

LET'S PRETEND - OR SHALL WE?

There is a great deal of talk nowadays about the search for one's self identity. Couple this with the exhortations from many sides - including pulpits! - as to the need for self-improvement, self-analysis, and about a million other ways to the same end and it is not surprising that one may conclude that all of life is a great pretense. Did not the Bard of Avon say, "All the world's a stage and the men and women merely players?"

There is a time in life when "let's pretend" is almost vital for development of images, imagination and the ability to conceptualize ideas and express them in words. Observing children at play gives you some insight into the lively world of "let's pretend." To ask an adult, "What would you do now if you could do what you really want to do?" is not an invitation to pretend but rather an invitation to express yearnings and longings that often are kept hidden because they are so far from the realities of life that are our daily experience.

Over against all these valuable sides of "let's pretend" is the undoubted sense of discovery of a treasure when one meets a person or recalls a person who is surely, in our clear knowledge, a "genuine person". That person does not live in a world of pretense. That person has come to grips with himself/herself and with life-and usually with God also, for who can truly come to grips with life unless it includes coming to grips with the Creator and Father? There is no claim to perfection nor to achievement beyond what one really has done. Admit that there are wrinkles in the face and a wart or two somewhere around - and admit it as a fact, not a ground for excuse nor for alibi.

This is the kind of person envisioned in the Gospels and in the epistles of the New Testament. "Let no man think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Rom 12:3). Not more highly than he ought to think - nor more lowly either! What are we worth? God counts our worth sufficient that He sent Jesus Christ to die for us and open to us new life. If God so regards me, how can I despise myself? And if God holds out new life to me in Christ, shall I not gladly seize it and realize it as God gives faith?

This is no pretense; this is recognizing and accepting God's offers to us. Consider these matters as we get into 1982 - and be thankful!

-- Ed Smith

10 JANUARY 1982

First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Gospel: St. Mark 10:13-16

The Sermon: Of Such Is the Kingdom

THE CLIFF COMMITTEE ON VISITATION will meet Wednesday evening, 13 January, at 6:00 p. m. in Whitford Hall for supper; discussion and assignments of visitation responsibilities in January.

THE DURHAM DISTRICT LAY RALLY is set for Monday, 8 February 1982, at the Durham Civic Center. Ed Hammond is the District Lay Leader and Duke Memorial is going to want a large representation not only for the worth of the occasion but also in support of Ed who has so long served so well in Duke Memorial. Set down the date now and be alert for other details to come.

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

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Church, 504 W. Chapel Hill Street, Durham, N. C. 27701

THE COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES' meeting is changed to Wednesday evening, 20 January, 7:30, in the Bradshaw Room.

A GIFT has been made to the Good Samaritan Fund by Mrs. F. R. Darkis honoring members of the Homebuilders Class for their "Good Samaritan" acts.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to put flowers in our sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one please call the Church Office, 688-1901 or 688-2170. We have several Sundays available. Thank you.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 3 January 1981
Church School.....180
Morning Worship.....231

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH
Ellie Lewis 4108
George Lindsay 6117

DO YOU CARVE, CROSS-STITCH, PAINT, DRAW, KNIT, MACRAME, LINOLEUM PRINT, MODEL CLAY, TUMBLE ROCKS, BUILD A BOX, MAKE PAPER AIRPLANES, FLY KITES, OR YODEL? If you enjoy some craft, art, or hobby, we would like you to share this with our youth on some Sunday afternoon from 5:00 to 6:00. You won't be asked to lead a class, or organize a group. We just want you to share your talent with others. Call Laura Early or Ashley Randall at the Church Office and let us know what you would like to share and when. A talent is a terrible thing to waste. Compound your interest by reinvesting. Share it with a young person.

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE would appreciate inspirational contributions to be included in the Lenten Booklet. Please turn them into the Church Office before January 31.

THE LOVING SYMPATHY AND CONCERN of the congregation and pastor are expressed to:

J. V. and Veora Hoyle because of the death of V's mother, Mrs. Florence Carlton, Tuesday 29 December 1981

The family of Minnie Wilkerson Blaylock who died Sunday, 3 January 1982

J. H. Chappell because of the death of his wife, Helen, Sunday, 3 January 1982

The family of Harold Bivins who died in Raleigh Sunday, 3 January 1982

OUR NEWEST MEMBER is Dr. Anne McKnight, received last Sunday by transfer from St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Durham. She lives at 2615 Elgin Street, Durham 27704, and her telephone number is 471-6953. She is a resident in surgery at Duke Medical Center concentrating on ear, nose and throat surgery. Welcome her as a member of Duke Memorial by a note or a telephone call.

MEMORIAL GIFTS RECEIVED WITH APPRECIATION

In loving memory of Mrs. R. R. Kissell by Mrs. Lottie N. Walker of Fayetteville.

Robert Bradshaw Good Samaritan Fund

In loving memory of James Ralph Casteel by Mrs. Mary Casteel West, Lakeland, Florida.

CHURCH CALENDAR JANUARY 10 - 15, 1982

Sun.	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	12:15 p. m.	Spaghetti Lunch served by Senior High UMYF
	5:00 p. m.	Jr. and Carol Choirs
	5:00 p. m.	UMYF
Mon.	10:00 a. m.	Circle 10
	7:30 p. m.	Circle 4, Bradshaw Room
Wed.	7:00 a. m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch J. V. Hoyle, Leader
	6:00 p. m.	Cliff Visitation Supper Whitford Hall
	7:30 p. m.	Commission on Education Library
Thurs.	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal