

Our United Witness

Commissions on Education and Membership and Evangelism Join Forces to Increase Membership, Attendance, and Participation in the Church and Church School February - May 1962

Why This United Witness?

At the recent meeting of the Methodist Conference on Christian Education, which was held in November in Chicago, Dr. Harold DeWolf, Professor of Systematic Theology, at Boston University School of Theology, stressed over and over that churches of today must rethink their reason for being. He said, "All too many churches today reflect the cultures and the prejudices of its members rather than the grace of God which is available to all men The Church must go back to the Christ of The Gospels to find our reason for being. It is here that we find Christ concerned for people—the inner condition of persons Since the beginning of Christianity the Church has given itself to this purpose It is not possible to have the true Church without evangelism and missions any more than it is possible to have a fire without that fire being consumed. The Church of today must give of itself and be consumed for saving of people."

Since the beginning Methodism has concerned itself for people. In our own country the Methodist movement went with the people across our nation; however, in recent years the Church is not keeping up with the population increase in our nation. Some Protestant groups have, but Methodism is with the national average. Some think that this is an indication that our church does not care.

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What is Evangelism?

Evangelism "is making the gospel known to those who do not know it, in hope that they may be turned to God in faith, and making it more effectively known to those who already live within the Church, that their faith may grow in clarity and strength." Dr. T. Niles (*The Good News of God*)

What is the Process of Evangelism?

The Methodist Church takes the position that children are "members of the Kingdom of God". They are not outside but inside the church.

Nursery Home Department: When a child is born to parents within our church they are visited by our Home Nursery visitor, Mrs. Owen Sellers. Mrs. Sellers takes a copy of The Christian Home Magazine with a book for the baby, My Church Book. This is to be a record of his contacts with the church.

At the Church: The process continues when the Nursery child first comes to the Church School on Sunday morning. He finds a warm welcome from friendly people. As he learns to share with other children and begins to hear about Jesus he is conditioned to associate the church with love, joy and peace. This is evangelism.

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Church Membership Classes for Children and Youth

Six Sundays

March 4-April 8

Dr. James' Class—5:00 P.M. Trinity Hall

This class will be for older juniors and seventh graders of the Junior High MYF. They will meet with Dr. James for one hour each Sunday afternoon for study and discussion on "What it Means to Be A Christian and a Church Member". After completion of the course each person of the class will be given the opportunity to make his decision and unite with the church.

This class will be received into Church Membership on Palm Sunday, April 15, at the 11:00 o'clock worship.

Mr. T. Aubrey Morse's Class—6:30 P.M.—Church Library

Mr. Morse's class will be for members of the MYF—eighth through the twelfth grades. It should be noted that by the time most youth reach the 8th grade they are already members of the church. (Junior High 8th and 9th grades—90 on roll—9 or 10% not members; Senior High—145 on roll—8 or 6% not members)

This class will be received into church membership on Sunday evening, April 8, at the 7:30 worship.

Light From The Pastor's Study

There is of course a difference between "Church work" and "The work of the Church". There are many tasks to be undertaken, many menial chores to be done in the organization of the church. All members are involved in these ordinary tasks, we all work to make sure that all things are done in a careful and orderly manner. It requires real loyalty on this level to make the church effective.

When we come to consider "The work of the church" we meet demands entirely different. Here, we are to be subject to the call of our Gospel and the guidance of The Holy Spirit. It is our commission to proclaim the message which we have heard of Him. It is not of our making, it is a Truth, a Way, a Life given unto us. To this work we are to be faithful.

There is a story, in I Samuel about Saul after he had been chosen King. The great statement is that "There went with him a band of men whose hearts God had touched." A church is to be like that. We should act as a "family unit," each eager to do his part. If we give ourselves first unto God, then the Spirit has a chance to guide us. Unless He is our guide, we move aimlessly. If we do not all hear the same Trumpet, our march is disorderly.

As, I recall, the New Testament story about James and John, they were among the first to follow Jesus. They were called "Bvanerges" which means, "The sons of thunder." One day they were going with Jesus through Samaria. Jesus was not well received there. Because of that these brothers asked Him, "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, even as Elias did?" Jesus answered with a stern rebuke, "You know not what manner of spirit you are of."

So, as we think of the work of the church, we must hear it said, "The Son of man came into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

This is our task in the months ahead. We have a message to proclaim, a Witness to bear. In the "United Witness" campaign now planned by the Commissions of Evangelism and Education working together, we all have a chance to take part in the Highest Call of God to the church, and that is to win people for Christ and His Kingdom.

Each one should ask himself, "Where is my loyalty—do I help or hinder?" Too, we might ask ourselves, "What would our church be, if all the members were like me?"

Help Trinity show a Light, bear a Witness and Live a Life for God in this city.

JUNIOR HIGH MYF

The Junior High MYF is trying to get all its members to catch up-to-date on their MYFund pledges and so they are having a party in February based on the Valentines' Day and in order to be able to attend this party each MYF member must have his or her MYFund pledge paid up through January, 1962. Let's all get caught up and have a real good party.

Our program planning committee have been working on the coming programs for the remainder of the Winter Quarter. They have been doing a good job too!

—Katy Sue Mohler
Reporter

WESLEY FOUNDATION BOARD NEWS

On behalf of every member of our church in the Florida Conference, I would like to thank Chaplain John Carey of FSU for assisting in the carrying on of our Foundation program during Austin Hollady's illness and period of convalescence. At the outset his offer to us was made conditional—that our Director be continued on a salary base status and with this we heartily agreed.

A special Coordinating Committee comprised of committee chairmen and headed by Dr. Myron Blee has worked closely with the Chaplain to acquaint him with our church policies, etc. We cannot measure in hours of time Chaplain Carey and his staff's service so willingly given and are still giving, but we can surely as a group thank him for coming to our rescue when the need was great.

With the efficient addition of Associate Director, Nancy Reiss and a full-time secretary, Mrs. Anne Wolfe, along with the help of many others, the program has advanced—in spite of difficulties. Austin is gradually getting "back into the harness" again, but we want his pace steady but restrained. He means too much to too many to do otherwise and in this number we count his helpmeet (literally so) wife, Becky, and three little daughters, Wendy, Tanye, and Traya! May God continue to bless them! We all love them!

Anna Jane Macklin,
President of Board

TEN - IN - ONE OFFERING

Sunday, February 11th has been chosen by our Church as the date for our Annual Ten-in-One offering. Trinity is familiar with the method used in our Florida Conference. In this way, we support in one offering ten separate causes for which we are responsible. Again this year the amount we must raise is \$1440.00. It is our custom to raise this amount on this *one* day. Let us be ready with our gifts for these ten causes on the 11th day of February.

"POSTSCRIPT"

Now as my term of office on the Wesley Foundation Board draws to a close, I would like to share something in my association which I regard as a priceless piece of rare coincidence.

"Old Tranquil", a Methodist church in north Georgia in the little town of Turin, so reads the history of Coweta County, was organized by early settlers from Newberry District, South Carolina—two Shell brothers and the wife of one of them, Nancy. A local youth to enter the ministry from that church, so the account continues, was one Walter Austin.

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MILKS AT TRINITY ON FEBRUARY 4

Assigned to Mexico

Our missionary family, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Milk, Martha and Ann, will be at Trinity on Sunday, February 4. Dr. Milk will preach at both the morning worship services, and it is hoped that he will be able to stay for an informal "Question and Answer" time on Sunday evening.

As our paper goes to press Dr. and Mrs. Milk have just returned from visiting three mission stations in Mexico. They are now attending the Methodist Board of Mission Annual Meeting in Buck Hill Falls, and at this meeting will receive their assignment, and will stop in route to see the Trinity family.

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My mother, the late Mrs. Anderson, visited her Georgia Shell relatives as a girl and met the young man who later served out his ministry in the Florida Conference. I can recall as a child—there was a meeting here and Reverend Austin visited in our home.

Years passed and when I grew up, I, as all who know me know, have usually motivated my church work around the student. I had worked with our Wesley Foundation Director, Austin Hollady, for several years, I suppose, before I discovered really who he was: Reverend (or as we used to say "Brother") Walter Austin's grandson. Here, it would seem, was a continuation of a family association unwittingly to be sure—one dating back several generations.

And now add to this one more stranger than fancy alliance: My sister, Lucile married the late Dr. H. J. Haeflinger's son, Fred, and Dr. Haeflinger was the pastor who performed the ceremony uniting Austin's mother and father, also a Methodist pastor, in marriage.

With the passing of Rev. Walter Austin last summer, Florida Methodism lost a servant who was long in the service of his Lord and his daughter's son who bears the family name, has done honor to it and our church, as spiritual leader and counsellor of our Methodist students on the FSU campus.

A.J.M.

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Last June the Methodist Florida Conference planned "Our United Witness" as an attempt to try to reach more people, so that they might know that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD. The combined efforts of the Board of Evangelism and the Board of Education will begin on the first Sunday in February and continue through May, or until conference time.

It is only natural that these two groups work together, for Evangelism and Christian Education have identical ultimate goals: "the confronting of the individual with the gospel". While they have identical goals, each has somewhat characteristic emphasis.

In Trinity we join forces to try to increase our membership, attendance, and participation, in the Church Worship and Church School. Groups will be busy during this time trying to do what we are already doing better and trying to reach the unchurched of our community.

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In these pre-school years we begin to teach the small child ideas about God, but long before he can understand these ideas about God he can know God As he grows he will begin to think of ways of following Jesus' example of love in his world

In the older Junior years he begins to see Jesus, the Man, who suffered for his love to people—that he said to us that even when people are mean to us we should not be mean to them but should return good for evil.

As the child learns things of this nature, the figure of Jesus takes on solid content that gives definite meaning to the question, "Would you like to become a follower of Jesus?"

Each child should be permitted to move as fast as he seems ready to go. There is no definite time, but it is recommended that children wait until they are older juniors before making this decision. Most children and youth at Trinity make this decision and unite with the church when they are in the sixth or seventh grade.

W.S.C.S. NEWS

February 6, 1962 marks the date of the next General Meeting of the members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. It will be held in Trinity Hall starting with a brief social period at 10:30 A.M. The program for the February meeting as announced by Mrs. Wesley Vordenberg, will be in charge of Mrs. E. V. Fisher, Secretary of Spiritual Life, and will be the introduction of the meaningful study "The Meaning of Suffering". The other sessions of this study will be conducted at the regular circle meetings. Also participating on the program with Mrs. Fisher will be: Mrs. Tom Brown; Mrs. Ledley Brown; Mrs. Spencer Burrese; the Rev. Austin Hollady; and the Rev. Harry Middlebrooks. The nursery will be open, and members and friends are cordially invited to take part in this meaningful study and program.

WSCS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Executive Committee of the Woman's Society will meet in Trinity Chapel at 9 A.M. on Tuesday, February 6, 1962. This is the planning session for the Society and Mrs. Sewell, president, requests that all circles and officers be present.

Planning Sessions Scheduled for Leaders of the Circles

The chairman of each circle; the spiritual life secretary of each circle; and the program chairman of each circle are asked to attend the planning sessions for the study: "The Meaning of Suffering". These will be led by Mrs. Spencer Burrese and Mrs. John Sewell and are scheduled to meet in the Church Library on the following dates:

January 24:	1st session	10 A.M.
January 31:	2nd session	10 A.M.
February 28:	3rd session	10 A.M.

These three representatives from each circle will, in turn, conduct the same study within their own circles during the next several months. It is important that each session be attended each time by each person listed.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM OUTLINE

WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
MISSIONARY EDUCATION
STUDY

"UNDER ORDERS:
THE CHURCHES and PUBLIC
AFFAIRS"

by

Roswell P. Barnes, Executive Sec-
retary in America of the World
Council of Churches

March 13, 1962, 7:30 P.M.,

Trinity Chapel

March 15, 20, 22, 1962,

7:30 P.M., Trinity Hall

ORDER OF PROGRAM

1st Period Music
Devotion
Speaker(s)
Discussion

Intermission

2nd Period Group Presentation
(Panel, symposium, dis-
cussion, etc.) or Film
Collection
Benediction

* * * * *

March 13, 1962

PURPOSE: TO ANALYZE THE
THE CHURCH'S RE-
SPONSIBILITY FOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

1st Period

Speaker—The Minister's Viewpoint
How can Christian citizens
and the churches become
more effective in dealing
with today's Social, Polit-
ical, and Economic Prob-
lems?

2nd Period

Panel or Symposium—
Christian Social Concerns
"The Social Creed of the
Methodist Church"

March 15, 1962

PURPOSE: TO EXAMINE THE
TASK OF THE
CHURCH IN "SOCIAL
ACTION" PROGRAMS.

1st Period

Speaker—What are some of the most
important social problems
of this age and how can
Christian citizens and the
churches be most helpful
in solving these prob-
lems?

2nd Period

Film

March 20, 1962

PURPOSE: TO DETERMINE TO
WHAT EXTENT
CHURCHES SHOULD
CONCERN THEM-
SELVES WITH PO-
LITICAL MATTERS.

1st Period

Speaker—How can Christian citizens
and churches become more
effective in working with
governmental and other
community agencies?

2nd Period

Panel or Symposium—
To attempt to determine
the role of schools pre-
pare children and adults
for effective citizenship
as regards Social, Polit-
ical and Economic mat-
ters, especially in such
problem areas as: Inter-
national Relations and
Foreign Policy, Race re-
lations, Morality and
Ethical Standards, Com-
munism, Civil Rights,
Youth Peace corps, Alco-
holism, etc.

March 22, 1962

PURPOSE: TO DISCUSS THE
CHURCH'S RESPON-
SIBILITY IN SOME
OF THE MAJOR
PUBLIC AFFAIRS AF-
FECTING WORLD
PEACE.

1st Period

Speakers will discuss such areas as:
United Nations, Commu-
nism, International rela-
tions and foreign policy,
Race relations, Economic
life, Civil rights, etc.

2nd Period—Summary and Discus-
sion

Several outstanding and challeng-
ing speakers have accepted invitation
to speak and participate in the pro-
gram.

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

Yes, every member of the Trin-
ity Family is invited to attend
the Open House at the Parson-
age of our District Superintend-
ent and his wife on Tuesday,
February 13, 1962. Bishop Hen-
ley and his wife are to be pres-
ent for the Consecration Service
to be held that afternoon. The
open House is scheduled for
both afternoon and evening.
Watch the local papers for the
times, and mark your calendars
to visit the new District Parson-
age at 1537 Lee Avenue some-
time during the designated peri-
od. Serving as general chairman
of this event will be the presi-
dent of Trinity's Woman's So-
ciety, Mrs. John Sewell.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

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