

# DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XVI

MAY 24, 1981

NUMBER 21

## WHY DO YOU - OR WHY DON'T YOU?

Do you know Toni Brown? I don't; but I am even so indebted to her. I commend to your reading a short statement she made in the May 1981 Reader's Digest (pp. 110-112). It is a simple accounting of why she goes to church. Those of us who do attend church services can profit from that statement; those who don't can, at the least, ponder it!

In the same week that I read this article by Toni Brown, I read also a church newsletter from one of the larger congregations in our Conference. The pastor of that church was wondering where, on a given Sunday, the "other two-thirds" of their members are. Across the United States, United Methodist Churches average about 35% of their membership being present in a worship service. The pastor who wrote about it spoke for many of us. It happens that many churches are significantly below that national average and Duke Memorial is one of them.

Out of the coinciding of these two statements, I began to wonder how many of us could - and would - write a statement of why they attend church. Rather than a printed homily or exhortation from me on this subject, I now invite members of Duke Memorial to compose their own short statements of why they attend Church services and send them to me. Some of them may be used, in part or in whole, from time to time in the Messenger. On the "equal time" doctrine, those who don't come to church are invited also to make their statements and send them to me. We will not publish them; but it is possible that this would be a learning experience for both the writer and the reader. It might even help to resolve some of the impasses in which we find ourselves now and again!

One of the factors that made me ready to receive the Gospel was the realization of how far away from the Church - and more important, from Jesus - I had drifted simply because I had been working about a hundred hours weekly. A young friend who declared himself an atheist was an ardent evangelist for his position and worked very hard to get me to join him. I found with some horror that it would require very little for me to get there. Reflection on that whole context of experiences made me far more ready to hear and receive the Gospel than I had ever been before. In God's good time, it came. I have been thankful ever since, and thankful even for Paul Bowling who was the apostle of atheism. Often I wonder where he is and what has happened to him. He helped me realize where I had drifted.

So, sharpen your pencils (and wits if need be) and share with all of us why you do attend church, or, if you don't, share that with me! Who can know the good that may come for many of us?

-- Ed Smith

### SUNDAY, 24 MAY 1981

Fifth Sunday after Easter

The Epistle: James 1:22-27

The Sermon: Money and Mouth

Acolytes: Amy Layne and Koren Sickles

Greeters: Holly Eggleston, Matt and Kelly

OFFICERS FOR 1981 for United Methodist Men are: president, Tom Coble; vice-president, Houston Blair; secretary, Charles Medlin; treasurer, Bob Weynand. They were elected in the 5 May meeting of Methodist Men. The next meeting will be 8 September.

WHO IS GRADUATING? Members of our church family are enrolled in many schools - and this is graduation year for many of us! Please call the Church Office that we may compile and publish a list of our graduates for this year. The numbers are 688-1901, 688-2170. Thank you!

ANNE ADAMS' programs on reading and writing were signally honoured on Thursday, 7 May, when Charles M. Campbell, chairman of the Hawaiian state legislative committee on education, came to Duke. Dr. Adams developed these programs as an extension of her work in the Department of Education at Duke. In Hawaii, 157 schools use the programs currently and the number continues to grow. Dr. Adams died suddenly last November. Her sister, Lois Vick, is a member of Duke Memorial, as was Anne.

DUKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND aid is a possibility for any member of Duke Memorial who is in undergraduate studies. Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the pastor prior to 1 June 1981 for consideration for the academic year 1981-82. Thank you.

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

Second Class Postage  
Paid at  
Durham, N. C.

Postmaster send address changes to Duke Memorial Methodist  
Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM MARGARET ANNE

This week I would like to share with you things I liked about the recent two-night meeting of a task force to plan summer activities...

I like the committee makeup itself, which included adults, youth, and children - all three groups making valuable contributions!

I like the way we spent time at the beginning of our meeting getting to know one another better by sharing "The best thing that ever happened to us at Duke Memorial and how it made us feel." (Did you know that Oliver Upchurch courted Helen at Duke Memorial and it made him feel good enough to join our church!)

I liked hearing the story of the man who built his house upon a rock and it stood safe and secure against the storms - and then thinking about how to build our summer program on a secure foundation.

Listening to Janie Crocker (our Consultant in Christian Education for the summer) read the story of the "Three Little Pigs" was delightful - and well you might ask "What did that have to do with summer plans!" Well, of course, we had to think about all the "wolves" that could blow our summer "house" down and bring disaster rather than success - like poor planning, etc.

What I liked best, of course, was the wonderful list of summer activities that emerged from our planning and that will be revealed to you soon.

One last thing - I especially liked two answers on the youth's list of things we can do to make sure our summer plans are successful: "Tell everyone what's happening" and "Be friendly to everyone we see at church --- even adults!!!"

VAN TRIP COMING UP ON JUNE 7th!

An event of great significance in the life of Bill Haddock affords us the opportunity for our next Van Trip! On the evening of June 7th at Annual Conference in Fayetteville, Bill will be ordained an Elder in the United Methodist Church. A trip to Annual Conference is being organized for those of you who would like to see what Conference is like, to participate in an Ordination Service, and to support Bill as he takes this memorable step in his ministry. Please call the Church Office to reserve a space on the Van.

Note also: a special session with the ministers is being planned for Sunday morning on June 7th at 10:00 a. m. in the Bradshaw Room for you to learn about "The Ordaining of Ministers in the United Methodist Church". This will prepare you for your trip that evening - it will also be opened to other interested persons who are not able to make the trip.

SYMPATHY: The pastors and congregation express their love and concern to Reverend A. M. Williams and family because of the death of his wife, Annabel, Sunday, 17th of May.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. A. M. (Annabel) Williams  
May 17, 1981

"I am the Resurrection and the Life"

OOPS! DID YOU FORGET?

Several of you forgot to return your Adult Questionnaires! In fact, we have received only 34 of the 500 mailed out. We do believe that more than 34 persons in our church are eager to grow and learn, so we're sure that the problem is only remembering to turn in the questionnaire! Please fill yours out if you haven't done so, and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH: Louise Jones 7207  
Fitzhugh Gamble 6124  
McPhersons: Lizette Dunham 309

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 17 May 1981

Church School.....251  
Morning Service.....287

CHURCH CALENDAR MAY 24 - 30, 1981

Sun.	9:30 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	3:00 p. m.	Durham District Methodist Men, Whitford Hall
	5:00 p. m.	UMYF
Mon.	7:30 p. m.	Training for delegates to Annual Conference, Mt. Sylvan Church
Tues.	12:30 p. m.	Lillie Duke Class Covered Dish Lunch, Whitford Hall
	8:00 p. m.	Circle 6 with Kay Amick, 911 N. Gregson St.
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	10:00 a. m.	Bazaar Workshop
	6:00 p. m.	Visitation Supper
	7:30 p. m.	Council on Ministries
Thurs.	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Fri.		Junior High Beach Trip