathlon world championship two years in a row in the World Wheelchair Games.

As the pentathlon world record holder, he is favored to bring home the gold from the Olympic Games in Barcelona.

### Must make the team

First he must survive the Olympic trials—make the U.S. team—in Salt Lake City in mid-July. No one expects him to be thrown for a loss, but he's no stranger to unexpected disaster.

In 1981, as a grain inspector for the

U.S. Department of Agriculture, he was thrown 300 feet through the air in a grain elevator explosion.

The former college athlete was hospitalized for a year.

"Whereas most people bend at the waist, my body was bent at the chest," he explains. He lost the use of his legs.

"While I was in the hospital I determined I would keep up my athletic future—how, I didn't know," he continued.

"But my farm upbringing in Downs, Kan., combined with my religious training in The United Methodist Church motivated me not to give up without a fight."

So he fought. By 1984, when he began wheelchair competitions, he was doing 250 chin-ups a day, bench pressing over 300 pounds and reaching a top speed of 20.4 miles per hour in his self-propelled racing wheelchair.

### Effort rewarded

His persistence paid off. In the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea, he won the bronze (third place) medal for the wheelchair pentathlon. This competition consists of three field events—discus, javelin and shot put—and two races, one at 200 meters, the other at 1500.

Athletes with disabilities first began competing in a separate but official part of the Olympics in 1988, Mr. Saunders told the Review.

Wheelchair-bound athletes face obvious disadvantages in the field events, having to throw the javelin, discus or shot put from a stationary, seated position.

Mr. Saunders' best in the shot put is about 20 feet compared to 70 feet-plus an able-bodied Olympic contestant can achieve from the centrifugal force generated by rapid, multiple whirls in the pre-toss circle.

## Earth Summit yields urgency

By LINDA BLOOM  
United Methodist News Service

United Methodists came back from the recent Earth Summit in Brazil expressing a sense of urgency.

Jaydee Hanson, a United Methodist General Board of Church and Society executive, agrees that the world does not have the luxury of another 20 years to deal with environmental problems. He calls the event "the first round in our peace treaty with the earth."

Mr. Hanson said it was significant that few nations blocked advancement on the environment and development issues and that many were willing to make major financial contributions toward that effort.

Actual agreements reached—some legally binding and some not—included:

- ✓ A biodiversity treaty requiring inventories and plans for plants and wildlife;
- ✓ A treaty curbing emissions of gases thought to contribute to global warming;
- ✓ A declaration emphasizing environmental protection as a part of economic development;
- ✓ Agenda 21, a blueprint to clean up the global environment.

In track events, however, the wheelchair athlete can hand-turn his wheels almost as fast as a runner can pump his legs. Mr. Saunders' personal best at 1500 meters (3 minutes, 44 seconds) is only seconds behind the best time of an able-bodied Olympic medalist.

### Encouragement required

Mr. Saunders said athletes with disabilities need massive encouragement, especially when their situation appears too hopeless to keep on trying.

To help these athletes, he started a fund with the Corpus Christi Coastal Bend Community Foundation called "Wheelchair Success Fund."

Mr. Saunders, who trains four hours a day, has been asked if he can keep up the pace of world class competition.

"I'm sure I'm stronger than I was in 1988 in Korea," he said. "I have more endurance and a lot more skill. I have spent many hours with the help of Kansas State University developing a new and better chair for Barcelona."

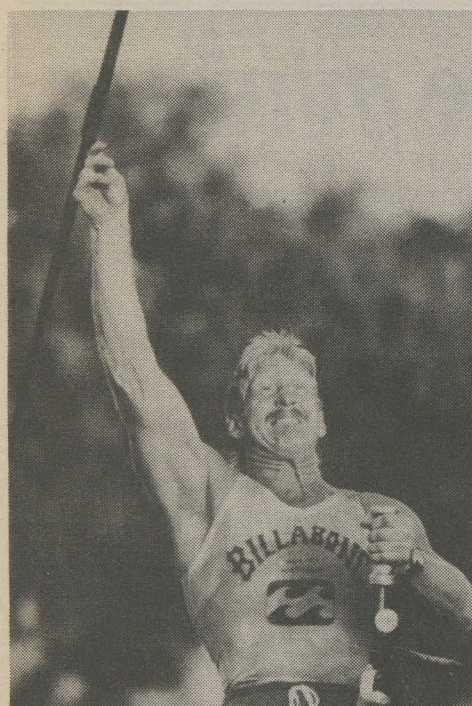
When he is not competing, Mr. Saunders is in church every Sunday.

In a recent children's sermon, surrounded by some 70 children, he told about his accident and his desire to win the Olympic gold.

"You can reach for something that seems too hard or faraway," he told the children. "If I can go for the gold and I can't walk a step, think about yourself and what you can do with God's help. And he will help you if you want to help yourself enough."

"With hard work and faith, there's always a way."

*Dr. Doty, an ordained United Methodist minister, is a writer, television show host and psychotherapist in Corpus Christi, Texas. Associate Editor Diane Huie Balay contributed to this article.*



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas—Kevin Saunders worked persistently to overcome the physical consequences of the 1981 accident that put him in a wheelchair. He worked so hard, in fact, that he now competes in world-class athletic events like the Olympics.

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# 'Fish Tales' help pastor 'land' a new church

By DIANE HUIE BALAY  
Associate Editor

POTTSBORO, Texas—"It was like being appointed to serve Paradise," the Rev. Virgie Holbrook told the Review in all seriousness.

In June 1991, entering her final year at United Methodist-related Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, Ms. Holbrook, 38, was assigned to start a church in Pottsboro, population 893.

Today the Lakeway United Methodist congregation of 118 members and 37 preparatory members meets in a leased commercial building only a couple of miles from Lake Texoma, the sprawling man-made lake which washed over the Oklahoma/Texas border. Forty-seven joined via baptism.

How the congregation (80 percent of them previously unchurched) went from zero to an average attendance of 125 is literally a fish tale.

Fish Tales, as they're called here, originated in the home of Mike and Wendy Baker, now active members of the congregation. They invited about a dozen friends over to hear Ms. Holbrook talk about starting a new church.

## Agreed to started

The petite brunette pastor said she talked about five minutes and the group agreed to get started immediately, focusing on the needs of the com-



STAFF PHOTO BY DIANE HUIE BALAY

**POTTSBORO, Texas—Everyone gets a hug from "Pastor Virgie" at the new Lakeway United Methodist Church.**

munity and a children's ministry.

They began by holding weekly meetings called "Fish Tales" on the beach at Lake Texoma.

"We had stories, songs, games and crafts for the whole family," Ms. Holbrook said.

The church's earliest members joined at the Bakers' house.

"We gathered around the kitchen ta-

ble, served communion and received our first members," Ms. Holbrook recalled.

Baptisms were held beside the lake. "The lake draws us together," she said. "The congregation—really a 'come as you are' group—is made up of people who love the lake."

And she credits the lake lovers with the growth of the church.

"There are so many people with extraordinary gifts in this church who were absolutely essential to what has happened here," she said. These gifts, some newly discovered by the members themselves, included teaching, organizational, musical and administrative skills.

At summer's end, a building had to be found, she continued. After much persistence, the congregation rented a former resort sales building that was being used for storage.

"We had nothing but an empty building, but we knew we had to have Sunday school, so we just did it," the energetic pastor said.

"Virgie is like a TV star," said Steve Robinson, a parishioner, "you know, the 'Energizer' rabbit who 'keeps on going?'"

## A first encounter

Mr. Robinson said he was nervous when Ms. Holbrook came to his house

*"She didn't tell me I was going to hell if I didn't come to church. She just made me feel I was welcome."*

—Steve Robinson

to talk about joining the church.

"But she didn't tell me I was going to hell if I didn't come to church," he said. "She just made me feel I was welcome."

Apparently many people felt welcome because 153 attended the first Sunday morning worship service in the rented building Dec. 1.

On a Sunday morning in June, children overflowed the Sunday school rooms and spilled out onto the playground.

Worshippers gathered under ceiling fans in the sanctuary made light and airy by two glass walls that overlook a broad expanse of green lawn and dense trees.

A father and his two sons were baptized.

## Children participate

Children, always encouraged to participate in the service, served as ushers as well as acolytes, their legs tan under their shorts or their white robes.

After worship, the entire congregation, young and old, lined up for a big hug from "Virgie."

The Holbrook family—Pastor Virgie, husband Gregg and a son and daughter—have moved to Pottsboro. They are submerged in the life of an active congregation: vacation Bible school is in full swing, and plans are being made for the second annual "Loaves and Fishes for 5,000" fish fry for the entire community.

But a cloud looms on this sunny picture. The congregation's rented building has been sold, and they have 30 days from closing to vacate the property.

"So we may soon have 150 homeless worshippers," Ms. Holbrook said. "But," she continued, brushing away the cloud, "we've outgrown that building anyway."

# New churches help some conferences grow

## Review Staff Special

The North Texas Annual Conference is not the only one among the denomination's 72 regional bodies in this country enjoying success in starting new churches.

The Central Texas conference has made church extension a priority since 1980. The Rev. Edward H. Otwell, director, told the Review that this conference has started, reopened, revitalized or relocated 27 churches—18 of which are new congregations.

"Our conference has led [U.S.] United Methodism," Dr. Otwell said,

"with 13 years of continuous membership growth. If we remove our new churches from the picture, we would be like many other conferences.

These new congregations have been Hispanic, Tonganese, Korean and white.

"The first church we started in 1980 under the conferencewide emphasis, Genesis United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, now has more than 1,400 members," he continued.

More than 1,000 miles across the Sunbelt from the Dallas-Fort Worth areas, the church's Desert Southwest conference has started 24 churches in

the eight years since this conference was split off from the California-Pacific conference.

Joel Huffman, conference treasurer, told the Review that new churches are the number one priority of the Desert Southwest.

"Those churches are what have kept conference membership in positive numbers over the years," he said.

"By the end of the century some of these churches will be phenomenal churches," he continued, "with 2,000 members or more."

—DIANE HUIE BALAY

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# Victims in three states get United Methodist aid

By DENISE JOHNSON STOVALL  
Associate Editor

Natural disasters in California, Texas and Minnesota presented opportunities for ministry and mission last month as United Methodists rallied to assist victims of earthquakes and tornados.

In the California-Pacific Annual Conference, the Rev. Vernon L. Story was reviewing the liturgy for his final service of worship at Arlington United Methodist Church in Riverside Calif., when one of two earthquakes "shook the church."

"Despite the fact that some people were responding to the television message to stay at home, people still came to church," he said. "They just rearranged themselves away from the stained glass windows."

Mr. Story was scheduled to move to his new appointment at Community United Methodist Church in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., some 10 miles from the epicenter, but the two earthquakes—registering 7.4 and 6.5 on the Richter scale—interrupted his "moving day."

"That's one advantage of the itineracy system," he said with a laugh. "We had most of our things in boxes for the move, so few things were damaged during the earthquake."

In the Northwest Texas Annual Conference, the Rev. Danny Fleming, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Fritch, Texas, gave post-disaster leadership to victims of a tornado.

At least 200 homes were damaged in the town, 35 miles northeast of Amarillo, when a tornado swept through the community.

The Rev. B. Jo Carr, Pampa District superintendent, told the Review that Mr. Fleming's congregation was fixing sandwiches for the hungry when the Red Cross arrived.

"They've been doing the thousand little things that need to be done, like taking someone's food out of the freezer while the home is being repaired to getting people places to live until their house can be cleared," she said.

When a June tornado hit southwest Minnesota,

rescue efforts were led by United Methodists from Slayton and Lake Wilson United Methodist churches.

Maynard Miller, Southwest district lay leader for the Minnesota conference, said the tornado leveled at least 51 residences in Chandler and 26 homes in Lake Wilson.

He helped coordinate thousands of volunteers from several denominations helping in cleanup efforts.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief released \$5,200 to the Minnesota Annual Conference for

disaster relief to tornado victims.

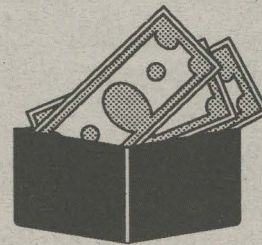
Mr. Miller told the Review that six United Methodist churches have joined an inter-faith response program and have started the Southwest District Minnesota Disaster Relief Fund.

"The outpouring of Christian love and concern has been outstanding," said Mr. Miller. "It has been very much appreciated by these people that have had these losses."

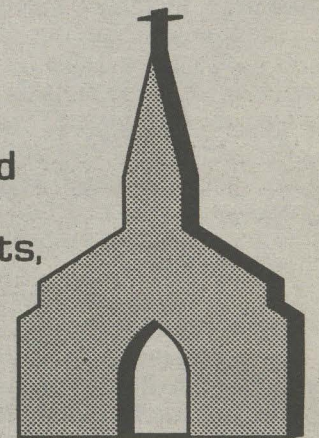
## Reporter Snapshot

In 1993...

a median\* 125-member congregation will be asked to pay about \$1,380 in churchwide apportionments, up \$20 from 1992...



or about \$11 per member.



\* one half of all congregations have more members, one half have fewer

  
\$475.1 million budgeted for 1993-1996 churchwide activities

\$113.9 million in 1993  
\$116.9 million in 1994  
\$120.4 million in 1995  
\$123.9 million in 1996  
\$475.1 4-year total

This church will be asked to contribute about:  
\$1380, or \$11.03 per member in 1993  
\$1417, or \$11.34 per member in 1994  
\$1457, or \$11.65 per member in 1995  
\$1501, or \$12.00 per member in 1996  
\$5755, or \$46.02/member over 4 years

UMR ILLUSTRATION BY DEBRA McKNIGHT

### CLASSIFIED

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TWO STAFF MEMBERS NEEDED! Growing 700-member Church is seeking a Visitation/Christian Education Minister, and a Youth Ministries Director. Prefer an ordained Minister for Visitation/Education position. Both positions are building programs, experience necessary. Would consider husband/wife team. Salary commensurate with background. Send resume to Rev. Ken Miller, Christ United Methodist Church, 1475 Center Road, Venice, FL 34292.

ENERGETIC, FULL-TIME YOUTH Director desired at St. Paul's UMC, Melbourne, Florida, beginning mid August. Send resume to: SPR Committee, 1591 Highland Avenue, 32937. (407) 254-6363.

MUSIC DIRECTOR, FULL PROGRAM. Average seasonal worship attendance 1,000 plus. Organist position also available. First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 809, Fort Myers, FL 33902, (813) 332-1152.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Henderson Settlement, a mission agency related to the General Board of Global Ministries and Red Bird Missionary Conference, Frakes, KY. Send resume to: Allen Lewis, P.O. Box 6, Pineville, KY 40977-0006. Deadline: September 1, 1992.

ALLEN ORGAN, MODEL #125, excellent condition, self contained speaker, AGO console, Midi capable, valued at \$5,000.00. Will sell for \$4,000.00. External speakers available. Contact: Tim MacGowan (407) 847-2009.

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CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR 3000 members. Orlando area. Evangelical Church, Accounting and computer knowledge a must. Send resume to: Chairman, Search Committee, 4137 Summerwood Ave., Orlando, FL 32812.

YOUTH PASTOR. 365-member evangelical church with expanding ministries seeking candidate for new position of Youth Pastor. Full-time salaried position. Prefer minimum-3 years experience, degree in Christian or youth ministry. Applicant should have interest in long-term commitment/vision in youth ministry. Please respond with resume: Church of the Cross U.M., 1806 Cass Rd., Toledo, OH 43614.

SING YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS at home or in small groups! Instrumental accompaniment for 90 hymns on 6-tape cassette sets. Choose piano or organ accompaniment. Word book included. Makes excellent gift. \$38.95 plus shipping. 1-800-728-0573.

ASSOCIATE COUNCIL DIRECTOR. Wyoming Conference (Albany Area), The United Methodist Church. Primary responsibility in the areas of planning; program implementation with local churches and district councils; leadership development and training; cooperative parish ministry; promotion of quadrennial conference emphasis. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience preferred. Good written and verbal skills. Understanding of UMC structure helpful. Minorities and women encouraged to apply. Send resume and references to: Council Director, Wyoming Conference Center, 3 Orchard Road, Binghamton, NY 13905. Application deadline: September 1, 1992.

THE CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS' Endowment Board seeks Executive Secretary (extensive business experience required). Resumes by August 7, 1992 to: The Search Committee, c/o The Endowment Board, 300-27th Street, Oakland, CA 94612. Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Activists see abortion fight within churches continuing

By DENISE JOHNSON STOVALL  
Associate Editor

United Methodists on both sides of the abortion issue say you can expect the battle to continue following the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on the issue.

Jeri Hamilton Scott, staff executive with the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society's ministry with God's human community, said politicians may face "the summer of discontent" if mainstream women's groups join forces to assure their abortion rights.

She said the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision in *Planned Parenthood vs Casey* was "a sad day for abortion rights advocates" because the decision indirectly "told state governments that they can do what they want as far as the rights of women are concerned.

"But because this is an election year, I don't think they [the court] did the damage they set out to do," said Ms. Scott. "What they have done is to make a middle-of-the-road decision."

"When the election comes in November, people are going to be very

surprised at the outcome. Women in the pro-choice community say the government is out of touch with mainstream America. . . They say the choice should be with that woman, her family and her pastor."

Expressing another view was the Rev. James V. Heidinger II, executive director of the "Good News" evangelical caucus of United Methodists.

Dr. Heidinger said he was distressed that this decision "affirmed the spurious, recently discovered 'right' for a woman to end the life of her unborn child."

"There is some relief but little comfort that the ruling upheld the right of states to set some restrictions," he said.

Dr. Heidinger told the Review he anticipates that many United Methodists—including most evangelicals—will be working in opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act, expected to be voted by Congress this fall.

"I am distressed that some of our agencies, such as the [General Board of Global Ministries] Women's Division, are giving that total support. But the battle will continue."



# Quality expert tells church schools to put focus on their clients—the students

United Methodist News Service

NASHVILLE—Colleges and universities committed to quality should put creating successful students at the top of their corporate agendas, a top businessman told participants at the recent United Methodist-related Institute of Higher Education.

Yet many colleges spend 90 percent of their resources on research that has nothing to do with student life and institute financial and personnel policies without considering the total picture of training students to do well after graduation, said Philip B. Crosby, keynote speaker.

He is the author of a number of best-selling books on corporate quality, including "Quality Is Free," which has sold more than 2.5 million copies and has been translated into 15 languages.

The institute brought together 400 administrators and faculty members from United Methodist-related colleges and universities nationwide to explore management techniques.

The 1992 session kicked off a four-year emphasis on total quality management. The most recent (1988-91) institutes focused on institutional integrity and values.

**Mr. Crosby said he attended one university's administration meeting to discuss improvements in management, but no one mentioned the word "student" until three hours into the program.**

Sponsored by the denomination's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the National Association of Schools and Colleges of the United Methodist Church, the institute has met annually since 1948 "to nurture minds, strengthen bodies and develop spirits," said event coordinator Morris G. Wray, a board staff member.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Crosby emphasized the difference between management styles that focus solely on budgets and more effective management styles that focus primarily on clients (i.e. students), suppliers and employees.

Mr. Crosby said the ideal model of management includes a finance policy that nourishes the organization; a corporate policy on quality as a framework; and a strong relationship among recruiters, school administrators and faculty members and students. He

called relationships "the soul of every successful institution."

Most college and university administrators focus their attention on finances instead of on the needs of their students, Mr. Crosby said, spending more funds on research rather than on serving the students.

"We need to ask ourselves if this is helping our students," he added.

He criticized a regular college practice of figuring how many freshmen will not return for a second year, rather than addressing the reasons they choose to leave.

"Too many colleges treat students as transcripts rather than as persons," he said.

Mr. Crosby said he attended one university's administration meeting to discuss improvements in management, but no one mentioned the word "student" until three hours into the program.



Looking every bit the modern college student, this young woman lounges between classes. As the school's customer, is she getting her money's worth?

Such misfires in management are the reason the average "half life" (relevance) of a college education is about four years (post-graduation), Mr. Crosby said.

# Scholar says scrolls reveal new stories about Jesus

By DARRELL TURNER  
Religious News Service

NEW YORK—At first, Barbara Thiering might remind you of Miss Jane Marple, with her grandmotherly appearance and gentle, slightly high-pitched voice.

But as with Agatha Christie's fictional detective, Ms. Thiering's appearance can be deceiving. Like Miss Marple, Ms. Thiering likes to solve mysteries. And like Miss Marple's deductions, Ms. Thiering's ideas often infuriate establishment authorities.

Ms. Thiering lectures at the school of religion at Sydney University in Australia.

Her controversial detective work involves the Dead Sea Scrolls, the papyrus and leather documents that have intrigued specialists and laypeople alike since their discovery in Jordanian territory between 1947 and 1956.

## Ideas of the early church

Virtually all authorities agree that the scrolls offer a wealth of information on Judaism around the time of Jesus. But despite some speculation, most believe the documents make no direct reference to Jesus and his followers, although they may contain ideas that were used by the early church.

Ms. Thiering is alone among scholars with her theory that the scrolls offer a key to interpreting the New Testament to find a Jesus who married Mary Magdalene, fathered children and didn't die on the cross.

"Everything I say is based on evidence," Ms. Thiering said in an interview here in which she discussed her book, "Jesus & the Riddle of the Dead Sea Scrolls." The volume stirred a storm of controversy when first pub-

lished in Australia two years ago and is likely to do the same when it comes out in a U.S. edition by HarperSan Francisco.

## Interpretation method

According to Ms. Thiering, the Dead Sea Scrolls provide information on how to interpret the Bible through a method known as *peshet*. She says the term was used in the Hebrew Bible to mean "interpreter of dreams" and was used by such people as Joseph and Daniel to determine the dreams' hidden meanings.

Ms. Thiering says the Gospels and other Scriptures were written on two levels, with "the surface containing general religious matter, suitable for ordinary readers, and beneath it specific historical matter, available only to those with special knowledge, knowledge of the events which 'fitted' the text handled in this way."

Using the technique she derived from the Dead Sea Scrolls, Ms. Thiering reached unorthodox conclusions about the identities of many Bible characters and the significance of several place names.

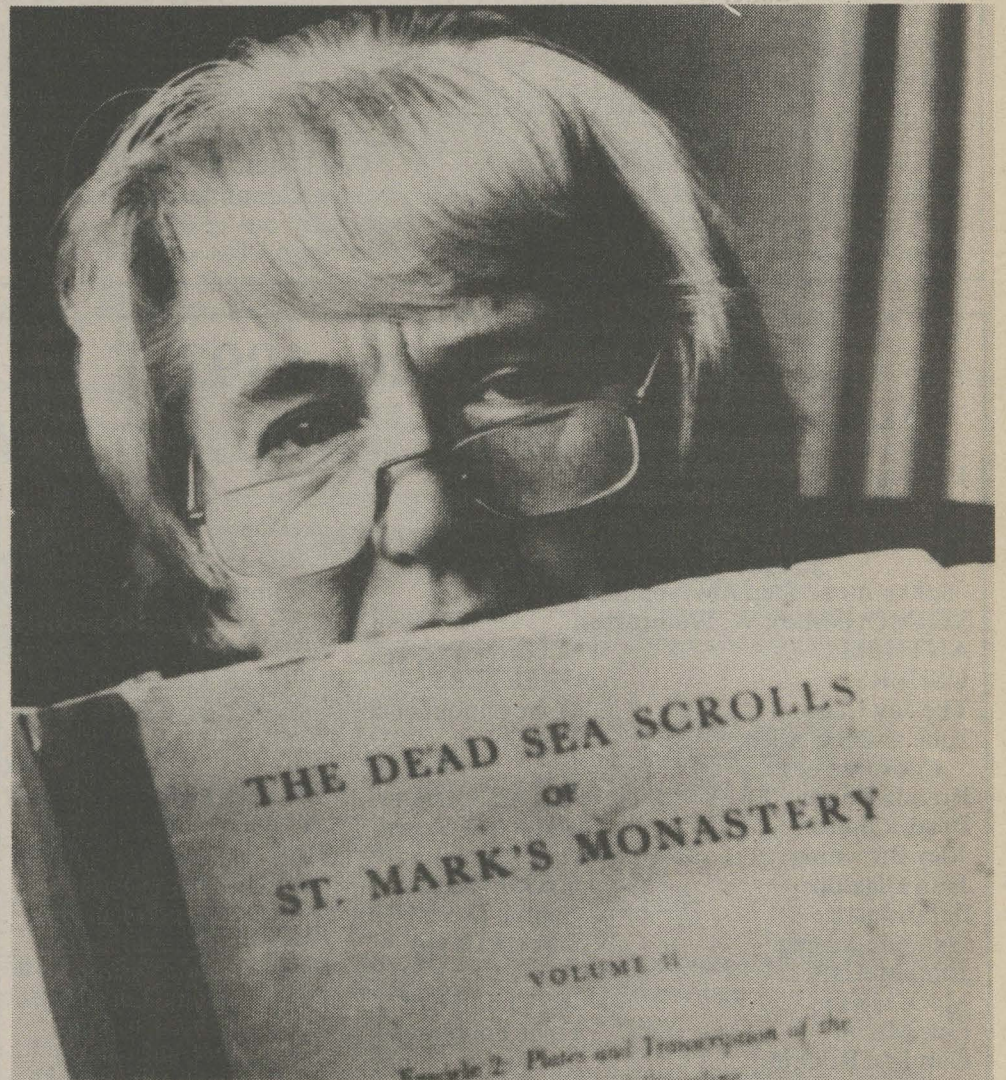
In the interview, she said the technique is also comparable to the way in which many fairy tales and nursery rhymes were written. Children's material on the surface, they conceal political commentaries.

Hershel Shanks, editor of the *Biblical Archaeology Review* in Washington and a leading writer on the scrolls, said Ms. Thiering's theories "are generally regarded in the academic community as unusual." He noted that no participants agreed with her when she presented her conclusions at a conference of scrolls scholars in Poland, a conference Mr. Shanks attended.

James H. Charlesworth, a scrolls scholar at Princeton Theological Seminary, wrote in the Jan. 29 issue of *The Christian Century* that Ms. Thiering's views "take their place in a long line of highly speculative and highly criti-

cized interpretations of the meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls."

But Ms. Thiering said her conclusions have been rejected "more on religious grounds than for grounds of idence."



NEW YORK—Barbar Thiering's detective work interpreting the Dead Sea Scrolls has intrigued some and infuriated others.

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO



# Joynotes!

Have you ever had that strange sensation of feeling hungry when you know you're really full?

One day recently I ran in the house after work, pressing to get back to the church for a night meeting. Half famished, I grabbed some left-over well-done steak, nuked it for forty seconds, and sat down to fill my tank with that and a glass of milk.

Because I was in such a hurry, or maybe because the meat was too tough to chew, I mostly just swallowed the chunks of beef. Before those morsels could hit the bottom of my stomach, I had washed my dishes, brushed my teeth, and headed back out the door, totally unsatisfied.

For the entire meeting my body kept sending signals saying (in a really pitiful voice), "Please feed me. I'm hungry." Meanwhile, that whole unprocessed supper hung heavy in the pit of my stomach. Worthless. Noisy. Obnoxious. A real waste.

This made me think . . . Lots of us are carrying around a belly full of unprocessed life experiences. We don't talk about them, don't pray about them, try not to even think about them. And they just sit there like a lump of lead in the pit of our soul. As long as the tough events in our life don't get chewed on, they are worthless to us. Life feels boring, empty, and often painful.

But when we trust someone enough that we can share the heaviness, then it begins to make sense. Little by little, we came to notice God's grace flowing freely in us. We can learn and grow. We can forgive and feel happy again.

Prayer helps. Someone said that when we share our burdens with Jesus, He always carries the heavy end for us.

Have you got something that goes thud in your gut? Something you'd like to chew on awhile? Give me a call and we'll talk it over with Jesus together. Trust me.

See youth in Church!  
Laurie

\*\*\*

**JOY Class:** Attention all Oklahoma missionaries: You must attend the trip orientation meeting Thursday, July 30, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Brooks and Brenda Bolton. Supper will be served. Important details will be discussed. Don't miss this! . . . Also, please plan to be in worship August 2. Dr. Wethington and Duke Memorial Church will commission us and send us forth in mission! . . . Remember that we usher on July 26. Then enjoy a fellowship luncheon at Ann Wilson's home . . . Everyone's invited to Danielle Kaspar's pool for a cooling splash and cook-out August 2 . . . Mark your calendar for August 23 Loaves and Fishes Retreat . . . Keep the JOY in your summer!

\*\*\*

**JR. JOY CLASS:** Thanks to all who helped with the Ice Cream Social and served the meal at the Homeless Shelter! . . . Our next big fellowship outing is to Wheels! on Sunday, July 26. Bring a change of clothes when you come for Sunday School. We'll leave right after worship, stop for fast food lunch, and then spend the afternoon skating, go-carting, shooting hoops, playing volleyball, and more! Admission is \$8; and bring money for lunch and snacks. Parents may pick you up at Wheels at 4:30 p.m. Friends are welcome, of course . . . Mark your calendar for DMYF fun on August 9 (Movies) and 23 (Bull game) . . . Fall fellowship begins September 13 at 5 p.m. with JOYBells at 6:30. Smile!

## Choir Helpers Needed!!!

This fall we are seeking to consolidate children's choir rehearsals so that Carol Choir and Wesley Singers can meet simultaneously on Wednesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. These rehearsals would be preceded by a low-cost, catered family meal during the 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. hour, and adult programming would coincide with the children's rehearsals following the meal. Choir curriculum, materials, and lesson plans will be supplied for the director of the Carol Choir (Kdg. to 2nd), as well as an accompanist/helper. You need not be a professional singer or musician!! If you love children, enjoy singing simple melodies, and wish to encourage creative learning about the love of God through music, we'll do all we can to supply necessary support for you. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please call John Semington at 683-3467 to discuss your interest.

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**SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL RESUMES THURSDAY, JULY 30 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**BETHANY BELLS RESUME WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 AT 7:30 p.m.**

# Church Calendars

## July 20-July 25

**MONDAY, JULY 20**  
INSIGHTS INFORMATION DUE FOR JULY 31-AUGUST 16.  
Day Camp — Chestnut Ridge, July 20-24  
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out Nurseries  
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting To be announced  
7:00-8:00 p.m. Girls' God-Talk Prayer Room  
7:30 p.m. Staff-Parish Few's home  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A. Community Life Center

**TUESDAY, JULY 21**  
12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group Room 241  
NO ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING  
7:30 p.m. Inter-Neighborhood Council Whitford Hall  
8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, A.A. and Ala-Teen Community Life Center

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 22**  
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out Nurseries  
10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch Whitford Hall

**THURSDAY, JULY 23**  
NO SANCTUARY CHOIR

**FRIDAY, JULY 24**  
7:30 p.m. Friday Evening Study Group Call Donna Elium (382-8228)  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**  
No activities scheduled.

## July 27-August 1

**MONDAY, JULY 27**  
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out Nurseries  
1:30 p.m. Staff Meeting Prayer Room  
7:00-8:00 p.m. Girls' God-Talk Community Life Center  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A. Community Life Center

**TUESDAY, JULY 28**  
12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group Room 241  
8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen, A.A. Community Life Center

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 29**  
9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out Nurseries  
10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch Whitford Hall

**THURSDAY, JULY 30**  
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Choir Room

**FRIDAY, JULY 31**  
7:30 p.m. Friday Evening Study Group Call Donna Elium (382-8228)  
8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**  
No activities scheduled.

## Sunday, July 26, 1992

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Ringing of the Tower Bells  
10:55 a.m. Worship Service Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. JOY Class — out to lunch  
6:00 p.m. DMYF — Wheels! (\$8) for skating, batting, go carts and miniature golf.  
8:00 p.m. 12 Step Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

**SERMON:** Mark W. Wethington

**ANTHEM:** "The Lord's Prayer" Algert Hay Malatte  
**USHERS:** GREETERS: S.S. GREETERS:  
The Joy Class To be announced. Wesley Class  
Julie and Sid Allen, Coordinators

**ALTAR GUILD:** NURSERY:  
Brenda Bolton Maryellen Stone Karen Ochola  
Brooks Bolton  
Joey Browning  
Josh Glasson  
Sarah Justice  
Danielle Kaspar  
John McCary  
Mark Medlin  
Gus Mixon  
Caroline Ritchie  
Heather Sewell  
Ann Wilson  
Heather Wilson

**MESSENGERS:** ACOLYTES:  
George Davis To be announced.  
Tamela Davis

**JR. CHURCH:**  
To be announced.

## Sunday, August 2, 1992

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Ringing of the Tower Bells  
10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Communion Sanctuary  
NO DMYF  
8:00 p.m. 12 Step Al-Anon and A.A. Community Life Center

**SERMON:** Mark W. Wethington

**USHERS:** GREETERS: S.S. GREETERS:  
Tom Hargitt (Captain) To be announced. Asbury Class  
Hershel Caldwell, Jr.  
Stan Coffman  
Bob Cox  
George Davis  
Holly Eggleston  
Joel Glasson  
Neal Grubbs  
Ed Hammond  
Chris Howlett  
Bill Sewell  
Bob Weynand  
Tom Worsley

**ALTAR GUILD:** NURSERY:  
Polly Farned Lee Ann Gelinne  
Beulah Latta Kathy Glasson  
Martha Thumm Mary Lee Bailey

**MESSENGER:** ACOLYTES:  
Edith Toms To be announced.

**JR. CHURCH:**  
To be announced.