

DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XVI

MAY 17, 1981

NUMBER 20

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1981

The fourteenth session of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (and the one hundred fifty-fifth session of the oldest constituent member Conference) meets at Methodist College in Fayetteville in June. For the first time, there is a planned division in the session. Clergy members will meet Monday, 1 June, at 1:00 to receive and act on the report of the Board of Ministry. Traditionally only clergy have voted on Conference membership, ordination and like concerns; this is a change in schedule but not in substance.

Sunday, 7 June, Pentecost Sunday, the first "regular" session of the Conference will meet at Haymount Church in Fayetteville at four o'clock for a service of ordination for deacons. A recess for dinner at Methodist College follows and then in the evening, in the same location, the ordination of elders will take place. Our Associate Pastor, W. A. Haddock, Jr. expects to be in the group ordained as elders. The business sessions begin Monday morning and are scheduled to be completed "sometime Wednesday". The last item of business is the reading of appointments by the presiding bishop, William R. Cannon of Raleigh.

Annual Conference sessions are the peculiar creatures of Methodism in all its branches. I know of nothing that really parallels such meetings. A few generations ago, the highlight of the session was undoubtedly the reading of the appointments. Up to that moment, a veil of absolute secrecy covered the whole business. Laity and clergy alike "got the word" on the floor of the Conference. Appointments so made were a surprise with whatever value surprises have in them. And, as my understanding of it goes, they were pretty well made in those days as they are now. In our time, there are occasionally a few last minute changes of appointment for good reason, but usually the list as known prior to the conference meeting holds firm. In some Conferences, appointments are known two or more months prior to the Conference meeting. However done, they do get made - and the system has worked with surprising effectiveness for more than two centuries.

Conference is literally a meeting time; it is a time when along with much business being done, there are some splendid worship services. The bringing together of so many people is an irresistible temptation to scheduling all sorts of meetings, for efficiency and for convenience. So, groups with particular interests meet at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner. Were we British, I doubt not that we would have morning tea meetings and afternoon tea schedules as well! We even have a few "before breakfast" meetings just to be sure the day is full.

This is Methodism's peculiar contribution to the church life of our world. I really enjoy the sessions and invite all of you to consider the schedule and whether it might not be well for you to include part of it in your own plans. You might even have a very good time and some delightful learning out of it! You all come!

-- Ed Smith

A Note From Margaret Anne

I have participated in two church events recently that meant a lot to me, and I want you to know about them. I shall tell you about one event this week, and save the other event until next week's Messenger.

On April 26, I drove the van carrying 14 of 19 blue-robed children to Trinity United Methodist Church to sing in a Junior Choir Festival, secretly wishing I could be at the Centennial parade scheduled for the same time! (The children had other ideas too, suggesting that I abscond with them to the beach for about a week! Wouldn't Jane Lynch and all their mothers have been surprized if I had yielded to their persuasive pleading?)

Later, I knew that I was glad that I hadn't missed this significant event, for it was a wonderful feeling to participate in a Worship Service led by Junior Choirs from six of our community churches. I was especially proud, watching our own boys and girls process into the Sanctuary with the others...hearing them sing so clearly and with good volume...and enjoying with them the lively and well-sung anthems from the other choirs.

I could only rejoice in the realization that our group was significantly larger than the other groups there, and images of a thriving, active children's ministry danced in my head and warmed my heart. It was also heart-warming to end our worship together with all the children processing to the choir loft to join the organ and the magnificent trumpet in the singing of the stirring hymn, "All People That on Earth Do Dwell".

As you can see, I wouldn't have missed it for anything!

THE BULLETIN
 DUKE MEMORIAL
 METHODIST CHURCH (USPS 553-880)
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Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist
 Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

DUKE MEMORIAL CONNECTED TO DURHAM CIA

You may not know it, but Durham has a CIA and Duke Memorial is involved with it! In contrast to that better known CIA, the Durham CIA is not a secret but very public organization. Its task is subversion, the subversion of the common ills of our good community.

The Durham Congregations in Action is the kind of organization everyone is proud to be a part of: over 75 congregations, denominations and faiths working together to: promote spiritual renewal and reconciliation; to put faith into action by reaching out to the anxious, the lonely, confused and alienated; and to help as many as possible realize their fullest potential as God's creatures.

Specifically, Durham Congregations in Action works through the host homes program at the Duke Medical Center to host families of hospitalized persons, through "medi-port" to get medicine to those who cannot get out to get it for themselves and to get the elderly and infirm to medical services; through ministerial interns to provide chaplaincy services to the elderly at Oldham Towers and Henderson Center; and through Meals on Wheels to get nourishing and enjoyable food to persons unable to prepare it for themselves.

Yes! Duke Memorial Church is unembarrassingly associated with the Durham CIA. Stay for lunch on Sunday, May 17, and help yourself to a delicious lunch for just \$2.50 (children \$1.25). And help Durham Congregations in Action in a ministry that is exciting and vital to our area. Speak with Ruth Phelps or Margaret Anne Biddle to see how you can become personally as well as financially involved with DCIA. (Lunch sponsored by the Homebuilders and Christian Fellowship classes. All proceeds go to DCIA).

-- Maurice Ritchie

SUNDAY, 17 MAY 1981 Fourth Sunday after Easter

The Epistle: James 1:17-21
 The Sermon: Steady on Course
 Special Music: Selections from Elijah
 Greeters: Laura Brock and Ruth Long
 Acolytes: David McCotter & David Younts
 Junior Church Leaders: Senior Highs

CIRCLE 8 will have a covered dish picnic lunch on Tuesday, May 19, at Gibby Williams' Lake Hyco home. Please meet in the Church Parking Lot at 9:30 a. m.

A GIFT has been made to Duke Memorial Church in loving memory of Hattie Herndon McSwain by her sister, Mary Frances McSwain.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to Jean Carlson Haddock because of the death of her grandmother, Sarah Carlson, who died May 3, 1981 in Rock Island, Illinois.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES are most useful if they are kept up to date. When folks move away, simply lightly cross off the address they used in Durham. When others become part of our fellowship, add their names and telephone numbers.

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH:

Max Englehart	7323
Elizabeth Jones	6334
Anna McCarson	5113

PASTOR AND MRS. HADDOCK are moving Saturday, 16 May, to 1116-B North Duke Street. Their telephone number will be 682-0073. Please correct your church directory.

CHURCH CALENDAR MAY 17 - 23, 1981

Sun.	9:30 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	12:15 p. m.	Luncheon in Whitford Hall
Mon.	11:00 a. m.	Circle 5 with Mrs. C. I. Morrison, 5836 Sandstone Dr.
		Covered Dish Lunch
	12:00 Noon	Circle 9 in Whitford Hall
		Covered Dish Lunch
Tues.	9:30 a. m.	Circle 8, Picnic at Lake Hyco
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	10:00 a. m.	Bazaar Workshop
Thurs.	6:00 p. m.	Minnie P. Gates Covered Dish Supper, Whitford Hall
	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

ATTENDANCE: 10 May 1981

Church School.....	231
Morning Worship.....	324

NEW UMYF OFFICERS ELECTED. At their meeting on May 3, the Senior UMYF elected the following officers to serve for the 1981-82 year:

President: Sid Allen, Jr.
 Vice-President: John Allen
 Sec. - Treas. - David Younts

Congratulations Sid, John, and David!
 They will take office in September.

JUNIOR HIGH CARWASH - Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a. m. - 3:00 p. m. at Duke Memorial Church
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