

METHODISM'S PECULIAR INSTITUTION

Annual Conferences of the Methodist tradition are somewhat different from the gatherings of other denominations. They are not less democratic. That a bishop presides is not a problem of authority or autocracy at all, popular impressions notwithstanding. In theory there will always be a lay majority, a significant change from the long-time custom of equal lay-clergy representation. It is a time for stock-taking, for looking at problems which ought to be seen as challenges, for visiting and fellowship, and even for a little bit of politicking (or whatever is the spelling of the word!).

The agenda is always over-loaded; inevitably debate is cut off on occasion. When I look at the matters to consider in a short time span, always I feel a great burden. Then I begin to think, "What would I omit?" Shortly thereafter, the burden is lifted and I am rather anticipating the contests of endurance - of how long one can sit in sessions, of how long one's attention can focus on whatever is before us.

Singing is perhaps the best thing that comes over in a conference. It is not because there is a gathering of persons of great vocal ability; rather, it is because singing is joyous, a way of Christian witness, and those who are there remember the admonition, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so". They say it in song. I know no one who does not wish that local congregations would apply themselves in the same spirit to the privilege of worship in song.

Ordination in the Methodist tradition is centered in the actions of the Conference. It is at this point that Methodists are most different from other confessions. The Conference votes on ordination for all persons involved. The ordination questions put, the questions at the time one is received into full connection, the solemn way in which we deliberately set apart some of us for the ordained ministry, brings to me personally many memories along with a sense of deep appreciation and thanksgiving to God and the Church. This year, Don Settle will be ordained deacon Tuesday evening, 5 June. Members of our church family will be there; all of you are invited for this session and for every activity of the Conference.

It is a great time and climaxes in the reading of the appointments. If there are now few surprises in this, it is even so a meaningful "go forth and serve" moment. You all come!

-- Ed Smith

THE NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE will meet in its one hundred fifty-fourth session at Methodist College, Fayetteville, Monday - Thursday, 4 - 7 June. Lay delegates from Duke Memorial are Tom Coble and Mary Whanger; alternates are Louise Ervin and Ran Few. Diaconal minister Biddle, and Mr. Settle and Mr. Smith expect to attend. Any emergency need for any of these staff members can be met through a call to the church office.

BLOOD DONORS are encouraged to make regular donations of blood and to insure that Duke Memorial is recorded as their institutional sponsor. Because of our proximity to three major hospitals all doing advanced work in many fields, the need for blood and blood fractions is always unusually high in Durham. Give the gift of life - bless others and yourself!

SCHOLARSHIP AID: Students in undergraduate studies who are members of Duke Memorial and who need financial assistance are invited to make their requests to the Scholarship Committee. Address such requests to this committee in care of the Church Office prior to 15 June 1979.

THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN will meet in the Bradshaw Room at 11:00 a. m. on Monday, June 4. Dr. W. Arthur Kale will be the speaker. At the special request of members who were privileged to participate in his Wesley Study Tour to St. Simons, Georgia, he has agreed to tell all of us about the women in John Wesley's life.

Please bring a sandwich, cookies, or something else for a picnic style lunch.

Circles 1, 2 and 3 will not meet again until September but their members are urged to attend the general meetings.

Be sure to bring any items you have for the school kits as well as other items on our project list.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF UMW will meet Friday, June 1, at 9:30 a. m. in Whitford Hall. Please bring a copy of the new charter for Racial Justice Policies.

JELLY PREPARERS for Fall Festival are going to be needing jars (pint size and smaller). Please bring any you may have and leave them in the Church kitchen. Thank you!

HOLY COMMUNION will be celebrated Sunday, 3 June, from five to six o'clock in the sanctuary. You are invited to come for any part of this hour and at your own pace and convenience, to share in this sacrament.

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

Second Class Postage
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Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist Church
 504 West Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

A MESSAGE FROM CATHY WELLS....

This week we received a letter from Cathy Wells with a note to the congregation that reads:

"Thanks to everyone in the church for your support during the time I worked with you this year. I appreciate the warmth with which you accepted me into your fellowship and the support you gave the youth in our various projects.

I also appreciate the luggage and the cross-stitch picture of Duke Memorial you gave me the day I left. The luggage has already proved useful to me in my move to Washington, D. C.

My family appreciated meeting many of you at the Church Anniversary celebration. You have been a special part of my life."

OUR GIFTS TO THE DISASTER FUND (relief for victims of tornadoes, floods, earthquake, volcanic eruption, political refugees from Uganda) now amount to \$783.99. The money has been forwarded. If you wish to share in this cause, please make a gift marked "Disaster" and another remittance will go to the Conference treasurer. Thank you.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER: Last Sunday, Mrs. Sylvia M. Layfield, 119 S. Hardee Street, became a member of Duke Memorial by transfer from St. Paul United Methodist Church, Columbus, Ga. Her son, Gregg, is a preparatory member. Her telephone number is 682-4716. A visit, telephone call or a note of welcome will be good for all of us.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Metcalf of Rt. 5, Mebane, because of the recent death of their infant son.

THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see
 A Church that's all it ought to be;
 A Church whose members never stray
 Beyond the straight and narrow way;
 A Church that has no empty pews,
 Whose pastor never has the blues;
 A Church whose deacons always deak
 And none is proud, and all are meek;
 Where gossips never peddle lies,
 Or make a complaints or criticize;
 Where all are always sweet and kind,
 And all to others' faults are blind--
 Such perfect churches there may be,
 But none of them are known to me.
 But still, we'll work, and pray, and plan
 To make our own the best we can.

--Author Unknown

THE OPEN DOOR CLASS AND HOMEBUILDERS CLASS will meet jointly on Sunday, June 3, in the Bradshaw Room at 9:45 a. m. Guest speaker will be Dr. John Bergland. His topic will be "Prayer and Personal Religion." Everyone is invited!

OUR KNOWN HOSPITAL SICK to be remembered in your prayers:

DCGH:	Margaret Heldman		7214
	Horace Mansfield		5111
	Lillian Dameron		5116
	Eva Cox		5329
	Annie Smith		6320
Duke:	Buck Mortland	Holmes	4126
	Ted Lawrence	Holmes	4109

SUNDAY, 3 JUNE 1979 PENTECOST

The Epistle: Acts 2:14-21
 The Sermon: Wind or Spirit
 Acolytes: Lisa Harris and Don Lampley
 Greeters: Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Shipp
 Altar Guild Workers for June:
 Grace Cooke 286-4859
 Hilda Coble 286-2697

BIBLE READINGS: June 6 - 12, 1979

June 6	Neh. 1	-	3
7	Neh. 4	-	6
8	Neh. 7	-	8
9	Neh. 9	-	10
10	Neh. 11	-	12
11	Neh. 13		
12	Esther 1	-	3

ATTENDANCE: 27 May 1979

Church School.....	230
Morning Worship.....	347

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Needed each week	\$ 3,931.85
Received last Sunday	4,014.81
Received to date	80,077.89
Needed through last Sun.	82,568.85
Deficit	2,490.96

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF JUNE 3 - 9, 1979

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	5:00 p. m.	Holy Communion, Sanctuary
Wed.	10:00 a. m.	Fall Festival Workshop in Whitford Hall
	7:30 p. m.	Circle 7 with Selma Gore, 905 Lambeth Circle, Apt.16F