

Historical pilgrimage brings new insights to local church group

On Friday morning, April 23, thirty-five men, women, youth, and children from Mulberry United Methodist Church boarded a chartered bus and left for St. Simons Island, Ga. The purpose of this trip was to learn more of the church's and nation's history.

The group arrived late in the afternoon at "Epworth-by-the-Sea," the Methodist retreat center on the island. They arrived in time to see a beautiful sunset from their lodge, which overlooks the Frederica River and Marshes of Glynn.

Part of each evening was spent learning of the adventures of John and Charles Wesley, founders of the Methodist Church. This was done by various members of the group portraying some of the historical happenings with the Wesleys and James Oglethorpe, founder of the Georgia colony. The group also enjoyed singing songs around a fire in a tabby cabin. The cabin was once occupied by slaves.

Saturday morning the group toured the island visiting some of the historical sites, such as Ft. Frederica, the site of the largest, most costly fortification ever

built by the British in America. They also visited the site of the Battle of Bloody Marsh, July 7, 1742. Some historians say this was the battle that forever determined British rule in this area of the country. Finally they stopped by the majestic old lighthouse on the southern tip of the island.

For many the highlight of the trip was the visit with Eugenia Price at Christ Church. The congregation of this church was begun by the Wesley's in 1736. The church building was built in 1820. Eugenia Price, well-known Christian author, has written three historical novels about people on the island. She took the group on a tour of the church, location for one of her novels, and through the cemetery where most of the characters from her books are buried.

Sunday morning the group celebrated Communion in the picturesque Lovely Lane Chapel, which was built in 1880.

After lunch the group, tired but happy, boarded the bus for the trip back to Mulberry. One group member summed up the weekend by saying, "It was the best weekend of my entire life!"

Instead of being taught to enjoy more and more of less and less, our advertisers have convinced us the more stuff we have, the happier we will be.

Women, small children and men are bombarded constantly in our homes with radio and television, in our newspapers, magazines and billboards promoting the perversion that humans were meant for things — that human salvation lies in things we own.

Hang the ad men as our witches; stone the salesman as the adulterer he is. Women can spend whole days in what they call window shopping; I call it

genuine living when these constantly push it out of the way with all their emphasis on superficial stuff?

Let's have a campaign against pornography. Let's outlaw all commercial advertising, throw all ad men into the sea, and then discover the true purposes of life.

"Here I Stand" is a forum through which TM/UMR readers may express their opinions and concerns about the church.

This week's contributor, Glenn Smital, is a member of the Willow Valley UMC in Stockton, Illinois.

My Witness

Faith provides us with life's 'third ingredient'

By JO HALLER

Sometimes I feel too much importance is put on the results of heredity and environment.

Parents sometimes despair, thinking, "How can my Johnny or Jane have a chance to grow up good with our family history and the mistakes I have made in his or her training?"

Or we, ourselves, may feel that family genes and family attitudes have made it impossible for us to rise above an un-

tact with Christian teachings and examples, we learn we have a choice. We can choose up or down.

Perhaps the hardest handicap a person can grow up with is the feeling of not being loved by parents. Even this burden can be overcome, although it may require skilled counselling for the unloved one to realize he is a worthwhile person and can be loved by Jesus and Christian friends.

Ethel Waters in her book "His Eye Is On the Sparrow" tells how she rose above



Jo Haller