

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 22 931180 Send P.O. Form 3579 to P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, TX 75266-0275 2116 OCTOBER 23, 1992

WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY 'HAPPENINGS'

Prayer Vigil

A prayer vigil for spiritual support of the Weekend of Discovery will be held on Wednesday, November 4, from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. and on Thursday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. You may register on a sign up sheet in the narthex on Sundays or by calling Susan Teer at 489-8705. Sign up periods of 15 minutes (or more) will be available. Names of all members of the congregation and specific prayer concerns will be available for use in the Prayer Room.

Children's Activities

Infant to 4 year olds — Nursery care will be available for all activities of the weekend in the upstairs classrooms.

Kindergarten to 5th grade — There will be organized activities for the children including movies and popcorn, arts and crafts, discussion and music. Metta Metcalf and Marcia Grogan stress that having fun will be the focus of the activities and invite the children to come and have a good time!

Registration is required by using the form found in Sunday's bulletins.

Food

Light supper of hot dogs or sandwiches is planned for Thursday night. The suggested donation will be \$1.75 for adults and \$1 for children.

Our youth will be preparing a Spaghetti Supper on Friday evening as a fundraiser, so give generously to their ministries as we support their discipleship.

Celia Oatney, who has been preparing our Wonderful Wednesday night suppers will provide the meal on Saturday night. The price will be \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children over age 2.

Reservations are required for each meal. Please call the church office by November 1 to make your reservations if you have not completed a registration form.

— Mary Lee Bailey, Publicity Chairperson

2 KEY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY, NOVEMBER 5-8.

Question I: I have been through the search, "What's God Saying . . . To Me?" Is this weekend agenda and content any different from our search experience? Or, is it a duplication?

Answer: Much different. No comparison. The weekend seminars and content approach is in a sense "a different game" as compared to the search approach. You don't want to miss the excitement of the weekend.

Question II: I haven't been involved in the search groups. Will I be "out of it" by coming to the Weekend of Discovery?

Answer: No. You will fit into the Weekend program like anyone else. You will receive the full measure of the Weekend excitement even though you did not participate in the search group experience.

Poinsettia Time . . .

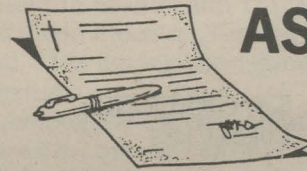
Our Altar Guild will again decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas, and part of the decorations will include the Poinsettias at the altar. Please place your order in the office now through November 25th in honor or in memory of a loved one. Each Poinsettia will cost \$12.00, and they will be placed in the church on December 13.

Time Change This Weekend

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep Saturday night.

More Duke Memorial News
On Pages 2L & 4L

A Word from the ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Rev. Clinton W. Spence
 Weekend of Discovery
 is for
EVERYONE!!!

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

I hope and pray that Thursday evening, November 5, through Sunday morning, November 8, will be a wonderful experience for every member and friend of Duke Memorial. I know that everyone cannot attend all 10 (ten) hours of the weekend, but you will benefit from every hour that you can participate. I beg you to attend as many sessions as you can, because I know that you will discover something at each session.

For too long the church has been dominated by the clergy, but I am convinced that the laity can do their greatest work in the Kingdom of God at home, on the job, and in their civic and social activities. The church needs lay persons who are committed to Christ, who are called to specific ministries, and who know their gifts for fulfilling those ministries in the world.

Our Weekend of Discovery, led by lay persons not clergy, can deepen your commitment, clarify your call, and/or identify your spiritual gifts. It is sponsored by the Foundation for Evangelism in Lake Junaluska, N.C., and affiliated with the General Board of Discipleship in Nashville, Tn. Our Weekend of Discovery is not just another weekend of activities; it is an opportunity to make sense of your faith and life as you may never have been able to do.

Our Weekend of Discovery is not high pressure sales, it is teaching, discussion and sharing about what really matters in life. I cannot guarantee that all of your questions will be answered in 4 days, but I do believe you will be headed in the right direction for your life in God's Kingdom if you will just come and see. You're invited! Please come!



CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION, 112 N. QUEEN STREET, BOX C, DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701
 OFFICE LOCATION: URBAN MINISTRIES CENTER
 (919) 682-7255
 "People of Faith United for Durham"

September 22, 1992

Rev. Mark Wethington
 Duke Memorial United Methodist Church
 504 W. Chapel Hill Street
 Durham, NC 27701

Dear Mark:

On behalf of Durham Congregations in Action, I want to thank you and the congregation at Duke Memorial Church for your generous contribution to our new DCIA Interfaith AIDS Ministry.

Your check for \$300. will enable us to begin a much-needed ministry in Durham for persons with AIDS and their families.

Please convey to your congregation our great appreciation for this support. As always, we are grateful for the strong involvement of Duke Memorial people in our various DCIA ministries.

Sincerely,

 T. Melvin Williams, Jr.
 DCIA President

MEDIPORT
 HOST HOMES
 ELDER ADVOCACY
 MEALS ON WHEELS
 COMMUNITY KITCHEN
 EMERGENCY SHELTER
 SENIOR CITIZENS MINISTRIES

Durham, Duke Memorial

Continued

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

FOOD PANTRY — RICE AND TOMATOES
WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY

9:45 a.m.	Methodism Class	Aldersgate Room
9:45 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages	
10:15 a.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m.	Ringling of the Tower Bells	
10:55 a.m.	Worship Service	Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	DMYF	Whitford Hall
5:00 p.m.	Wesley Women (Shelter Meals)	Kitchen
6:30 p.m.	JOYBells	Handbell Room
8:00 p.m.	12 Step Al-Anon and A.A.	Community Life Center

SERMON: Rev. Mark W. Wethington

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 9:11-20

Luke 20:27-38

Zechariah 7:1-10

2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5

USHERS:

Tim Langford

Clarence Bailey

Robin Langford

Pam Whilden

Arthur McDonald

Dick McFall

Susan McFall

Tom Shore

A.D. Turrentine

ACOLYTES:

To be announced

GREETERS:

Dillard Teer

Mildred Teer

ALTAR GUILD:

Gloria Johnson

Ann Marie Langford

Susan Teer

MESSENGERS:

George Davis

Tamela Davis

S.S. GREETERS:

Logos Class

NURSERY:

Bobbi Wethington

Kathy Vokaty

Karen Carr

JR. CHURCH

Libby Younts

Kathy Glasson

Libby Averett

TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 9-NOVEMBER 14

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9

INSIGHTS INFORMATION DUE FOR NOV. 20-DEC. 6

9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting — JOY Class

2:00 p.m. Church Directory Meeting — Parlor

7:30 p.m. Celebration Singers — Bradshaw Room

7:30 p.m. Finance Committee — Library

8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen and A.A. — Community Life Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group — JOY Class

8:00 p.m. Cental Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A. — Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries

9:30 a.m. Weekday School — Whitford Hall

10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch — Whitford Hall

5:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal — Whitford Hall

6:15 p.m. Wesley Singers — Choir Room

6:15 p.m. Carol Choir — Aldersgate Room

7:30 p.m. Bethany Bells — Handbell Rom

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:30 a.m. Men's Study Group — Parlor

12:00 p.m. Thursday Study Group — Prayer Room

7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir — Choir Room

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:30 p.m. Friday Evening Study Group — Call Donna Elium (382-8828)

8:00 p.m. Ala-Anon and A.A. — Community Life Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

No activities scheduled.

New Books In The Library

Also —

"Saint Maybe" — Anne Tyler

"Forgiving" — Lavyrle Spencer

OUR THANKS TO THE SPENCE-
KALE CLASS FOR THREE BOOKS:

1. "Truman" — David McCullough
Given in memory of William
McDuffie

2. "Watts Hospital of Durham"

Given for Dr. Lewis McKee

3. "Every Living Thing" — J. Her-
riot

Given for James Huckabee

Be sure to look over the new books
on the COM shelf. Para has added
many new books that are informative,
interesting and entertaining!

Will list them later.

Our Sincere Thanks . . .

Our sincere thanks to Lewis Shipp
for doing a beautiful job of refinishing
our round table in the reading alcove
in the Library.

United Methodist Happenings

NASHVILLE (UMNS)—United Meth-
odist congregations across the nation are
rediscovering evangelistic zeal, according
to a survey conducted by United Meth-
odist News Service.

Several common traits emerged, the
news service said in a series of stories re-
leased in early October.

Included are strong lay involvement; or-
ganized Bible study and biblically based
preaching; spirited, participatory worship;
attention to children and teens; and a sense
of community and feeling of acceptance
among members of congregations.

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMNS)—Receipts in
18 funds that support The United Meth-
odist Church's programs in the United States
and other countries were 2.14 percent
higher in the first three quarters of 1992
than the same period in 1991.

Income through Sept. 30 topped \$68.5
million, the General Council on Finance
and Administration reported Oct. 7, about
\$1.4 million more than a year ago. World
Service, the denomination's basic program
fund, increased by 3.25 percent to almost
44 percent of the 1992 goal.

Fourth-quarter receipts traditionally are
the largest of the year.

READING, Pa.—The AIDS Task Force
of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of
the United Methodist Church will present,
"When AIDS Comes to the Church."

The one-day meeting will be held at Al-
bright College in Reading, Pa., on Nov. 7,
at 8:30 a.m.

Speakers will include General Board of
Global Ministries executives Cathie Lyons
of the Health and Welfare department; and
the Rev. Patricia Brown of Mission Evan-
gelism. Also speaking will be the Rev.
Adele Wilcox, pastor of Falls (Pa.) United
Methodist Church.

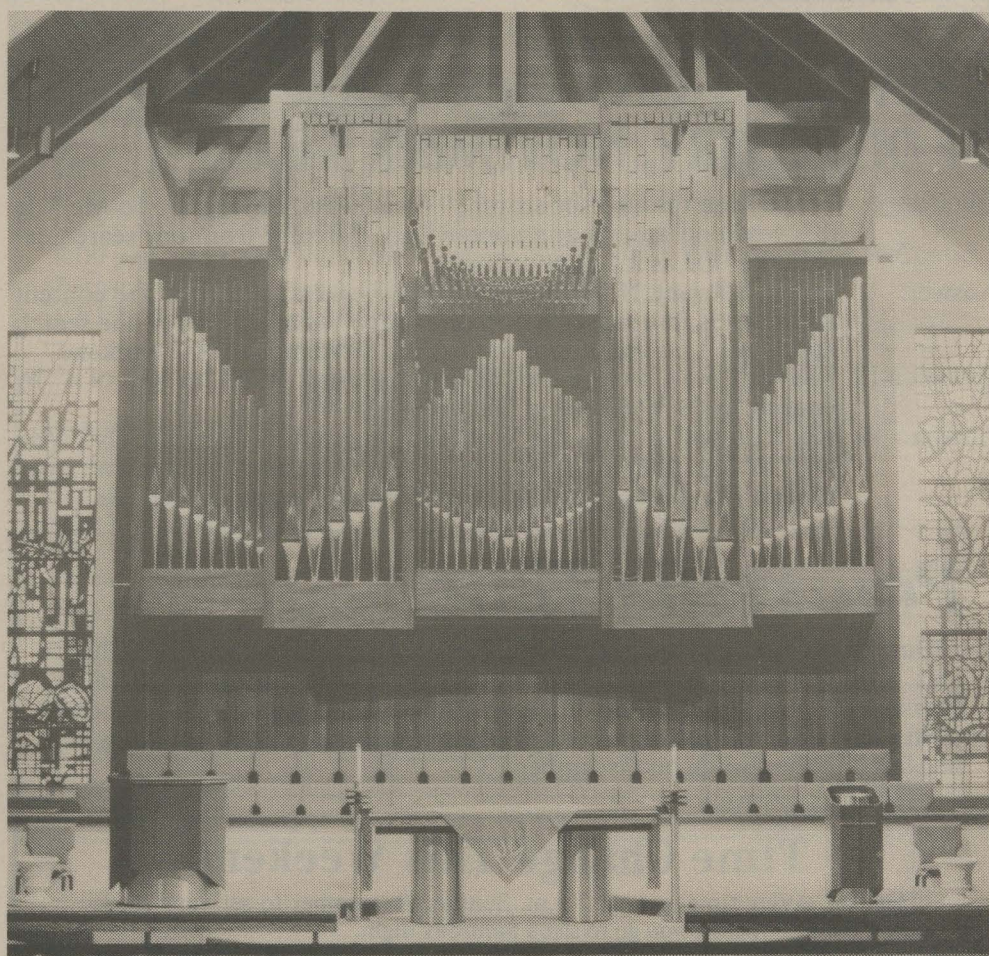
NEW YORK—The United Methodist
Committee on Relief reports that the
emergency airlift to Somalia operated by
Lutheran World Federation is continuing
to get food supplies delivered without the
loss experienced by some relief efforts.

At the feeding centers, grain is being pre-
pared for immediate consumption rather
than distribution in sacks to people who
would be defenseless against robbery.

UMCOR staff say the situation is con-
stantly being monitored by the World
Council of Churches.

"But what am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to give willingly like this? For everything comes from thee, and it is only of thy gifts that we give to thee. We are aliens before thee and settlers, as were all our fathers; our days on earth are like a shadow, we have no abiding place. O Lord our God, from thee comes all this wealth that we have laid up to build a house in honour of thy holy name, and everything is thine. I know, O my God, that thou dost test the heart and that plain honesty pleases thee; with an honest heart I have given all these gifts willingly, and have rejoiced now to see thy people here present give willingly to thee."

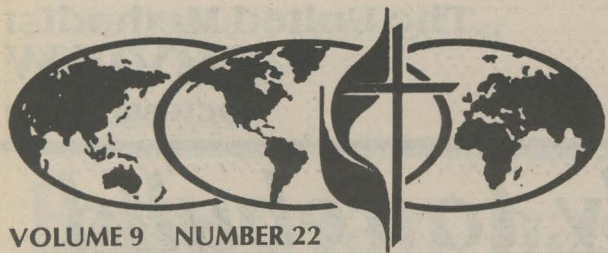
I Chronicles 11:14-18



A place of consecration

"I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there forever." I Kings 9:3

UMR PHOTO



UM colleges ranked among nation's best

From news and staff reports

United Methodist-related Duke University in Durham, N.C., and Emory University in Atlanta rank among the top 25 universities in the country.

The two schools were rated among "America's Best Colleges" by "U.S. News & World Report" magazine in its annual ranking published Sept. 28.

Duke ranked seventh and Emory 21st in the nation.

This year marked Emory's entry into the magazine's "top 25" list.

Among other United Methodist-related universities, Illinois Wesleyan University and Southwestern University continued to maintain first place in their respective regions.

Illinois Wesleyan in Bloomington,

Ill., placed first among 131 universities in the Midwest for the fourth consecutive year.

As examples of excellence the article cited Illinois Wesleyan's just-launched \$58 million fund-raising drive and its outstanding arts program, under the direction of President Minor Myers Jr.

In the same category, church-related Ohio Northern University in Ada ranked 11th among Midwestern universities.

Southwestern in Georgetown, Texas, was ranked as the best of 66 liberal-arts schools in the West for the fifth consecutive year.

Southwestern was praised for its new "Vision 2000" master plan (not to be confused with a churchwide

evangelism effort of the same name).

Under leadership of President Roy Shilling Jr., Southwestern's goals are a needs-blind admissions policy, a limit of six courses per teacher per year, and an average faculty salary higher than 95 percent of all other comparable schools.

Two other Western United Methodist-related schools—University of Puget Sound in Seattle, and University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.—ranked fifth and 15th among the region's 115 universities.

Among the article's additional list of up-and-coming schools was United Methodist-related Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa.

Other United Methodist-related re-

gional liberal-arts colleges noted in the article were:

✓ Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pa., No. 6 in the North;

✓ Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, and Mount Union College, Alliance, Ohio, ranked Nos. 2 and 9, respectively, in the Midwest;

✓ Wofford College, Spartanburg, S.C.; Wesleyan College, Macon, Ga.; and Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va., ranked third, seventh and eighth, respectively, in the South.

The sixth annual ranking by U.S. News polled the nation's 1,373 four-year colleges, studying everything from long-range plans and financial health to use of technology in the classroom, faculty course load and salaries.

Falots give wings to church's storm-relief efforts

By DIANE HUIE BALAY
Associate Editor

Can faith literally move mountains? Ask Jannah Hull.

The full-time homemaker and active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Slidell, La., will quickly say "Yes!" especially if 14 volunteer pilots help with the moving.

The day after Hurricane Andrew struck the south Louisiana wetlands but bypassed Slidell and New Orleans some 30 miles away, Ms. Hull asked her pastor, the Rev. Cliff C. Wright

"It was a good feeling. To tell you the truth, it was fun. I'd do it every day."

—Andy Knight, pilot and United Methodist layman

Jr., if their church could be used as a dropoff point for donated relief supplies. He readily agreed. Other congregation members agreed to help.

This "mustard seed" idea quickly grew into a mountain of donated relief supplies that the 14 pilots airlifted to the stricken area three days later. Each

pilot flew at least two missions. Some flew three or four.

Moved 7,000 pounds

Pilots estimate that on Sunday more than 35 plane trips moved some 7,000 pounds of food, water and other supplies to hurricane victims.

At the takeoff point at a Slidell airfield, congregation members weighed "every bag and every box" and helped load them into the small planes.

"If the load is not weighed and loaded correctly, you're in trouble," said pilot Andy Knight, also a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

Congregation members, he said, brought food and drinks to the airfield for the pilots who were recruited from the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association.

An airstrip in Patterson, La., more than 100 miles from Slidell, was cleared to receive the airlift. The planes were met by National Guard members and police who unloaded the supplies.

At the end of the day, Mr. Knight said he was amazed at the quantity of supplies they had moved.

'Good feeling'

"It was a good feeling," the pilot said. "To tell you the truth, it was fun. I'd do it every day."

Ms. Hull told the Review that she still gets teary talking about the goodness and kindness of the people who helped and of the many people who donated supplies.

"You never read about those people in the press," she said.

She told of being particularly moved by the gift of one frail, elderly man who brought in the month's supply of powdered milk he and his wife were allotted through a U.S. government program.

Some children in the disaster area needed it more than they did, he told her.

"You want to hug and thank and remember everybody's name," Ms. Hull said.

"I am so glad that God was able to work through me and all these other people," she said, "and so thankful for the miracle that was worked through our church."



SLIDELL SENTRY NEWS PHOTO BY GILDA PERKINS

SLIDELL, La.—Mike Peerson (rear), one of 14 Experimental Aircraft Assn. Pilots., gets ready to fly three tons of donations being loaded by Aldersgate United Methodist Church volunteers to Morgan City. Volunteers from other Slidell churches helped load planes for the 180-mile round trip.

Bulgarian UMs struggle joyfully to rebuild

By CYNTHIA B. ASTLE
Associate Editor

SOFIA, Bulgaria—Anna Bogardova was addressing her half-dozen Methodist guests around a grimy table in Sofia's dilapidated airport.

"You remember how, in the Bible, Moses had to lead the people in the wilderness 40 years until all those who had lived under slavery—who had the slave mentality—died?"

As she spoke, her guests ate the warm cake she had baked that morning.

"The same is true in Bulgaria," she continued. "Some are willing to go back into the security of slavery. I only hope it doesn't take us 40 years to get away from the slavery thinking."

Uncertain future

Mrs. Bogardova put her finger on one of the biggest challenges facing her and others in The United Methodist Church in Bulgaria: Bulgarians' fear of an uncertain future, demonstrated by a shaky government and an unstable economy.

But Bulgarian United Methodists' confidence, shown in their efforts to spread the Gospel and rebuild a decimated church, distinguishes them from their fellow Bulgarians.

United Methodists are something of a curiosity in this predominantly Orthodox country of about 9 million people.

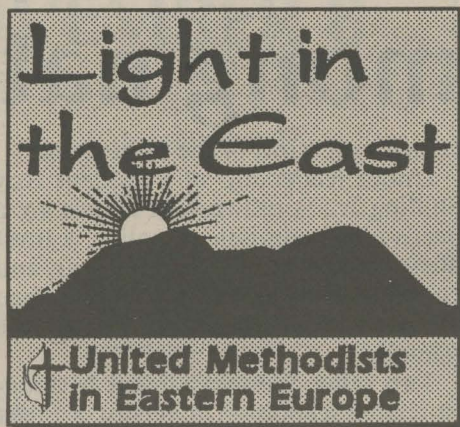
Methodism came to Bulgaria 130 years ago with the arrival of a missionary, *Albert Long*, for whom the "mother church" in Sofia is named. Among his accomplishments, Dr. Long is credited with helping translate the Bible into modern Bulgarian.

Methodism was stopped publicly in Bulgaria in 1948 when communist forces imprisoned dozens of Christian pastors and closed churches. Among those captured was the Rev. Zdravko Beslov, then the newly appointed pastor of Dr. Long Church. He survived imprisonment to become superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Bulgaria and this year received the World Methodist Peace Award (see story on facing page).

More than four decades of oppression, during which the church was



A dancer presents a ceremonial welcome of bread and spices during the recent World Methodist Council meeting in Varna, Bulgaria.



First in a series

kept alive clandestinely by a faithful remnant, eased in 1990 when communism fell.

1,000 members today

Today there are about 1,000 Bulgarian United Methodists in four congregations: One each in Sofia, the nation's capital situated in western Bulgaria; and in Varna, Shumen and Ruse in the eastern part of the Ohio-sized country.

In the past 20 months, Bulgarian United Methodists have embraced their new freedom eagerly. They now preach, teach and worship openly.

In addition, they are attempting to regain United Methodist property seized by the communist government. A recent transfer of a girls' school and church in Lovech was aided by certified copies of property deeds found in United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries files in New York.

Gains and regeneration notwithstanding, Bulgarian United Methodists confront three major obstacles:

- ✓ Lack of trained church workers.
- ✓ Limited financial resources constricted by Bulgaria's economy, where one American dollar equals 22 Bulgarian levs, a television set costs 11,000 levs and pastors earn only a few hundred levs each month.
- ✓ Mistrust in their society.

The last obstacle frequently is the most difficult.

Projects will aid churches

There are four Bulgarian projects of The Advance for Christ and His Church, the second-mile giving program of The United Methodist Church, through which your congregation can assist United Methodists in Bulgaria.

In addition to the construction of a new building for the congregation in Varna (see story on facing page), these projects are:

- ✓ Printing of theological and evangelization materials in Sofia. \$10,000 per year for 1993-96 is being sought to purchase new printing equipment for Christian publishing. **Advance No. 011622-0RA.**
- ✓ Renovation of Dr. Long United Methodist Church, Sofia. \$130,000 is sought for the "mother church" of Bulgarian Methodism, which officially re-opened Sept. 26. **Advance No. 011623-1AN.**

✓ Scholarships to train candidates for pastoral ministry, Sofia. The Bulgarian church has only four pastors and urgently needs trained pastors to start churches and to re-open ones closed under communism. \$15,000 per year for 1993-96 is sought through **Advance No. 011624-2RB.**



REVIEW STAFF PHOTO BY CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

VARNA, Bulgaria—Maia Altunian, wife of the pastor, greets visitors from the World Methodist Council for worship at Varna United Methodist Church. The congregation meets in a small house near its original sanctuary, which was confiscated by the communist regime and converted into a puppet theater (see story on facing page).

Bulgarian United Methodists are viewed skeptically by their society, which has been taught that religion is suspect. They are also subject to derision by the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, which openly denounces non-Orthodox faiths as "sects."

Yet amid these challenges Bulgarian United Methodists struggle joyfully.

Their remarks to visitors during a recent World Methodist Council executive committee meeting in Varna revealed how the changed political situation and their re-established ties

to The United Methodist Church have buoyed the Bulgarians.

"Our past was not good," acknowledged Superintendent Beslov. "But now we are trying to restore our churches with our brothers from far away and to gather our communities."

The Rev. Bedros Altunian, pastor of the Varna congregation, summed up Bulgarian United Methodists' confidence with words from Psalm 124:

"The snare has been broken and we have escaped."



Bulgarian pastor gets Methodist peace award

By CYNTHIA B. ASTLE
Associate Editor

VARNA, Bulgaria—A World Methodist Council meeting dedicated to peacemaking peaked Sept. 25 with the presentation of the 1992 World Methodist Peace Award.

The recipient was the Rev. Zdravko Beslov, superintendent of the Methodist Church in Bulgaria.

Violin music opened an evening that ended in tears when the 200 Methodists present from 40 countries heartrendingly sang in their native languages, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again."

'Peace' in many languages

United Methodist Bishop Heinrich Bolleter (Central and Southern Europe Area), who supervises the Bulgarian church, greeted the gathering by saying "Peace be with you" in all languages of the countries under his jurisdiction.

"I think this night proves we are people of hope," Bishop Bolleter told the gathering of about 400 people. "We are people of hope because we know God, because God gave us Jesus Christ and because his love binds us together."

The frail 72-year-old Mr. Beslov, permanently disabled by beatings he received in communist prisons, leaned on a chair for support while his citation for "courage, creativity and consistency" was read by the Rev. Joe Hale, the World Methodist Council's general secretary.

Honored for efforts

Mr. Beslov was honored for his efforts to keep the Methodist Church alive under Bulgaria's communist rule and to bring peace between his country's government and its churches since communism fell two years ago.

Then the council's president, the Rev. Donald English, added his own poignant note to the proceedings.

"When I first met Zdravko Beslov, he told me he couldn't talk much during dinner because he had to concentrate on making his hands move.

"Those are the only things I can now imagine not responding to his persuasion."

Mr. Beslov's persecution under communism began in 1948 when he was arrested while on his way to preach his first sermon as pastor of the Dr. Albert Long Methodist Church in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria.

The church is named for the Methodist missionary who in 1885 helped translate the Bible into Bulgarian.

Prevented from ministry

Upon his release from prison in 1960, Mr. Beslov was prevented from returning to active ministry and was forced to work as a translator instead.

Despite frequent surveillance, he managed to support the clandestine work of the Methodist Church in Bulgaria. (Earlier in the week, during "Bulgarian Church Night," the World Methodist visitors saw slides of secret church camps where Bulgarian Methodists taught their children about God.)

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Beslov called to the stage some pastors who had been imprisoned and some who have been appointed within the past two years since communism fell.

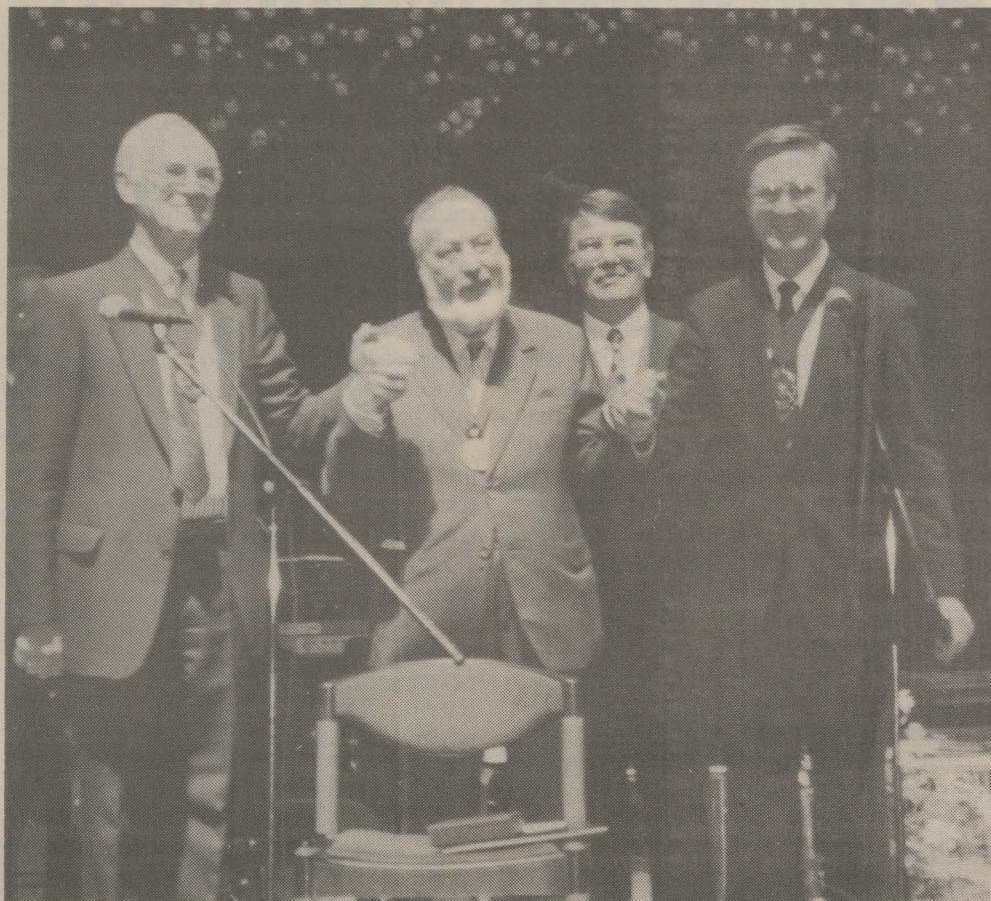
"We'll do our best to remain humble so that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ can be set higher and higher," Mr. Beslov said.

"The work of our ancestors and the work to which our young people are dedicated is God's work, and the power of hell will not prevail against it. Our history proves it!"

Marked by firsts

The award ceremony was marked by two "firsts."

The evening's combination of culture and worship was held in the Var-



REVIEW STAFF PHOTO BY CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

VARNA, Bulgaria—Sharing in the joy of the World Methodist Peace Award presentation are (from left), the Rev. Donald English of Great Britain, president of the World Methodist Council; the Rev. Zdravko Beslov, the 1992 recipient; United Methodist Bishop Heinrich Bolleter (Central and Southern Europe Area); and the Rev. Joe Hale, the council's chief executive.

na Town Hall—the first time the facility had been used for Christian worship.

Ironically, the town hall's designer is a member of the Varna Methodist Church and is the architect for the building the church will construct over the next two years.

The ceremony also marked the first time in the peace award's 15-year history that it was presented in connection with a meeting of the World Methodist

Council executive committee.

The executive committee chose to hold its first meeting of the 1991-96 semi-decade in Varna, a resort town on the Black Sea coast of the predominantly Orthodox country.

The site was chosen symbolically to welcome Bulgarian Methodists into the worldwide family of nearly 55 million adherents in 68 Methodist denominations worldwide (see Review, Oct. 9).

Varna church breaks ground to replace confiscated building

Review Staff Special

VARNA, Bulgaria—United Methodists and their spiritual "cousins" from 40 countries broke ground Sept. 25 for the first new church building in Bulgaria since communism fell in 1990.

The new \$500,000 sanctuary and multipurpose building for the 200-member Varna Methodist Church marks a happy new beginning to a story that seemingly had ended in bitter confiscation.

The Varna congregation was founded in 1888. Its buildings were seized by communists in the 1960s, and the sanctuary was converted into a puppet theater.

After communism fell, the government passed an "act of restitution" intended to return confiscated property to those who could prove ownership.

The United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries provided the Varna congregation with a certified copy of the deed to the sanctuary.

However, because the sanctuary had been remodeled into a theater, the Varna congregation donated the build-

ing "to the children" of the town in 1991. In exchange, the city government gave the congregation a 100-year lease on lots in a downtown park near an art museum. Thus the need to start over with a new building.

The Rev. Bedros Altunian, pastor of the Varna church, said during the groundbreaking ceremony that the congregation had been praying for a new home since it publicly re-opened 18 months earlier in a building downtown.

"After we held our first worship service, we spontaneously walked to this very site and prayed to God to give it to us for our church," he told those at the groundbreaking.

The groundbreaking, he continued, fulfilled the Scripture he had read during the service that night, 2 Chronicles 7:12: "Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: 'I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice.'"

Mr. Altunian later told the Review through an interpreter that the new six-story building will include a sanc-

tuary, classrooms and a 100-seat dining hall. The dining hall is needed, he explained, because the fall of communism freed political prisoners who now are homeless, while the economy has left many elderly residents without enough money to feed themselves.

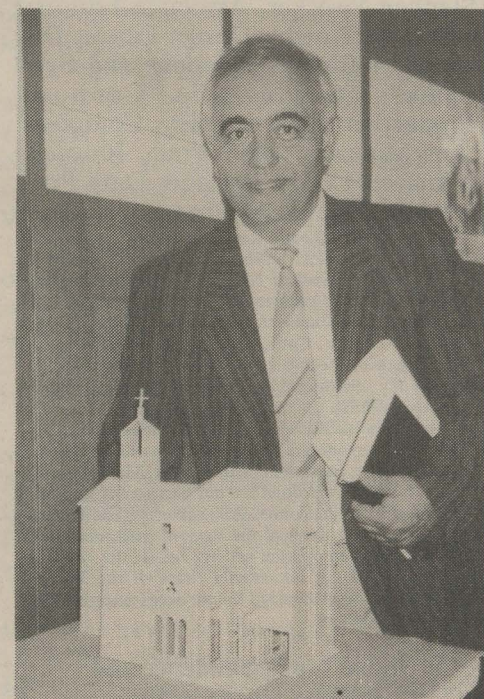
In the evenings, the hall will be used for meetings of a Christian young men's group. Church members hope to impart Christian faith and values to Varna's young men. Many of them have no jobs and some have turned to crime.

The Varna church will receive a portion of its funding through a \$100,000 grant from The United Methodist Church's program of second-mile giving called The Advance for Christ and His Church.

Another \$30,000 has been contributed by the France-Switzerland Annual Conference. Varna UMC members and others will contribute the remainder.

Contributions to help build the Varna church may be directed through annual conference treasurers to Advance No. 011621-8AN.

—CYNTHIA B. ASTLE



UMNS PHOTO BY TOM MCANALLY

The Rev. Bedros Altunian displays a model of the proposed building for Varna UMC.

Editorials

How should we plan for the coming millennium?

Humankind's fascination with millennia—1,000-year periods of history—is as old as the Bible.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that interest is mounting in the rapid approach of the year 2000.

A noteworthy example of such interest is a recent special issue of "Time" magazine. The entire issue focuses on the millennium as a time to reflect on the past and make projections about the future.

"Time's" projections—a creative mix of plausible speculation and flights of fancy—are especially provocative: people routinely living to age 150, computerized clothing, a cure for cancer, human contact with extraterrestrial life, the specter of global destruction.

We commend Time's lively example of what is sure to be a frequent exercise, fueled by the millennium, during the 1990s: efforts to envision, and hence shape, the future of the human race.

We as Christians need to be active participants in such "futuring" exercises on both pragmatic and theological grounds.

Pragmatically, a distinctively Christian perspective won't be injected into such exercises unless Christians do so.

"Time," for example, included an intriguing essay by its religion editor about the writer's imagined state of organized religion in 2092. Among other things, he foresaw a greatly reduced role

for mainstream Protestant Christianity.

Left unchallenged, such images can be self-fulfilling prophecies. They help fuel unjustified assumptions about the inevitable demise of the Protestant Reformation and its legacy—a demise some of us are unwilling to concede!

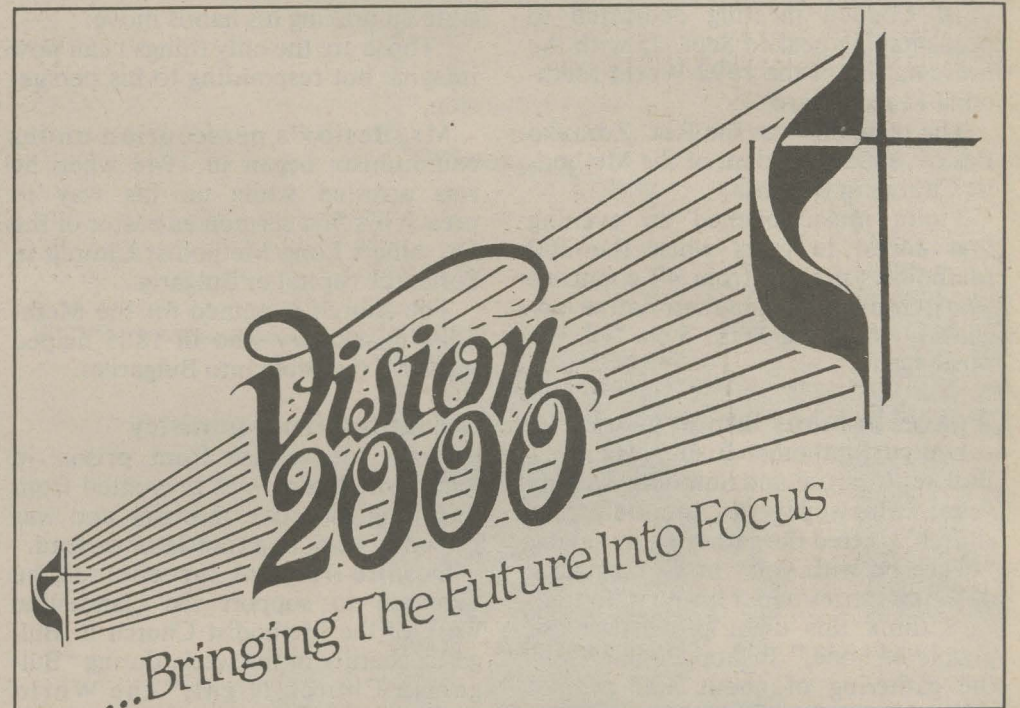
Theologically, we who follow one whom we confess to be Alpha and Omega, the sign of God's will for both present and future, cannot responsibly avoid "thinking ahead."

Only as we anticipate consequences of our actions and the actions of others in the near and not-so-near future can we truly discern God's will for the present.

Indeed, many of the most exciting and energizing things we do as the church—build a university in Africa, start housing projects for low-income people, help revitalize the church in Russia, respond to people stricken by natural disasters and remain with them for the long haul—are those that we sense and hope will create a more God-shaped future.

In short, even if a millennium weren't at hand, Christians should be the world's leading futurists!

We're encouraged by numerous efforts across the church, some under the banner of a "Vision 2000" theme, to envision and help create both the church and the world of the future. For example, we at UMR are trying to anticipate the



Numerous efforts are being made across the church, some under the banner of a "Vision 2000" theme, to envision and create the church and world of the future. But even if a millennium weren't at hand, Christians should be the world's leading futurists.

church's communications needs in the year 2000 and beyond and to explore ways to meet those needs.

Similarly, if you haven't done so, you and your congregation should use the stimulus provided by the coming

millennium to begin your own "Vision 2000" effort.

In addition, you should encourage such efforts within your community and actively bring to them your Christian voice and vision.

Xenophobia: Confronting sin of inhospitality

A recent statement by European church leaders denouncing "xenophobia," the fear and hatred of strangers, merits widespread notice (see text of statement on opposite page).

The statement stems from an alarming increase of violence throughout Western Europe against growing numbers of political and economic refugees.

Some are fleeing civil war, most notably in former Yugoslavia. Others are seeking employment and a better life than that offered in their own countries following communism's chaotic demise.

Whatever the reason for the influx of "strangers" and their mistreatment within the borders of Western Europe, they are not alone, as witness:

✓ Koreans who live in Japan are, according to recent news reports, objects of discrimination and mistreatment as second-class citizens.

✓ Many Haitians attempting to flee deplorable conditions at home face deportation or imprisonment when they seek safety in the U.S.

✓ South African blacks continue to be treated as strangers within their own country, too often as objects of violence, as efforts falter there to end white minority rule.

The list goes on. Not the least of its number are countless incidents, some reported, some not, of violence toward or mistreatment of others merely because they are "different"—racially, ethnically or sexually—from the majority.

In all likelihood, you've heard of at least one such incident in your own area within the not-so-distant past.

We as Christians, if we are to be faithful to our calling, have no choice in this matter: We must speak out in word and deed against such violations of the law of love.

The Bible views the sin of inhospitality—theological language for "xenophobia"—as particularly deplorable (see Malachi 3:5). Conversely, both Old and New Testaments call for strangers to be treated with compassion (see Exodus 22:21 and Romans 12:13).

We endorse the European church leaders call for "signs of reconciliation" in the treatment of strangers in our midst, at home or far away.

Such signs may include efforts to get acquainted with those regarded as "different" by exchanging visits, eating a meal together or having other similar face-to-face encounters.

Critical for us as Christians are not merely the encounters themselves but the life-changing, planet-saving witness they make to others:

All who live under the rule of God "are no longer strangers and aliens" (Ephesians 2:19).

Celebrating our higher ed 'seeds'

A recent "U.S. News & World Report" magazine annual ranking of top American colleges and universities gives United Methodists cause to celebrate!

No fewer than 14 of our institutions of higher education were listed by the magazine (see related story elsewhere in this issue).

Our church and its predecessor bodies have a rich tradition of support for higher education dating to the early years of both our nation and our church.

That tradition not only continues but is being expanded in our own time. Witness our church's pioneering efforts to found Africa University, which opened its doors just this

spring in Zimbabwe.

Our history of involvement with higher education shows that "mighty oaks" can indeed sprout from small "acorns."

Or, as Saint Paul reminded us, "as we sow, so shall we reap."

The "U.S. News & World Report" ranking confirms that, in at least one respect—our support of higher learning—United Methodists have sown deeply and well.

We should continue our history of planting for the future educational needs of our nation and world. One way to do so: Give generously to Student Day and other special offerings that support our church-related colleges and universities.



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'Love the stranger as ourselves'

EDITORS' NOTE: Church leaders from three central conferences of the United Methodist Church in Europe, the British Methodist conference and the Irish Methodist conference recently issued the following statement on growing hostility toward foreigners in Europe.

Meeting in September 1992 in Germany as the Committee of European Methodist Representatives we are moved by the situation of foreigners among us.

We are struck by the news about violent hostility against the hostels for asylum-seekers and refugees.

We know that this is not only a German problem. Xenophobia and hatred against foreigners dwell beneath the surface in many of our countries. When, in a period of economic distress, there are rapid and large-scale movements of people throughout Europe, these feelings may readily be expressed.

We are impressed to hear from Christian people, including Methodists, who in East German cities walked with lighted candles between the lines of opposing demonstrators, to make peace and to witness to peace.

Therefore we invite Methodist people in all European countries to remember the biblical commandment "to love the alien as ourselves" (Leviticus 19:34).

We encourage them to witness in their local communities to this love for the foreigner among us, through signs of reconciliation and friendly welcome.

Let us also try to find the roots of this hostility. We can examine what is in the hearts of people who practice violence, and in our own hearts. We believe that the Gospel has the power to heal the deep anxiety and insecurity which contribute to hate and contempt; and the Gospel encourages us to find creative ways of addressing the social, political and economic aspects of these outbreaks of violence and destruction.

We invite the people called Methodists to pray for one another, for the victims of violence, for the perpetrators of violence, for politicians and for those who are responsible for security and order. Let us also pray for those regions in Europe and in the world, where war and poverty force people to leave their homes.

We encourage one another to develop and to share the vision of a Europe where people who are in need will find every possible help whoever they are, and where people of different cultural backgrounds can learn to live together in harmony and peace and to recognize one another without being anxious about losing their own identity.



RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

A recent statement by European church leaders called on Christians to pray for all regions of the world where people, such as this Salvadoran woman and child, are forced to leave their homes. We as Christians have no choice in such matters: We must speak out.

Faithfully yours Daring words make history, change my life

Sometimes you just know you're watching history being made.

I had that revelation recently in Varna, Bulgaria. I was invited to a press conference for Bulgarian journalists to interview representatives of the World Methodist Council executive committee, which met that week in the Black Sea resort town.



Cynthia B. Astle executive committee, which met that week in the Black Sea resort town.

I was so overwhelmed by what I saw that it was all I could do to keep from rubbing my eyes in astonishment:

Journalists now work in a country that less than two years ago had been a closed society. Religion has become a legitimate news topic in a country that once officially promoted atheism.

Astonishing as these things were, the remarks of an old man of God were what made history.

The journalists, through an interpreter, asked several questions of the foreign dignitaries: United Methodist Bishop Heinrich Bolleter, who supervises Bulgarian United Methodists; the Rev. Donald English, president of the World Methodist Council; and the Rev. Joe Hale, the council's chief executive.

But when they turned their attention to the Rev. Zdravko Beslov, they received far more than they obviously expected from the 72-year-old superintendent of the United Methodist Church in Bulgaria, who would be honored later that week with the 1992 World Methodist Peace Award (see related story elsewhere in this issue).

With a strength that belied his frail body disabled by communist prison beatings, Mr. Beslov gave the journalists a 10-minute lesson in faith.

"Evangelical denominations in Bulgaria are often unjustly called 'sects,'" he began, as his stepson, Asparuk Asparukov, translated for the visitors' benefit.

"A 'sect' is associated with intolerance, a lack of understanding. What appeals to a thinking person is the liberal spirit which permeates Methodism, to quote our founder, John Wesley, 'to think and to let think.'"

"Our spiritual attraction is the way of life Methodists are famous for leading: We have always tried to live out what we preach.

"I invite you to develop an interest in and become friends of Methodism."

At his words, my eyes filled with tears so that my notes swam in front of me. My tears, I realize now, were only tributaries of the living stream of Mr. Beslov's faith, which he poured out over the gathering like water released from a dam.

In that moment, I knew that Bulgaria would never be the same. The country will be changed—just as I had been forever changed—by the way Zdravko Beslov and other United Methodists there share their faith.

—CYNTHIA B. ASTLE

Ms. Astle is Associate Editor of the Review.

Letters to the Editor Is problem with 'male' God rooted in abuse?

It may well be that objections to the use of masculine terms for God grows from the irresponsibility of young fathers and husbands who abandon their families, rape their daughters and physically abuse and murder their wives.

No such victim would wish to call God "Father." A study by William Justice demonstrated conclusively that the nature of one's earthly father had great impact on one's doctrine of God.

Jesus may have called God Father, Abba, Daddy, the most intimate Jewish term of His time, because fathers were much more godly in His day. It certainly speaks well for Joseph, His earthly father.

Perhaps we must give up male terms for God until the church can rise again to its calling and win young male disciples to Christ to nurture them into God's likeness.

When men give women justice, security and tenderness, and when both men and women again relate well and meet each others' needs, physically, spiritually and emotionally, these objections will probably vanish.

Then, perhaps, we should ignore such minor symptoms of such an awesome evil and deal with the founda-

tional dilemma of just, loving healthy male-female relationships.

Robert L. Irwin
Wilmington, North Carolina

Youth witness affirmed

On Sept. 16 I was taking pictures of our flagpole devotional rally at Kellyville, Oklahoma High School. About 150 kids were there, including four from our little youth group.

It was impressive to hear from all over the area of these and how they were commended on television for this earnest grassroots expression of their faith. Some saw it as a quiet protest of the Supreme Court ruling that has effectively removed God from a place in our U.S. classrooms.

I am glad that our youth are rising up to express their faith, even in such an event as clustering around the school flag pole before classes to express their faith. I believe they sense that the Founding Fathers were declaring freedom for, not from, God-centered religion, only not through a "state church."

Larry Eisenberg
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Searching for new ideas

The Lebanon/Reading District (Eastern Pennsylvania Conference) Committee on Superintendency is seeking information from throughout the jurisdictions in North America regarding the duties and responsibilities of their district superintendents.

Are any new and innovative approaches being used? Has any district been able to break with tradition and give their district superintendent a new "job description?"

We are searching for new ideas and would welcome any correspondence regarding district superintendents being involved in new and different approaches to their jobs.

Please send comments to: Hank Hershey, 8 Meadow Lane, Kutztown, Pa., 19530.

Hank Hershey
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

The editors reserve the right to edit, condense or reject any letters received.

Address letters for publication to "Letters to the Editor," United Methodist Review, P.O. Box 660275, Dallas, Texas 75266-0275.



Duke gets \$600,000 grant to study U.S. Methodism

From news and staff reports

Two Duke University Divinity School professors have been awarded a three-year grant by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. totalling \$599,335 to study American Methodism.

The project will be supervised by professors Dennis M. Campbell and Russell E. Richey.

"We hypothesize that religion in America cannot be understood without a thorough comprehension of the nature of Methodism," Dr. Richey explained.

"Yet, with some exceptions, the bearing of Methodism on American culture and of American culture on Methodism has gone unexplored."

The project will involve a team of researchers both at Duke, a United Methodist-related school in Durham, N.C., and from across the country.

In addition, a select group of people will take part in a leadership development program designed to project policy directives in relation to the research findings.

A number of publications will be produced, and two major consultations and a concluding conference are planned.

"We hypothesize that religion in America cannot be understood without a thorough comprehension of the nature of Methodism."

—Russell Richey

"We hope this study will significantly contribute to the understanding of American religion and Methodism, as well as to the future shape of Methodism as we move into the next century," said Dr. Campbell.

Dr. Campbell is the divinity school's dean and professor of theology. Dr. Richey is associate dean for academic programs and professor of the history of Christianity in the United States.

The Lilly grant will fund research through June 30, 1995. It is the largest research award ever received by Duke Divinity School faculty.

The Lilly Endowment Inc., based in Indianapolis, has a longstanding interest in and commitment to supporting research in religion.



SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PHOTO

Helping hands after a hurricane

FRANKLIN, La.—Southwestern University students Catherine Newell of London and Christina Coronessis of Lake Jackson, Texas, haul off a trash bag filled with debris from a hurricane-damaged site. Southwestern students were among dozens at United Methodist-related schools who have offered relief to hurricane victims in Florida, Louisiana and Hawaii (see related stories on facing page).

THE BEAT GOES ON...



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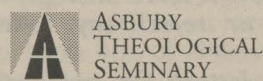
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Faith Watch

Compiled from news and staff reports

INTERIM GOVERNMENT:

Church leaders including a United Methodist bishop, Melvin G. Talbert (San Francisco Area), ended a recent six-day tour of South Africa by urging creation of an interim government as the only way to stem the tide of violence in that country. The church leaders were headed by Sir Paul Reeves, official Anglican observer at the United Nations in New York. The religious leaders said creation of "an interim government of limited duration" would give some voice to that country's black majority as the only way to thwart continual violence in South Africa.



Bishop Talbert

REFUGEES' BLANKETS:

\$1 million worth of blankets will be sent to the former Yugoslavia by Church World Service, relief arm of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The United Methodist Committee on Relief has contributed \$50,000 toward the purchase of 800,000 blankets, said Lloyd Rollins, UMCOR's disaster response coordinator. UMCOR has designated another \$50,000 for relief work carried out under United Methodist Bishop Heinrich Bolleter in the war-torn region and allocated an additional \$25,000 to Church World Service for other types of relief there.

TRIAL DATE SET: A tentative date of March 22 has been set for the attempted murder trial of Dr. Walker

Railey, former pastor of First United Methodist Church in Dallas. Dr. Railey is accused of having tried to strangle his wife, Margaret "Peggy" Railey, five years ago. Judge Pat McDowell said he will wait until Dr. Railey's attorney files a motion before he decides whether to move the trial to another venue.

INJUNCTION LIFTED:

A federal appeals court has lifted an injunction against the screening in the United States of a film that includes an interview with the Rev. Donald Wildmon, the anti-pornography crusader. The ruling by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, issued in New Orleans recently, opened the way for the film, "Damned in the U.S.A.," to be shown around the country. Mr. Wildmon, a United Methodist minister, heads the American Family Association in Tupelo, Miss. He had objected to the use of the interview in the film along with sexually explicit material.

SUIT WITHDRAWN:

The lawsuit of a United Methodist missionary against his supervisors at the church's General Board of Global Ministries has been withdrawn, "without prejudice" from an Illinois court. The Rev. Lowell Wertz of Chicago, a missionary to Zaire, had accused his mission supervisor, the Rev. Julius Jefferson, of slander. Mr. Wertz claimed that Mr. Jefferson had said he was the cause of riots in Leuna, Zaire, which resulted in seven deaths in 1991. Mr. Jefferson denies the charge. By withdrawing the case "without prejudice," Mr. Wertz is free legally to bring the case up again.



Church's love shelters Louisiana storm victims

By DIANE HUIE BALAY
Associate Editor

BALDWIN, La.—The response of United Methodists nationwide to the plight of victims of Hurricane Andrew has drawn high praise from the church's Louisiana coordinator of emergency relief, Sarah Schoeffler.

"It makes me impressed to see what

kind of church I serve," she said.

For example, here in Baldwin, Sager Brown School was reopened as a distribution center after having been closed for about 12 years. The school is owned by the Women's Division of the church's General Board of Global Ministries.

Founded in 1921 to educate black children, the school was reportedly

closed when public school integration reached a point that it was no longer necessary.

After the hurricane, in what was called "A Labor Day of Love," the school buildings were converted into housing for suddenly homeless families.

One such family consisted of Sharon Parker and her two children ages 1 and 3.

Like most people in the bayou country, the Parkers evacuated before Hurricane Andrew bore down on the town.

When she returned the next day, she found everything gone.

"I cried," she said simply.

The Parkers found temporary shelter in nearby Franklin, but Ms. Parker soon found out that she and more than 100 others would have to vacate in a day and a half.

Baldwin's worried mayor, Wayne Braux, asked if the school could be opened to the homeless.

With permission quickly granted by the Women's Division, said Ms. Schoeffler, and with volunteers streaming into Louisiana from all over the nation, "We got that place open in a day and a half," she declared.

A work force of about 300 people, many of them Catholic townspeople who joined the United Methodist volunteers, cleaned, rewired the buildings

Here's how to help

Contributions to aid victims of Hurricane Andrew in Florida and Louisiana may be sent via annual conference treasurers to Advance Special No. 901185-6.

Contributions to aid victims of Hurricane Iniki in Hawaii may be sent via annual conference treasurers to Advance Special No. 901190-3.

for electricity and gathered bedding and kitchen supplies.

"It was like ants at a picnic," Ms. Schoeffler said, describing the working crowd. "The mayor cut the grass."

So Sharon Parker, her children, and the rest of the homeless moved into Sager Brown School.

"The homeless residents in Sager Brown are doing the cooking," volunteer Walter Brock told the Reporter. Mr. Brock is a United Methodist layman from Baton Rouge.

"They cook red beans and rice, gumbo, stew—really good food," he continued.

With the church acting as advocates for the residents, most have moved into temporary mobile homes provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"In times of disaster, I've learned," said Ms. Schoeffler, "that we have a church in place and ready to go."



REVIEW STAFF PHOTO BY DIANE HUIE BALAY

BALDWIN, La.—A relief worker's embrace of a child made homeless by Hurricane Andrew symbolizes the loving arms members of The United Methodist Church have offered to storm victims.

Hawaiian UMs report Hurricane Iniki damages

By PEG PARKER

Hawaiian United Methodists are still reeling in the aftermath of Hurricane Iniki, the most powerful hurricane to hit the islands this century.

"Damage is extensive and recovery will take a long time," Hawaii District Superintendent Robert Fiske said after visiting United Methodist churches on the hardest-hit island of Kauai.

Mr. Fiske and Hawaii District Administrative Assistant Lorraine Kadooka spent a day on Kauai one week after the storm visiting pastors and church members and assessing damage to church facilities.

Mr. Fiske reported that houses of a number of church families, like many others on the island, were demolished. Others lost roofs or other portions of their dwellings.

Although the church properties at Kaumakani, Kekaha and Lihue United Methodist Church suffered extensive damage, the property in Lihue used by a Tongan congregation suffered only minimal damage.

A United Methodist campsite in Kokee State Park near Waimea Canyon also escaped damage.

Church relief efforts on the island are being coordinated by the Kauai Interfaith Council. The efforts of the council are supported by an ecumeni-

cal task force organized on Oahu by the Hawaii Council of Churches.

Ms. Parker is editor of the California-Pacific Annual Conference edition of UMR.

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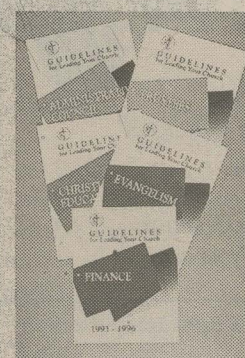
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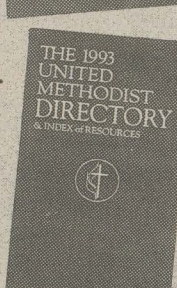
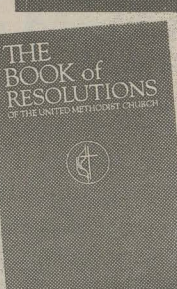
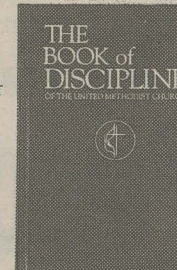
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Veteran newsman named editor of the Review

By DOUGLAS F. CANNON

A veteran religious journalist—whose byline is familiar to many readers—has been named chief news executive of The United Methodist Reporter, parent organization of the United Methodist Review.

John A. Lovelace, managing editor of the Reporter since 1984, succeeds the Rev. Spurgeon M. Dunnam III as editor of the weekly newspaper and its three sister publications: the Review, The United Methodist Record and The National Christian Reporter.

Dr. Dunnam, who held the dual title of editor and chief executive, died last year.

In his new position, Mr. Lovelace plans and directs the production of news and editorial content for the four religious newspapers, which have a combined nationwide circulation of more than 435,000. In addition, he su-

pervises the work of the five-person reporting and editing staff.

Lifetime of service noted

"John Lovelace brings to this position a lifetime of service to The United Methodist Church," said the Rev. Ronald P. Patterson, Reporter publisher, in announcing the promotion. "His distinguished career in religious journalism has earned him the respect of his peers—writers, editors and publishers—in all phases of Christian communications."

Dr. Patterson, who succeeded Dr. Dunnam as UMR's chief executive in July, praised Mr. Lovelace's "keen editorial eye, commitment to fair and balanced reporting, and deep love of the church."

"He will play a pivotal role in helping the Reporter expand news and information services," Dr. Patterson said.

Mr. Lovelace joined the Reporter staff in 1981 as an associate editor. Before that he was assistant professor of journalism at Oklahoma Baptist University for five years.

He worked at the United Methodist Publishing House between 1968 and 1976 as news editor for four denomination-wide publications—"Together," "Christian Advocate," "United Methodist Today" and "Newscope." He was founding editor of "Newscope," a weekly newsletter for church leaders, in 1973.

Mr. Lovelace was news editor of the "Daily Christian Advocate," the official record of United Methodist General Conference news and proceedings, in 1970, 1972 and 1976.

From 1964 to 1968 the Fort Worth, Texas, native worked in his hometown as associate editor for All-Church Press, a publisher of newspapers for local congregations in seven cities.

Awards honor writing skill

Mr. Lovelace received the annual Donn Doten Award for excellence in writing from the United Methodist Association of Communicators in 1983 and 1987. He received a major regional award from the Dallas Press Club in 1986 for extended coverage of the church and the rural crisis.

He has garnered numerous other writing awards from the Associated Church Press during his 28-year career in religious journalism.

Mr. Lovelace belongs to Oak Lawn United Methodist Church in Dallas. He chairs the administrative board for the 450-member congregation this year. He is also a lay member of the



John A. Lovelace
... named editor

Church historians honored

United Methodist News Service

CONVENT STATION, N.J.—The United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History recently presented its Distinguished Service Award to Homer L. Calkin of Arlington, Va.

Mr. Calkin long has been associated with both United Methodist and U.S. archive and history affairs. This includes service with the U.S. Department of Justice, National Archives and Records Administration, and Department of State, where he retired in 1977.

Within the church, Mr. Calkin was

cited for distinguished achievement as editor of the "World Methodist Catalogue of Archival and Manuscript Collections," a project that took him to the South Pacific, East Asia and Great Britain.

To date, 11 volumes of the work have been published.

The commission also voted to present the next distinguished service award to the Rev. Frank Baker, a Wesley scholar and retired professor from United Methodist-related Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

Dr. Baker continues as textual editor of the Wesley Works project.

1992 North Texas Annual Conference.

Mr. Lovelace earned a bachelor of arts in journalism degree in 1952 from North Texas State University and a master of arts in journalism degree in 1964 from United Methodist-related Syracuse University.

Mr. Lovelace is married, and he and his wife, Mary, have three grown children and one grandchild.

Mr. Cannon is UMR director of church relations and services.

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Orthodox leader: Religious education key for E. Europe

United Methodist News Service

NEW YORK—Religious education is crucial for Russia and the other former Soviet Republics as new societies and governments are formed, according to Father Ioann Ekonomtsev of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Father Ioann, as the director of the Moscow Patriarchy's Department of Education and Catechism is known, visited the United States recently to continue discussions with United Methodist agencies and other groups and to attend a convention of the Russian Orthodox Church in America.

A series of agreements concerning joint efforts on education, communications, publishing and health care was signed by United Methodist, Russian Orthodox and Soviet Peace Fund officials in June 1991.

Because the Russian Orthodox Church cannot afford to build enough schools, Father Ioann said he worked with the Russian Parliament to allow voluntary religious education classes in state schools. The classes will be for informational instead of evangelistic purposes, he added.

Last January the church was able to begin airing "Sophia," a weekly 40-minute radio program on state radio.



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Review

Religious hatred seen in 'School Ties'



PARAMOUNT PICTURES PHOTO

Actor Brendan Fraser plays a Jewish teen-ager sent to an elite preparatory school by his hopeful father in Paramount Pictures' current offering, "School Ties." The movie portrays some consequences of religious intolerance at the school.

By BILL FENTUM

Religious and ethnic intolerance can grow in even the most "enlightened" surroundings. Case in point: St. Matthew's Academy, a fictitious New England preparatory school that serves as the backdrop for the recently released movie, "School Ties."

Set in the fall of 1955, it tells the story of David Greene, a 17-year-old star quarterback from Scranton, Pa., who has just transferred to St. Matthew's on a football scholarship.

The son of a Jewish coal miner, David (Brendan Fraser) is the first in his family to attend such an institution. He witnesses, but doesn't share, the tremendous pressure his more "privileged" classmates feel to succeed their forefathers by entering Ivy League colleges.

But David is no stranger to a more vicious burden, that of anti-Semitism.

No place for physical rebuke

Back home, he has always responded to bigoted remarks by raising his fists. This would hardly go over well at St. Matthew's, however, so his new coach advises David not to tell the other boys "any more than they need to know."

He obliges, against his conscience, by concealing his heritage and joining his peers for the school's chapel services.

His discomfort at these services is obvious. He cannot bring himself to participate in hymn singing nor, at first, in mass prayers.

Another conflict arises on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, traditionally a time for soul-searching and solemn contemplation. To observe the occasion, David must wait until after a game, then sneak into the chapel.

The headmaster finds him here reciting a Hebrew prayer and makes little effort to hide his disgust. This reinforces the impression that the boy's acceptance at the school is due

only to his skill on the playing field.

Inevitably, the other students do discover David's "secret." Their frequent anti-Semitic cracks, which he had endured in silence, are now directed at him. (Note: the film's language is realistically harsh and it together with two fights and some brief shower room nudity, accounts for the PG-13 rating.)

Prejudice built on differences

Even David's roommate, Reece (Chris O'Donnell), who remains loyal to their friendship, initially has trouble dealing with the situation. In a revealing argument with David, he insists that "Jews are different. It's not like between Methodists and Lutherans. I mean, Jews . . . everything about them is . . . different."

At this moment we see that Reece has never fully considered the basis for his own prejudice.

A cast of young, relatively unknown actors brings a freshness and intensity to scenes such as this, contributing greatly to the movie's success. Credit also the solid direction by Robert Mandel, who recreates the time and place with remarkable flair.

The screenplay by Dick Wolf and Darryl Ponicsan is compromised by a few predictable episodes. These include the nervous breakdown of one student and a doomed romance between David and a girl from St. Matthew's sister school.

Yet the writers stick to their guns when it really counts: "School Ties" doesn't pretend that the issue of intolerance can be completely resolved in time for the final scene.

Indeed, as a recent worldwide upsurge in crimes of bigotry has clearly shown, little has changed in the four decades since the era of the film.

Mr. Fentum is a production staff employee of *The United Methodist Review*.

Once-homeless artist takes religious art show prize

By SUSAN TRAVIS

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—An artist with no formal training recently took the \$1,000 first-place prize for his drawing "Looking To God" at the 1992 Religious Art Festival at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica.

James Stolz, 49, of Santa Monica was the winning artist. His work, selected from 222 entries by Southern California artists, was the first he had ever entered in competition.

"I was just elated," the formerly homeless artist told the Review. "I guess it was one of the happiest days of my life."

Mr. Stolz works as a private, in-home attendant and care giver to handicapped and elderly people.

Striking countenance

His award-winning drawing is a portrait of another self-taught artist, the late black American sculptor William Edmondson (variously spelled as Edmondson, Edmundson and Edmonson).

Mr. Stolz said he was attracted to the strong lines and visionary look of the sculptor's face when he saw a very small photograph of him in a magazine.

Using the photograph as a model, Mr. Stolz created an original work on the theme of "Looking to God."

The theme is appropriate for this important sculptor, he said, because Mr. Edmondson gave God all of the credit for his ability to carve.

The winning work went on display recently in the church sanctuary along with 68 other paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints and mixed media which were selected from the entries by a two-person jury.

The jurors were Kent Twitchell, known in California for his large-scale public murals, and Scott Canty, a curator for the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department.

Ecumenically powerful

Festival Coordinator Melissa Piper said the jurors "brought warmth and depth to the exhibit which stem from

. . . the strong commitments they each made to their personal faith.

"The works are diversely ecumenical," she said, "as well as widely varied with respect to the artists' interpretations of the theme, 'Vision.' The resulting exhibit is a powerful experience for the viewer."

In addition to the first-place prize, the church provided a \$500 second-place prize and two \$250 awards. Funds for the prizes and other competition expenses were donated by church members and raised from artists' entry fees.

The purpose of the ecumenical exhibition was "to exhibit exceptional works of art which interpret and enhance the beauty and mystery of our encounter with God," said the Rev. Donald Shelby, executive director of the exhibition and senior pastor of the church.

Ms. Travis is the editor of "The Sentinel," newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica. Review Associate Editor Diane Balay contributed to this article.



PHOTO BY TIM TRAVIS

SANTA MONICA, Ca.—"Looking to God" was the first piece of work artist James Stolz entered in a competition. The painting won that contest's first-place Jurors' Award over 222 other entries.

October 26-October 31

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26
 INSIGHTS INFORMATION DUE FOR NOV. 6-NOV. 22
 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting — JOY Class
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Preteen, and A.A. — Community Life Center

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27
 12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group — JOY Class
 6:30 p.m. Staff Dinner — Wethington's Home
 8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen, and A.A. — Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28
 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries
 9:30 a.m. Weekday School — Whitford Hall
 10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch — Whitford Hall
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal — Whitford Hall
 6:15 p.m. Wesley Singers — Choir Room
 6:15 p.m. Carol Choir — Aldersgate Room
 7:30 p.m. Bethany Bells — Handbell Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29
 7:30 a.m. Men's Study Group — Parlor
 9:30 a.m. Weekday School Halloween Party — Whitford Hall
 12:00 p.m. Thursday Study Group — Prayer Room
 4:30 p.m. Wesley Fellowship — Duke Divinity School Lounge
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir — Choir Room

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
 7:30 p.m. Asbury Social — Nifong's Home
 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, OCTOBER 31
 8-12 p.m. West End Community Workday
 2:00 p.m. Open Door 25th Reunion — Whitford Hall

NOVEMBER 2-NOVEMBER 7

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2
 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries
 10:00 a.m. Circle 3-n-1 meeting — Parlor
 11:00 a.m. UMW — Bradshaw Room/Whitford Hall
 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting — JOY Class
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon, Ala-Pre-Teen, and A.A. — Community Life Center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3
 12:15 p.m. Tuesday Study Group — JOY Class
 8:00 p.m. Central Al-Anon, Ala-Teen and A.A. — Community Life Center

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
 9:15 a.m. Parents' Morning Out — Nurseries
 9:30 a.m. Weekday School — Whitford Hall
 10:00 a.m. Craft/Lunch Bunch — Whitford Hall
 4-6 p.m. Prayer Vigil — Prayer Room
 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal — Whitford Hall
 6:15 p.m. Wesley Singers — Choir Room
 6:15 p.m. Carol Choir — Aldersgate Room
 7:30 p.m. Bethany Bells — Handbell Room
 7:30 p.m. Circle 7 — Mary Jones' Home

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY
 7:30 a.m. Men's Study Group — Parlor
 10-5 p.m. Prayer Vigil — Prayer Room
 12:00 p.m. Thursday Study Group — Prayer Room (?)
 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir — Choir Room
 7:30 p.m. Multiple Sclerosis Society — Community Life Center

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY
 7:30 p.m. Friday Study Group — Call Donna Elium (382-8228)
 8:00 p.m. Al-Anon and A.A. — Community Life Center

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7
WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY

New Books In The Library!

If you have not visited the Library recently, please come by and look over our new books.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

- "Heidi" — by Johanna Spyni
 - "Children's Book of Poems"
 - "Country Lane Story Book" — Barry Smith
- Lots more!
 THERE ARE MANY NEW INSPI-

RATIONAL BOOKS:

1. "The Journal and Letters of Francis Asbury"
 3 Volumes — J. Manning Potts — Editor in Chief
2. "A Place for Revelation" — Sermons on Reverence for Life — Albert Schweitzer
3. "Manners and Customs in the Bible" — Victor H. Matthews

More Duke Memorial News On Page 2L



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

TEACHERS' MEETING — CHILDREN'S TEACHERS
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25. COFFEE — 8:30, MEETING — 9:00. ALDERSGATE ROOM. SITTER PROVIDED.

VISITATION

SOME FOLKS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO CALL, VISIT OR SEND A NOTE:

Friendly Rest Home, 301 Archdale, -07 489-9497
 Susie T. Conklin Room 13
 Ethel Harris
 Mary Head visits them almost every week

Brian Center, 6000 Fayetteville Rd., 27713 544-9021
 Annie Wheeler Room III
 Lonie Carswell Room 207A

Kings' Daughters Home, 204 N. Buchanan Blvd. -01 688-7172
 Bessie Sue Harris Room 106 682-7619
 Judelle Northcutt Room 210

Britt Haven Nursing Home, 1716 Legion Rd., Chapel Hill 27514
 929-7146

Holland Y. Holton Room 17

VISITATION DAYS FOR NOVEMBER —
 THURS., NOV. 12., AND THURS., NOV. 19.
 LAST THURSDAY IS THANKSGIVING.

With this beautiful Fall weather, it's sad for so many of our church family to be stuck inside. So, take a homebound person for a ride to see the beautiful Fall leaves. Please call Ann at 683-3467 if you need the name of a person to take. (Or see me at a worship service).

Help a sweet older person to see the beauty around us before they get shut in for the winter.

If you are interested in reading the Bible once a week to a sweet 98-year lady, please call Ann at church.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS' DAY — COMMUNION SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Methodism Class	Aldersgate Room
9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages	
10:15 a.m. Sanctuary Choir	Sanctuary
10:30 a.m. Ringing of the Tower Bells	
10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Communion	Sanctuary
12:15 p.m. UMW — Report on Annual Meeting	To be announced
5:00 p.m. DMYF	Whitford Hall
6:30 p.m. NO JOYBells	
7:30 p.m. Organ Recital by John Semingson	
8:00 p.m. 12 Step Al-Anon and A.A.	Community Life Center

SERMON: Rev. Mark W. Wethington

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 149
 Luke 6:20-36
 Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
 Ephesians 1:11-23

USHERS:

Tim Langford
 Clarence Bailey
 Robin Langford
 Pam Whilen
 Arthur McDonald
 Dick McFall
 Susan McFall
 Tom Shore
 A.D. Turrentin

GREETERS:

Bill Stone
 Maryellen Stone

S.S. GREETERS:

Asbury Class

ALTAR GUILD:

Gloria Johnson
 Ann Marie Langford
 Susan Teer

NURSERY:

Dana Pope
 Rita MacMillan
 Karen Carr

ACOLYTES:

To be announced

MESSENGERS:

To be announced

JR. CHURCH:

Richard Greenway
 Julie Chandler

"And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, Moses, Moses! And he said, here am I. Then he said, do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Exodus 3: 2-5