

DUKE MEMORIAL MESSENGER

VOLUME XVII

FEBRUARY 21, 1982

NUMBER 8

JUST AHEAD: ASH WEDNESDAY

Ashes and sack cloth are Old Testament symbols for mourning, contrition, repentance. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, a day celebrated with rites ranging from very formal and austere to almost complete ignoring of the sense of the day and of the season. It is interesting to live at a time in the life of the Church when efforts are being made to recover from liturgical observances the meaning behind the action and in that sense, to come to newness of life of the Spirit.

Traditionally in Roman Catholic observances, the ashes used for this day were the product of burning dried palm branches used the preceding year for the Palm Sunday celebration. The officiating priest placed the sign of the cross on the forehead of each worshipper using a moistened finger and a bit of this ash. Depending on the fervour of the worshipper, the ritual might involve penitential procession, self-flagellation and many other forms of reminding one's self of the weakness of the flesh and of involvement with the world about us.

Many Methodists are beginning to celebrate Ash Wednesday with some form of marking each worshipper with ashes. This is easy enough to do. What is not so easy is to ascertain the condition of our souls before God and truly to give ourselves to a long season of contrition, repentance and recognition of what Lent means. Many have used changes of diet to remind them of what is happening. The change of diet, like the use of ashes, requires little of us. The change of soul may require a great deal.

The liturgical colour for Lent is purple. It is at the same time the colour of royalty (Christ the King) and of penitence. One of the near-paradoxes of Lent is how these two sides of the matter come together in One Man, in His sacrifice for us, and in the way He is Lord of our lives. None of us really have to wear ashes on our foreheads; we may not find diet regulation a spiritual discipline; even wearing purple colours may not have a spiritual result for us. But, all these small ways of observance might be useful.

What is important is not so much which of these or many other possibilities become part of daily life in Lent; what really counts is that something happens within us to keep us mindful of what Lent is about - Jesus Christ crucified for our sins, resurrection for our salvation! Keep the season with gladness!

-- Ed Smith

GUEST PREACHER: Dr. Arthur Kale will be the preacher on Sunday, 21 February, and our District Superintendent, Dr. Charles E. Mercer, will be the preacher on 28 February, the First Sunday in Lent. As Ashley Randall, a Field Education student in Christian Education will preside on 21 February and Pastor Smith will be back from a Conference and brief holiday and on the job on 28 February.

A PUPPET SHOW

FEBRUARY 28

WRITTEN AND CREATED

BY THE FIFTH GRADERS

REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP

PLAN TO ATTEND

6:30 p. m.

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

Second CLASS Mail
Paid at
Durham, N. C.

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

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS AND FRIENDS of Duke Memorial, your help is needed. It is the desire of the church to send the Messenger to all who wish to receive it. Periodically, we update our mailing list. An unforeseen raise in postage has increased the cost of mailing this church newsletter by more than 50%; this inspires the thought that we keep our mailing list so that all who wish it receive the Messenger and that others no longer receive it. To this end, we ask of all non-resident members and friends that they send us a postal card or make a telephone call (919-688-1901, 688-2170) to insure continuing to receive this newsletter. These notices to us should be in the Church office no later than 15 March. Shortly after that date, the mailing list will be carefully worked over. Please let us hear from you NOW! Thank you.

ATTENDANCE: Sunday, 14 February 1982

Church School..... 249
Morning Worship..... 338

21 FEBRUARY 1982, QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

Guest Preacher: Dr. Arthur Kale
Acolytes: Seaton Amick and Samantha Sellers
Greeters: Veal Hoyle and Myra King

A GIFT has been made to the Good Samaritan Fund of Duke Memorial Church in loving memory of Fannie Cates, sister of Hattie McDade, by the Katie Johnson Bible Class.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS:

Word C. Clark to First UMC, Lexington
Raymond W. Postlethwait to Myers Park
UMC, Charlotte

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to put flowers in our sanctuary please call the church office, 688-2170. We have two Sundays open in March for altar flowers.

HOSPITALIZED: DCGH

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CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY 21 - 27, 1982

Sunday	9:45 a. m.	Church School
	10:55 a. m.	Morning Worship
	5:00 p. m.	UMYF
Tuesday	8:00 p. m.	Circle 6 with Gerry Boy, 3907 Swathmore
Wednesday	10:00 a. m.	Fall Festival Workshop, Whitford Hall
	12:10 p. m.	Devotions and Lunch; Alice Walker, Leader
	6:00 p. m.	Cliff Visitation Supper, Whitford Hall
	7:30 p. m.	Council on Ministries, Bradshaw Room
Thursday	7:30 p. m.	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:00 p. m.	Singles Again