

AND NOW IT'S CONFERENCE TIME!

The four day session of our North Carolina Annual Conference takes place at Methodist College, in Fayetteville, Monday-Thursday, 6-9 June. This is the meeting at which all programs and activities are the subjects of report, review, and course setting for the fiscal year of 1978. It is a time for fellowship, for renewing acquaintances, and for spiritual inspiration. It is also a time of great pressure of scheduled events.

An example of the agenda indicates the pressures of time that bear on the Conference session. Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m., following an opening hymn and prayer come the following items in the business session: composite report of the district superintendents; report of the Conference Lay Leader; reports of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men; a report from the General Council on Ministries; recognition of our chaplains; World Communion Pilot Project; proposals and report from the Annual Conference Council on Ministries covering Evangelism, Worship, Education, Lay Life and Work. At 11:15 the order of the day is a worship service with Bishop James S. Thomas as preacher.

Often the agenda is not completed in time for the Orders of the Day and so evening sessions become necessary. Sometimes a visitor thinks, by quick observation, that matters of great importance are treated in a cursory fashion. This is far from the truth. What comes to the Conference from the several committees, councils, Boards, commissions, is always carefully prepared and has been threshed out in many meetings. Therefore, as most of you know, the difference in appearance and reality is often really astounding. Motions from the floor are considered and sometimes prevail; what amazes me as I think of the work of the Conference is that so often it is well and carefully done despite the pressures of time.

It is a costly session. Even with the relatively spartan facilities at Methodist College, the Annual Conference expense budgeted for 1978 is \$27,000.00. It is always an interesting session and this year promises to be quite lively. It is open to visitors. Come take a look! Your lay delegates and church staff members will be there looking for you!

-- Ed Smith

MRS. ROBERT M. BLACKBURN, wife of our resident bishop, died in Raleigh, Sunday, 22 May 1977. Funeral services for her were held in Edenton Street Church in Raleigh Tuesday. Duke Memorial has sent a gift to the Blackburn Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Mrs. Blackburn. Other memorial gifts may be sent for this Fund to the office of the Conference treasurer, Charles K. McAdams, Box 10955, Raleigh, N. C., 27605. As with all our church family, your prayers of intercession and support for her family are asked along with your prayers of thanksgiving for her exceedingly useful life.

MARRIAGE: The congregation and pastors express their love and good wishes to Para Rodenhizer and Wilfred Drake who were married in the Wren Chapel on the campus of William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Va., Sat. 21 May, at two in the afternoon. Para is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rodenhizer.

FLOWERS in the Narthex on May 29 were given by Mrs. Thelma Ray in loving memory of her brother, H. B. Miles.

IN MEMORIAM

Hall Brooks Miles May 24, 1977

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation extend their love and sympathy to the Robert L. Wallace family because of the death of Chris's sister in Alabama on May 23, and to the family of H. B. Miles.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES: Congratulations and best wishes to the following persons who are graduating from High School this spring:

Jordan: Meredith Adams, Doddy Hilliard, Stan Sherman

Hillside: Kim Bailey, Paula Hix

Northern: Hugh Crenshaw, Sharon Yarley

N. C. Friends: Nancy McLean

Durham High: Faye Rodenhizer, Arthur McDonald

Durham Academy: David Green, Ruth Ann Greenfield

Ravenscroft: Marty Pifer

Southern: Margaret Fowlkes

St. Margaret's School: Dana Few

On Sunday, June 5th, these graduates will be honored at a Luncheon after Church given for them and their families by the College and Working Youth of our church. If we have omitted anyone's name from our list, please notify us immediately and please know that you are welcome to attend the Luncheon on Sunday.

GRADUATES who were not reported in last week's newsletter are as follows:

UNC School of Dentistry: John Chester Berry, Jr.

Technical Institute of Alamance: Steven Eure Shepherd

We are proud of all our graduates and wish them well in their future undertakings.

STAFF MEMBERS OF DUKE MEMORIAL attending Annual Conference sessions in Fayetteville, Monday-Thursday, 6-9 June, are Diaconal Minister Biddle and Elders Wallace and Smith. In the event of special needs, contact the Church Office and these staff members can be reached.

THE BULLETIN
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MY EXPERIENCES IN THE BIG APPLE
(UN and WASHINGTON STUDY TOUR)

I went to Raleigh on March 12, 1977 to meet 44 new friends. We boarded a Southern Coach driven by the neatest bus driver I have ever run into. Ray led us in good ole religious songs over the loud speaker.

We arrived in New York at 1:00 a. m. All of us were ready to come home. There were more people on the street than Durham has two days before Christmas. It was filthy. When we got to the Hotel Gorham we were starting to get excited.

On Sunday we saw the difference (on Madison Avenue) between the rich section and Harlem. In the rich section the children go to private schools for five to six thousand dollars per year. In Harlem they go to run down public schools. We went to church at Riverside (a church build by John D. Rockefeller). It was huge! It even had a bowling alley somewhere. We went through little Italy to Greenwich Village to an old church for worship service. We rode the subway back to the hotel.

Monday we had seminars in the Methodist Building (across from the UN) on South Africa. We had a man talk to us that had been smuggled in - Mr. Pretxy Nesmith. He told about families being broken up - black families. The minority race was the government. They have it good while 80% of the population were in bondage - slavery - just plain cruelty to those Human Beings. All of our Seminars involved telling us the side of the people in bondage. We had seminars on large American companies, in other countries, paying workers 10¢ per hour in lousy working conditions. It makes me angry. That night we went to see "Fiddler on the Roof" starring Zero Mostel on Broadway.

Our last day in New York we went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I really liked the Russian Costume Exhibition. We went to see the Easter Show and premiere movie, "Mr. Billion", starring Terreance Hill, at Radio City Music Hall.

People have told me that the people of New York were cold and suspicious. All the ones I met took time to prove us wrong and told us that was what they were doing and they did. I will remember my encounters with New Yorkers as warm and friendly ones.

We left for Washington, D. C. On the way we stopped in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We saw the Liberty Bell. The people fixed us dinner at Zoar UMC, a good southern fried chicken dinner.

We had seminars on strip mining and solar energy. We met Congressman Fountain from North Carolina. He took us on the House floor and the speaker of the House's office.

That night (St. Patrick's Day) we went to Georgetown for dinner and we danced at the restaurant. We had two people to come in second in a dance contest.

The next day was our last. We went to the Smithsonian Institute and toured the monuments. We ate dinner at Centenary UMC and headed home. It was an experience I'll never forget.

I appreciate the help the Commission on Education gave me to make it possible for me to go on this trip.

-- Faye Rodenhizer

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet Monday, June 6, at 11:00 o'clock in the Bradshaw Room. Mrs. Alberta Poe Lane will be the speaker. Members are asked to bring sandwiches for lunch.

Circles 1 and 3 will meet at 10:00 a. m.

UNITED METHODIST MEN will meet Tuesday evening, 7 June, at 6:00, in the Fellowship Hall.

THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD meeting which usually comes on the Tuesday following the first Sunday of each month is this month postponed to Tuesday, 14 June, because of the conflict of meeting dates with Annual Conference.

HOSPITALIZED: Duke: Otis Kimrey, Minot 2121
DCGH: J. H. Barton, 6111
Lucy S. Shaw, 5136
Thelma Hargitt, 7230

APPRECIATION: CHRIS AND BOB WALLACE appreciate the many kind expressions of concern related to the death of Chris' sister.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 29 May, 1977

Church School.....275

Morning Service.....343

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Due each week \$ 3,802.41

Received last Sunday 1,843.49

Received to date 83,927.12

Needed through last Sunday 83,653.02

SUNDAY, 5 JUNE 1977 - Trinity Sunday

The Epistle: Romans 11:33-36

The Sermon: "Divine Mathematics"

Acolytes: Julie Lynn Boy & Hannah Sprecher

Greeters: Mr. & Mrs. Herschel Caldwell, Jr.

Jr. Church Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Roy Forrester

Mrs. John Penick, music