

WHY GO ANYWAY?

Technology presents us with a dazzling future - if we can find our way into it and avoid destruction of the race and the planet with some of the more somber aspects of our "progress". One really shining aspect of this brave new world is the bringing into our homes of the events of the world. Not least of these privileges is that of having religious services set before us, in colour if we prefer, in black and white if that is our choice, and in all dimensions, from eight inches to twenty-five. They come on at our behest; if we wish to lower or to increase the volume of the preacher(s), a small knob enables that to be done. If the music is to our liking, we can enjoy it. If we dislike it or think that the sort of music used is unfitting for a worship service, it is not necessary to leave a building and go elsewhere - again, a small knob or button enables other choices to come before us for our inspection.

The preaching may be from pedestrian to super-eloquent. The preachers are not responsible to any supervising group in matters of faith and doctrine. They can soar to heights of imagination - and sometimes, fantasy - that are not part of the life of the "church". No group is necessary to validate their claimed credentials; degrees fly with the ease of dry leaves in an autumn wind.

Two things generally are asked of viewers or hearers. The first is important only if it represents an honest commitment to Jesus Christ from the hearer. Rather often, this is a secondary consideration. The chief goal is to "hear" from the viewer/listener, rather clearly put in terms of "hearing" from your bank account. Every church group and every religious group requires money to operate; Duke Memorial is no exception. It is incumbent on all of us to know something of the accountability as to use of funds contributed. Local churches publish their budgets and make regular reports to church groups or bodies on financial matters. What do we hear from the electronic church beyond grandiose building projects, claims of work done but usually without much substantiation of the claims made?

What is asked of you as you "participate" in such a "ministry"? Your check book is the answer. Our Lord Jesus taught that we are to serve God with heart, soul, mind and strength. Giving money is part of it and an important part, both for the cause to which money is given as well as for our own need to give. Churches ask much more - they ask for us - physically present and personally participating, using what we have and what we are in serving God through Jesus Christ. Duke Memorial is such a church. We commit ourselves to support this church with our "prayers, presence, gifts and service". The very act of getting up and out of the house is a first step in worship! These requirements involve all that we are. As you think of your soul and eternal destiny, do you want to settle for less than the most that God offers? I surely do not. You all come!

- - Ed Smith

HOST HOMES: On Wednesday, February 18, the Host Homes Program at Duke Hospital will hold two one hour meetings for new volunteers and potential volunteers. You are invited for refreshments, informal discussion, and an orientation tour at 10:00 a. m. or at 1:00 pm in Duke Hospital North. For additional information, call the Host Homes Desk (684-5351) Sunday - Friday, 1:00 - 4:30.

SYMPATNY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to the family of Margaret Martin who died Monday, 2 February 1981 in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

SUNDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 1981

Septuagesima Sunday

The Epistle: I Corinthians 9:24-10:5

The Sermon: Winning Is the Only Thing

Acolytes: Karen Connery and Amy Tilley

Greeters: Mrs. Mary A. Bitting and

Mrs. Laura Boone

IN MEMORIAM

Miss Margaret Martin

February 2, 1981

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

THE BULLETIN
DUKE MEMORIAL
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Durham, N. C. 27701
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THANK YOU, WHOEVER YOU ARE! A monthly report comes to the Church on blood donors who credit their gift to Duke Memorial. It gives only figures, never names - and that is as it should be. We are actively concerned in the "gift of life" through the Red Cross blood collection program. By the faithfulness of those who have kept this in the foreground of their thinking and planning, we exceeded our goal for the twelve month period ended 15 January 1981. Thank you, whoever you are! God bless you; your gifts have blessed persons equally unknown to you but who are forever in debt.

THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet Sunday, 15 February, at four o'clock in the Aldersgate room, first door to the left entering the sanctuary hallway from the breezeway. All children at least eleven years or in the fifth grade or further along in school will be welcome. Sessions last forty-five minutes each afternoon. Children who want to be confirmed will, with the consent of their parents, be received into the church at a date to be selected by members of the group, sometime in the period around Easter.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

"Who is in my neighborhood group?"....

"What streets are included in my neighborhood?"....

"Who is my leader?"....

"How many groups are there?"....

These may be some of the questions that have been running through your mind since you read the announcement in last week's Messenger about "Neighborhood Groups".

We are in the process now of dividing our resident membership into groups of approximately 20 persons who live near one another. We have discovered that there will be 37 groups.

Leaders, or contact persons, are being recruited at this very minute. Some leaders have already participated in an Orientation Session and are ready to begin making contacts. Others will be prepared to begin soon.

Your Neighborhood Leader will contact you either by phone, visit, or by an invitation to a party in the neighborhood! Your group leader will also have for you a list of the persons in your Neighborhood Group.

If March 1 comes and you have not been contacted in any way, please call the church office. That will help us find out about mistakes that might have been made when we divided the membership into groups.

If you're just dying to know who your leader is and he/she hasn't called yet, just call the church office and we'll help you solve this mystery!!

CHURCH CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 15 - 21, 1981

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	4:00 p. m.	Confirmation Class in Aldersgate Room
	5:15 p. m.	UMYF
Monday	6:30 p. m.	Teacher's "POTPOURPI" at Virginia Clark's home, 3608 St. Mark's Rd. For children and youth teachers: a potluck supper and sharing
Tuesday	10:00 a. m.	Circle 8
Wednesday	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast, Whitford Hall
	10:00 a. m.	Altar Guild
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch: Ruth Phelps, speaker
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday		Junior High Sunday School Class Trip to Lake Junaluska