

At 148th Annual Session

## West Michigan Conference Empowers Women, Minorities, and Starts Long Range Planning

ALBION—General Conference petitions, elections, and peace resolutions were among the other business of the West Michigan Annual Conference meeting May 31-June 4. The 750 lay and clergy members, convening at Albion College, lived out the theme of the conference, "Women in the Church—a changing image."

Coverage of the 1983 West Michigan Annual Conference at Albion by Edward L. Duncan  
Additional Photography by Richard Venus-Madden

Women and minorities were genuinely empowered during the sessions. The vote for a more than representative delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences, the special programs on women and the EMLC, the dynamic conference speaker (a minority woman), the opening of sessions by singing hymns composed by women and led by Barbara Davis, and the overall participation and involvement of women and minorities all made a powerful statement that was more than a symbolic gesture. Conference sent a petition to General Conference asking that EMLC be a quadrennial priority in 1985-1988, with adequate funding.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING**

Charles Fry and other speakers continually pointed out that the normal prosaic issues of strategic planning and a major funding proposal might be the most important business conference would do in 1983. Although these were not glamorous issues, they did create debate and amendments until conference was convinced that the long range planning process would indeed be coordinated.

Strategic Planning Committee chairperson Ron Keller distributed a working copy of purpose, and comment cards asking for ongoing input. Later, this committee was added as a more full participant with CFA in the major planning plan that is to provide for financial asking needs in the conference the next ten to 12 years. Combined with input from the Council of Ministries program units, this process hopes to set goals, priorities, and



WOMEN IN THE CHURCH—A CHANGING IMAGE—PRESENTING "HERSTORY"

ALBION—The cast of West Michigan women who presented the history (herstory) of women in the church through the ages are seen in the church chapel of Albion College. Seen overhead is the conference banner, designed by Diane Vale. The presentation on Friday evening, June 3, was written by Sara Bush. Women portrayed included: Deborah, Marcella,

Trotula, Hildegard of Bingen, Philippa, Joan of Arc, Anne Hutchinson, Sojourner Truth, Sara Winnemucca, Susanna Wesley, Emmeline Pankhurst, Luisa Moreno, Anna Howard Shaw, and Marjorie Swank Matthews. Narrator was Sara Bush. The program was by COSROW, the UMW, and clergy wives of the conference.

programs for the long range in a coordinated, systematic way.

**PEACE WITH JUSTICE**

Peace with justice concerns were well represented. Rear Admiral LaRocque, director of the Center for Defense Information addressed conference on Friday evening. His words responding to the question, "Are we going to have a nuclear war?" underscored the urgency of the issue, and the reason why West Michigan considers this such a high priority. He said: "Yes, we are planning, training, and practicing for nuclear war. We're building the weapons to start and survive (win?) a nuclear war. Can we win a nuclear war? No, there will be no winners. We won't go to war next time. It's going to come here. Can we survive a nuclear war? I don't know. A conservative guess by the World Health Organization is that a full scale war could kill two billion people. Will getting more nuclear weapons make us

more secure? No...we've been responding to fear. However, peace is patriotic if we have peace, we can have justice." He then shared the President's telephone number (202-456-7639) and suggested that people ask for the comments section and express their opinion.

The conference, in various actions, supported peace with justice as follows:

- \* halting and reversing the arms race, using resources to meet human need,
- \* refuse to engage in a "defense" policy of winning a future nuclear war,
- \* moratorium on U.S. nuclear testing in effect so long as the Soviet Union refrains from testing,
- \* stop nuclear proliferation as best as possible,
- \* assure the conscientious non-draft registrant of love and moral support, the same as the conscientious registrant. End peace time draft and registration,
- \* call for non-intervention financially and militarily of the U.S. in the internal affairs of El Salvador, and other Latin American countries,
- \* cut the proposed Pentagon budget drastically.

In addition, conference acted to send a petition to General Conference asking that Peace with Justice be a priority for the coming quadrennium. Individual petitions to see the West Michigan

**REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83**

"This was probably as good a conference as I've attended in the years that I have been presiding at the West Michigan Conference.

The climate was open and accepting, though vigorous and thorough in handling a number of crucial issues. The conference showed a great deal of maturity, openness and demonstrated skill in dealing with business.

We had very high moments. The election of a diverse delegation showed our commitment to an inclusive church, with the election of ethnics and women demonstrating this. There was an excellent blend of legislative business and times of celebration and worship. Although very conscious of the business that needed to be done, the conference remembered it is a Christian congregation, with prayer, music, worship, and preaching by Leontine Kelly that was powerfully effective.

The moments from life shared by many people were brilliant. The legislative process went very smoothly, with the recent reorganization helping considerably. I was well pleased with all of the conference even if I did not agree with all legislation passed."

—Edna Ammons  
Michigan Area Bishop



A SYMBOLIC SWORD

Offered over a young visitor from the Hope UMC in Benton Harbor is the peace concerns were taken so seriously during conference.

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## District Superintendency Report

## Reporting the Past and Future Present With Us Now

By Charles Fry  
West Michigan Cabinet Chairperson



Charles Fry, cabinet dean, gives the superintendents' report representing all six superintendents.

Eighty-three years ago, Rev. J.C. Floyd, Superintendent of the Kalamazoo District, wrote in his report to the Annual Conference meeting in Battle Creek: "I began the year with thirty-five effective men appointed by the Bishop and eight local preachers employed as supplies. Of this preaching force, one died, one broke down in health, one removed from his charge. The vacant places were filled and the work continued."

This, the combined reports of your six District Superintendents in West Michigan, can also start with the statement, "The vacant places were filled and the work continues..."

## SALUTE TO THE LAITY

Above all, we salute the laity of West Michigan. Even when your church is attacked by TV half-truths and magazine editorial bias, you remain loyal to the body of Christ. As the *Good News Bible* reads, "Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires, the kingdom of heaven belongs to them!"

It would be easier for us to withdraw from areas of possible conflict. Possibly we could avoid such criticism in the future. But then, who would be the Church, the living body of Christ, wrapping up the wounds of God's people? My friends, criticism and charges can be brought faster than they can be put down. So, let us get on with the task. Let us learn to survive in a world of poison pens and distorted pictures. Remember, "Our help is in the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

## RECESSION AND GIVING ADVANCE

In September of 1912, Superintendent W.I. Cogshall of the Big Rapids District reported to the Conference: "The year now closing has been by no means an easy one for pastors or people of this district. The unusual coldness of the summer, along with the most destructive and frequent storms resulted in

Phillips told this Conference: "Occasionally one hears rumblings that soon our people will revolt at increased apportionments. Probably they will, if they are not adequately informed, but from experience we are confident that the attitude will be one of unselfishness and generosity if they know the actual facts."

He goes on to say, "To present these facts is the direct responsibility of ministers and leaders among the laity. We must inform and challenge our members...."

## CLERGY CHANGING BUT SIMILAR

We now have 25 women clergy under appointment in West Michigan, or about 7% of the total. Our seminaries report that from 1/3 to 1/2 of those preparing for ministry are women.

We can say with assurance that you now have or probably soon will have a woman pastor. We superintendents know them to be able, prophetic servants of Jesus Christ.

Good preaching continues to be an expectation of our laity. We pastors must work our craft....

The pastor still needs to see himself/herself as a role-model, along with other Christians.... It is the Cabinet's experience that our attitudes and actions speak very loudly, for or against the Master, in the communities where we are called.

Your superintendents, along with local churches, expect our full-time pastors to be resident on the charge where they serve. In turn, local churches are expected to provide attractive parsonages. The people need a leader who shows them the love of God while living in their midst. Our Bishop Ammons has reminded us that "we pastors exist to serve the churches and not the other way around...."

## CHURCH SCHOOLS SUFFERING

Many of our church schools are suffering for lack of regular students.

willing to risk new work in an area you had hoped to serve.

3) "Loan" yourself to the new mission for a time.

4) Support efforts to raise funds for such beginnings....

I wonder what other families are waiting in our resort communities, our cities and suburban areas for us to plant a fellowship in their midst. If we sow, surely God will give the increase.

Our new Gull Lake Church is doing well, with each month's attendance greater than the last. We are now exploring the possibilities for new congregations at Fruitport, Saranac, Kalkaska, as well as some lake resort areas.

## ETHNIC MINISTRIES

Turning to our ethnic ministries, the Benton Harbor mission is now chartered and has been named "Hope." This past year we have had a "ministry of presence" in Jackson, and at this conference our Bishop is appointing Miguel Rivera Ortiz to start a Hispanic mission in Grand Rapids. A new black congregation in the Lansing area is considering becoming a part of the United Methodist Church.

Following Conference we will have a black associate at Muskegon Central and later this summer a black intern at Lansing Central. Tom John will complete school next year and become the first Native American seminary graduate from our Conference.

Just as black Harry Hoosier and white Bishop Thomas Coke rode the early Methodist circuits in Colonial America together, so we must continue to remove all barriers to our togetherness in order to "spread scriptural holiness throughout the land."

## OUTREACH AND MISSION

As we complete the second century of our Wesleyan witness, the days ahead ought to be measured in terms of faithful Christian service to God's suffering humanity.

Let us work to provide food, shelter and caring. Such ministries should be to the person next door as well as the next continent. Let food pantries abound, that God's people may be fed.

Many persons have been and are being denied their human rights. Let us join this battle with all our might. People have a right to work and to live in safety, to travel freely and speak without fear.

Let us join with fellow United Methodist, Perry Johnson, who heads our state prison's system, in providing humane conditions in our jails....

Above all, let us declare with the old spiritual that we "ain't gonna study war no more." In 1980 Frank Laubach wrote a powerful book calling Christians to *Wake Up or Blow Up*. That title is very

## REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"I felt this was an excellent conference. Gene LaRocque and the presentation by the women were the highlights. I also thought we dealt with some critical issues in a very open and fair way and we had a lot of fun."

—Bob Smith  
Retiring Council Director

true today. Our church declares that "war is inconsistent with the Gospel" and our Bishops have called us to stop the production of nuclear weapons....

Let the United Methodist Church become known as a peacemaker, both in the homes of our communities and the halls of nations. "Happy are those who work for peace, God will call them his children!"

## THE U.M. THIRD CENTURY

As we move into our third century, however, let us examine ourselves to make sure our message is not about us, or our church, or good works, but Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, Savior and Lord of our lives.

This is really what the future holds—the giving out and the living out of this terrific good news! Are we ready, are we able, to be God's messengers in our third century?...

As we face the hopeful and fearful days ahead what more could we ask be written about us in the Book of Life than this: that we have done faithful work, stood loyally, in all good conscience before God. □

### WEST MICHIGAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1982-83 Roll Of the Deceased

## Active Members

Neil F. Bintz  
Donald P. Sailor

## Retired Ministers

Cecil H. Bacon  
Lester C. Bailey  
George J. Cameron  
Stanford S. Closson  
Howard A. Smith  
George P. Stanford  
Blucher B. Swam  
Thomas W. Thompson

## Active Local Pastor

Gerald P. Kintigh

## Retired Local Pastor

Clara V. Biggs

## Missionaries

Mildred G. Drescher

## Deaconess

Lula R. Morse

## Diaconal Minister

Alois P. Velky

## Ministers' Wives

Gail P. Hippensteel  
Ida John  
Donna A. Strange

## Ministers' Widows

Louisa M. Barr  
Esther Geiger  
Minnie Gumaer  
Beatrice Lee  
Helen Reedy



CONFERENCE SAYS HELLO AND GOODBYE

Bishop Edsel Ammons introduces the incoming area assistant, Bob Horton and wife Bea (right), to the West Michigan Annual Conference. Outgoing staff council director Bob Smith (left) and outgoing superintendents Darwin Sallsbury with wife Marilyn (Grand Rapids) and Richard Sellock with wife Marion (Kalamazoo) were greeted fondly by conference.

short crops, and in some cases in no crops at all.... The conditions in many places are really distressing; and for those reasons both the salaries of the pastors and the Benevolences will necessarily suffer. In spite of this, however, I think at this writing that there will be an advance in the offerings over last year."

That's the way it was for us, in spite of recession, "an advance in the offering over last year." Again, we lead the denomination in giving to Advance Specials. We had more Six Lane churches in 1982 than ever before.

## BASIC APPORTIONMENTS CRUCIAL

We haven't reached perfection yet. Some few churches fell greatly short of their basic apportionments last year while still doing well on Advance Specials. The result was that as a Conference we used up our entire \$110,000 reserve account.

We have heard that some churches are planning to fall short in 1983. If they do, they will

In 1983 District Superintendent Clark

Life styles are changing. Some of our training events for teachers are not well attended. Do we plan and work that our church schools may grow? Are pastor and lay leadership giving first energy to teaching?...

We must revitalize the church school or find an effective substitute if our people are to receive basic training in Christian living.

## PLANTING NEW CHURCHES

And now it is church planting time again. We are pledging our funds to make this possible. Of all the new congregations we have started in the last thirty years, all but one are alive and well. This is an excellent record!

We need to start congregations in the right places and at the right times—maybe even before they get their wagons unloaded. Our *Discipline* puts this responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the D.S. You can help by:

- 1) Telling us where you think new congregations should be started.
- 2) As a neighboring congregation, be



DYNAMIC TRIO HUDDLE

Bishop Ammons, Royal Synwolt, and Bob Smith confer quickly during the conference session.



## Second Opinion

### "State of the Clergy Report"

By David Nelson

The following is excerpted from the Board of Ordained Ministry Chairperson's Report to the West Michigan clergy at their executive session. A number of people felt it was germane to all the churches, and should be printed. David Nelson is pastor of the Lansing Faith UMC.

This statement is not meant to be definitive about the state of the clergy, but to share with my brothers and sisters in this special covenant community some of the issues that face us this day...

#### GOOD OLD BOY SYNDROME

The good old boy syndrome appears to be a thing of the past. There was a time when upward mobility in the ranks of professional clergy was the reward of gaining seniority in the conference. One had to be patient and wait, keep the hem of your robe clean, and not make ecclesiastical waves and your time would come.

Now the system is pressured by new persons that don't and can't fit the old boy syndrome. The affirmative action appointments of women and ethnics in response by the Church to be

duced a new source of anxiety in an already stressful process called appointment.

Two issues fast approaching are interrelated: clergy supply and ineffective pastors. There is no doubt that within two years we will have more clergy wanting to serve in this conference that there will be available appointments. How long this oversupply will last no one knows. The two conferences of the Michigan area already have a task force of Cabinet and Board of Ministry members working to address this abundance.

While we look to an oversupply in the short run, we need to examine the implications this has on present pastors.

There are pastors who are ineffective for a variety of reasons. We must do all within our power to aid them to become effective. You'll notice that I venture no definitions for effective or ineffective. However, if persons who are not effective maintain appointments because of a guaranteed appointment system, what about potentially effective pastors who cannot be received because of a supply crunch? And what about those churches in which they may have been appointed?...

#### EVALUATION OF CLERGY

Perhaps one of the most threatening issues for us personally and individually is the required evaluation of us as clergy. Let's not kid ourselves that we are not already being evaluated, because we are. The evaluations may not be formal or systematic, but what we are and what we do is scrutinized by parishioners, church leaders, District Superintendents and peers.

Maybe if we and our churches could share our ministry and share the evaluations of each other's ministry, we could put to rest the fear of evaluation, and discover the joy of our mutual ministry in Christ....

We must see our ministry as Christ's to which we have been called mutually to share. Somehow, with God's grace, we must put aside our jealousies and prejudices and embrace one another as brothers and sisters in this unique covenant.

#### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"Well, for me it has been exciting to see the involvement of the youth and laity again. They're taking hold of issues and I'm frankly not the least bit threatened by the fact that there are more laity in attendance than there are clergy, because I think the church belongs to them."

—Dave Nelson, Lansing Faith

David Nelson

clusive and empower those who have been, if not powerless, at the least ignored.

For white male clergy it may mean upward mobility, but it can also mean a liberation from our own slavery to a success oriented structure. It will lead us into a new understanding of covenanthood as we seek to serve others rather than ourselves.

It will call us to prepare our congregations to receive with openness and joy, both ethnics and women. In the covenant community there are no second class citizens....

#### ITINERATE SYSTEM PRESSURES

New pressures have been placed on the itinerate system by the two professional families, whether both spouses are clergy or not. Separation of spouses by appointment has become a reality. The stresses and strains this has put on the marriage bond can only be guessed. The choices people make in these instances are theirs alone. We in the covenant need not be judgmental, but supportive.

A new term has appeared in our appointive vocabulary called "hanging." Some clergy have experienced the announcement of their replacement before knowing where they themselves shall be appointed. Thus they are left "hanging." This phenomenon has pro-



GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Delegates are smiling now, but may look weary after two weeks in Baltimore! From left, front: Joan Kelsey, Cliff Bullock, Dan Cornette, Ellen Brubaker, Ron Keller. Back, from left: Bernie Shashaguay, Dave Crawford, Sharon Rader, Dave Lundquist. Not pictured is Gladys Church, who was in New York for an EMLC meeting.

## Delegate Elections Reflect Church Diverse Pluralism

ALBION (MCA)—What do a high school senior, a Native American woman, a Hispanic, three women clergy, two black clergy and the usual array of lay women and men and clergy men have in common?

These delegates elected to the 1984 General and Jurisdictional Conferences by the West Michigan Annual Conference reflect the breadth of the age, ethnic and gender spread found throughout the conference. Comments about the election from conference participants usually expressed both delight and surprise at the diverse selection.

Five clergy and five laypersons make up the General Conference delegation. They will meet in Baltimore from May 1 to 11, 1984, celebrating the Bicentennial of Methodism in America. They will also represent the conference at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference to be held in Duluth, July 17-20, 1984, where they will be joined by six clergy and six layperson Jurisdictional delegates along with two lay and two clergy alternates. The first two Jurisdictional delegates elected are being sent by the annual conference to General Conference, and will serve as alternates for delegates there.

The conference delegation organized on Saturday morning, and elected Joan Kelsey chairperson, Sharon Rader was elected vice-chairperson and Bernie Shashaguay was elected secretary. The delegation will meet June 10 to decide committee assignments.

#### DELEGATES ELECTED, IN ORDER OF ELECTION

##### GENERAL CONFERENCE LAY:

Joan Kelsey, East Lansing University, conference lay leader; Dan Cornette, Portage Chapel Hill, district youth pres.; David Lundquist, Kalamazoo First, GCOM conference representative; Gladys Church, Allegan (Salem Indian Mission), conference board of discipleship; Bernard Shashaguay, Grand Rapids Trinity, conference treasurer.

##### GENERAL CONFERENCE CLERGY:

Sharon Z. Rader, Grand Rapids, conference staff; Ron Keller, Kalamazoo Millwood, General Board of Discipleship; David Crawford, Traverse City Central, conference EMLC chairperson; Clifton Bullock, Battle Creek Washington Heights; Ellen Brubaker, Belding, new Grand Rapids District Superintendent.

##### JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE LAY:

Olga G. Talotta, Battle Creek First; Plyna G. Strong, Kalamazoo Westwood; Edward B. McRee, Eaton Rapids; Maynard Peacock, St. Louis First; Doris J. Brink, Marshall; James Lays, Grand Rapids Burton Heights; Laurie Ann Dahlinen (alternate), Kalamazoo Mil-

wood; Maudy L. Williams (alternate), Hastings First.

#### JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE CLERGY

Richard Selleck, Kalamazoo District Supt. (new council director); Kenneth McCaw, Portage (new Kalamazoo District Supt.); Melvin G. Williams, Benton Harbor Hope; Ronald A. Houk, Lansing

#### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"I feel that it is significant that where the general assumption is that people only share power when someone grabs it from them, that at this conference, the predominantly white male clergy chose to empower both ethnics and women to the General and Jurisdictional Conference decision making levels of our church."

—Dave Crawford  
Traverse City Central

District Superintendent; C. Dow Chamberlain, Portland; Ronald Fassett, Grand Rapids Burton Heights (new UM Metro Ministry director); Lynn Pier-Fitzgerald (alternate), East Lansing Chapel Hill, Gunnisonville; Lawrence Taylor (alternate), Jackson First.

Elections this year were by punch card and computerized by John Williams, Albion College. Although the clergy elections took many extra ballots, the balloting was generally swift and efficient.



VOTING FOR DELEGATES

Members hand in their computer punch cards while ministers are still busy marking theirs.



VOTES OR ELSE!

Emmeline Fankhurst, suffragist, was played with enthusiasm by Sharon Rader. She played one of the historic figures in the special women's program.



## West Michigan Conference Ordains 14 Elders and 10 Deacons

Bishop Edsel Ammons charged the 24 ordinands with the words: "You are let loose in the face of the open sun. Do all the good that you can," as he preached to them, their families, friends, and the gathered conference in Goodrich Chapel on the Albion College campus, June 4.

The bishop paraphrased the charge given by John Wesley to one of the ministers sent to the U.S. when Wesley said: "I let you loose on a new land. Publish your message in the face of the open sun, and do all the good that you can."

Bishop Ammons also challenged the ordinands to be engaged in active ministry, using as a horrible example

the clock in the wall of the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary which had not been keeping time within recent memory. When workman finally took it out during renovations of the library, they discovered the motor was busily running, but was not engaged to the hands. He then made the obvious parallel to some ministries.

Using the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy, the bishop encouraged the new ordinands to "guard the truth. Not just to have an open mind, but to set the mind about the truth. But to use truth not as something closed, but as a launching pad and the place where all wisdom and knowledge begin. To have integrity means we are open to continuing revelation from God, for truth ultimately comes from God. However, avoid the 'sound sleep of a decided opinion' and guard the truth with integrity."

Bishop Ammons also advised the new ordinands to "take authority, but realize that the leadership you have been given is best represented by a crown of thorns and a suffering servanthood."

The ordination service included a service of communion, with the new ordinands and the district superintendents serving the worshippers. Also, Frances Ann Horne was consecrated into the office of Diaconal Minister.

### ELDERS, 1983

Persons receiving full membership and elder's ordination were:

**Eric Steven Beck**, born 10/20/56, Lansing, Michigan. Home church: Mount Hope UMC, Michigan State University, BA in humanities, 1978, Methesco, 1981. Will be marrying Heather Copp of Eaton Rapids, Michigan on July 30, 1983.

**Michael Ted Conklin**, born 2/5/47, Lansing, Michigan. Home church: Battle Creek First UMC, Western Michigan University, BS, 1969, Methesco, 1981. Married Deborah 3/11/78. Children: Jennifer 2/12/70, Sarah 8/11/72.

**Bruce William Dempsey**, born 7/31/51, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Home church: Faith UMC (formerly Valley Avenue), Grand Rapids Junior College; Aquinas College, BA, 1974; Western Michigan University, MA, 1977. Chicago Theological, 1981. Married Mary Jo 10/17/75. Children: Lillian 7/22/81, Sarah 4/19/80.

**Steven Roy Emery**, born 3/25/55, Lansing, Michigan. Home church: St. Luke's UMC (Lexington, Kentucky), Lansing Community College; Olivet Nazarene College, BA, 1977. Asbury Theological, 1981. Married Cheryl 12/27/81.

**Dean Lynn Francis**, born 7/22/53, Fremont, Michigan. Home church:



THE ELDERS' CLASS, ORDAINED JUNE 4, 1983

(Front, from left) Michael T. Conklin, Dean L. Francis, Kathryn M. Williams, Deborah M. Johnson, Nancy L. Siker-Gieseler, Phillip W. Simmons. (Second row, from left) Robert J. Mayo, Gary T. Haller, Valerie M. Hill. (Back, from left) Bruce W. Dempsey, Bruce R. Kintigh, Steven R. Emery, Eric S. Beck, and Harry R. Johnson.

First UMC (Holland), University of Michigan, Bachelor of General Studies, 1978, Boston University School of Theology, 1981. Married Nora 8/25/73.

**Gary Thomas Haller**, born 5/22/52, Battle Creek, Michigan. Home church: Hastings First UMC, University of Michigan, Bachelor of General Studies, 1975, Yale University Divinity School, Master of Divinity, 1978; Master Sacred Theology, 1981. Married Laurie 8/12/78. Children: Sarah 7/30/82.

**Valerie Marie Hill**, born 9/29/55, Lansing, Michigan. Home church: Pewamo UMC, Lansing Community College, AA, 1975; Michigan State University, BA, 1977. Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, 1981.

**Deborah May Johnson**, born 7/7/52, Clare, Michigan. Home church: South Community UMC (Cadillac, Michigan), Central Michigan University, BA, 1974, Garrett-Evangelical, 1981. Served as a US-2 in Campus Ministry at Iowa State University Wesleyan Foundation 1975-77.

**Harry Richard Johnson**, born 6/6/42, Paterson, New Jersey. Home church: Traverse City Central UMC, Grand

Lowell UMC, Grand Rapids Junior College, AA, 1968; Northern Michigan University, BS, 1970. Garrett-Evangelical, 1976.

### DEACONS, 1983

Persons receiving probationary membership and deacon's ordination were:

**James Robert Anderson**, born 2/11/41, Bucyrus, Ohio. Home church: Carleton UMC, Eastern Michigan University, BS, 1979, Methesco, 1984. Married Nancy Sue 10/12/76.

**Merritt Franklin Bongard**, born 9/8/43, Alma, Michigan. Home church: Riverdale-Elwell UMC, Central Michigan University, BS in psychology, 1980, Asbury, 1984. Married Lois 8/16/80. Children: Troy 1/17/87, Shannon 1/1/72.

**Lawrence Michael Cameron**, born 1/15/59, Muskegon, Michigan. Home church: Greenville First UMC, Albion College, BA, 1981, Methesco, 1984.

**Thomas Allen Crossman**, born 5/12/48, Benton Harbor, Michigan. Home church: Kalamazoo First UMC, Lake Michigan College, AA, 1966, Central Michigan University, BA, 1981. Union Theological, 1984.

**Janet Ruth Ellinger**, born 10/19/47, Traverse City, Michigan. Home church: Sunnyside UMC (Kalamazoo), Adrian College, BA, 1969, Garrett-Evangelical, 1985.

**Donald Robert Ferris**, born 1/4/58, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Home church: Grand Rapids: Aldersgate, Grand Valley State College, BS, 1980, Garrett-Evangelical, 1984. Married Jill 8/21/80.

**Gerald Francis Hagans**, born 8/30/41, Niles, Michigan. Home church: Berrien Springs UMC, Hope College, BA, 1965, United Theological, 1984. Married Gayla 12/19/69. Children: Michelle 1/4/71.

**Mark Gregory Johnson**, born 11/6/54, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Home church: Wesley Park UMC, Michigan State University, Asbury College, BA, 1977, Asbury, 1981.

**Michael Edward Long**, born 5/17/55, Riverside, California. Home church: Easton Rapids First UMC, Asbury College, BS, 1978, Asbury Theological, 1984. Married Debra 8/2/75. Children: Jennifer 5/13/78, Jessica 11/28/81.

**Keith Roland Treman**, born 3/16/56, Muskegon, Michigan. Home church: Central UMC (Muskegon), Muskegon C.C. 1974-8, Grai Roberts University, 1978-81, BA, 1981, Garrett-Evangelical, 1985. Will be going on an intern year to Northern Ireland during the 1983-84 school year.

A person receiving probationary membership only was:

**Paul Joseph Wehner**, born 7/9/44, Gary, Indiana. Home church: St. Peter & Paul (Merrillville, Indiana), St. Bede Junior College, AA, 1964, St. Procopius College, BA, 1966, Graduate School, Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, Illinois), MS in education, 1979, M. St. Mary Seminary (Norwood, Ohio), 1970. Married Patricia 5/18/82. Served as Catholic priest in two local churches of Catholic Diocese (Gary, Indiana) from 1970-74.

### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"Well, it's been the most marvelous conference I've ever been at! I really have appreciated that despite the differences that people have and that have been expressed on the floor of conference, that this has been one conference where the spirit of togetherness has overridden our differences."

—Nancy Siker-Gieseler,  
E. Lansing Peoples

Valley State College, BS, 1975, Methesco, 1981. Married Judy 6/5/65. Children: Kristi 12/5/86, Jillan 1/5/70, Kimberly 7/27/74.

**Bruce Ray Kintigh**, born 4/23/55, Albion, Michigan. Home church: Concord UMC, Spring Arbor College, BA, 1978, Methesco, 1981. Married Kay Elizabeth 8/17/74. Children: Tara Joy 6/23/81.

**Robert Joseph Mayo**, born 4/23/49, Leland, Michigan. Home church: Gethsemane UMC (Muncie, Indiana), Michigan State University, BS, 1971; Purdue University, MS, PhD, 1976, United Theological, 1981. Married Sharon 7/1/72. Children: Tim 8/12/74, Christ 8/1/78, Joey 8/13/78, Lisa 5/12/82.

**Nancy Lynn Siker-Gieseler**, born 1/12/55, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Home church: Aldersgate UMC (Grand Rapids), Grand Rapids Junior College, Albion College, Macalester College, BA, 1978, Yale Divinity School, 1981. Married Jeff 10/13/79.

**Phillip William Simmons**, born 5/30/36, Lake City, Michigan. Home church: Wesley Park UMC, Adrian College, BA, 1976, Methesco, 1981. Married Marion 8/15/65. Children: Bridger 2/25/80, Nichole 1/25/88. Second career after 20 years in the US Air Force.

**Kathryn Marie Williams**, born 1/2/47, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Home church:



THE DEACONS' CLASS, ORDAINED JUNE 4, 1983

(Front, from left) Donald B. Ferris, Keith R. Treman, Merritt F. Bongard, Thomas Crossman. (Second row, from left) Gerald F. Hagans, Lawrence M. Cameron, James R. Ellinger. (Back, from left) J. Robert Anderson, Michael E. Long, Mark G. Johnson.



HOPE CHURCH CHOIR SINGS

"The Least Ones" childrens choir were one of the three choirs at conference from this newly chartered Benton Harbor church. Mel Williams, pastor, is shown at left.



READY TO START THE MUSIC

Awaiting the opening conference processional are Bill Dobbs, choral director; and Don Vuurens, horn.

# West Michigan Annual Conference

### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"I feel the Bishop made a very positive difference in this conference. What could have been a far more polarized conference with perhaps bitter feelings turned out to be one where we struggled together and had a sense of unity, by and large. The Bishop helped in discussions between people, in the way things have gone on the floor...with appropriate comments at appropriate times...and with a spirit of love or at the very least respect and dignity. I was concerned we were going to be far more polarized than we ended up being."

—Pastor, anonymous because he did not want to seem to be currying favor.



FOLK SINGER

The special peace presentation on Friday night included Dobbs, an outstanding UMC folk singer who shared the message of peace in song.



SOJOURNER TRUTH

Jane Heard picked up the theme EMLC and women in "Herstory."



COSROW HISTORY GIVEN

Diane Vale shares the ten year history of COSROW in West Michigan at the celebrative breakfast. Rev. Vale designed the worship banner used during conference.



### RETIREMENT TIME

When you find yourself in this company, it's time! (Bob Smith)



### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"On the whole, conference is going very well. You always have a certain number of glitches that have to be chased down at the last minute. Basically, though, it satisfies us the way it has gone. The long voting procedure didn't help but that's something you come to expect. If we can get the rest of the resolutions done, we'll be home free!"

—Dave Evans  
Host pastor Albion

### NEW ALBION PRESIDENT

Dr. Melvin L. Vulgamore is greeted by conference and Bishop Ammons.





**WORSHIP AND PRAISE ABOUNDED**

A liturgical dance, Marilyn Miller, helped uplift the opening worship service.



**EMLC DEMONSTRATES INCLUSIVENESS**

The EMLC Friday evening presentation included black, hispanic, white, Asian and native American United Methodists as six lane churches which had made their EMLC per capital goal were honored. From left: Ken Watt, Olga Tafolla, Dave Crawford (EMLC Chairperson), Virginia Williams, and Lewis White Eagle Church.



**ALBION COFFEE HOUR APPRECIATED**

Delegates appreciated the fine hospitality of the Albion First providing refreshments throughout conference.



**LEGISLATIVE SECTIONS WORK AT CONFERENCE**

Ten legislative committees debated and refined conference work before it was reported out on the main floor. The committees took their work seriously, and facilitated conference business.

**REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83**

"I guess, basically as always, I appreciate the concern that we have got, the dialogue we have together, the fact that we can disagree and still care about each other, and the democratic process that goes on here."

— Bev Reshman



**THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR CONFERENCE**

Edzel Ammons leads the opening worship service Sunday morning, June 1. The conference delegates then process into Goodrich Chapel, Albion College for worship and the opening of conference.



**BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS PRESENTED**

Bill Quirk presents the bicentennial medallion to Sharon Rader and Bishop Edzel Ammons after his area bicentennial presentation.



**CONFERENCE ORGANIST**

Kathy Cary inspired with her playing.

# West Michigan Conference Report Continued

[Continued from page 1]

Peace Centers abolished were overwhelmingly defeated, but a greater balance in the materials and a careful accounting of funding and budget were asked for.

### APPOINTMENTS

On the second day of the conference, Bishop Ammons announced the appointments of the ministers for the coming year. Of the approximately 360 pastors serving local churches, 59 are new appointments. Cabinet and board of ministry officials pointed out that although there is presently room for new ministers in the conference, the next few years should bring an oversupply of qualified ministers.

### FINANCES

The conference approved a \$4.36 million budget for 1983, an increase of 5.3% over the current year. Although there was no debate or discussion about the budget on the floor of con-



### NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS INTRODUCED

Ellen Brubaker and spouse Bob (Grand Rapids, left) and Ken McCaw and spouse Jeanne (Kalamazoo, right) are introduced by Bishop Edsel Ammons.

General Conference of 1984. Included were:

- \* Homosexuality (Ordination of Ministers)—voted to add the words: No person who is a self-avowed practicing homosexual shall be eligible for candidacy, ordination, appointment or re-appointment in the United Methodist Church. Also added to qualifications were the words "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness."
- \* Priorities for next quadrennium, as noted, were EMLC and Peace with Justice.

- \* A North Central Jurisdictional package of minor changes concerning the jurisdictional episcopacy committee were unanimously passed.
- \* A lectureship in women's studies in the name of Bishop Marjorie Swank Matthews to be voluntarily endowed was endorsed.
- \* A call for a "Farming and Food Chain" White House Conference was supported.

- \* Lay and clergy equalization being not equal due to numbers of retired ministers missing was modified by asking that the number of retired ministers registering at the preceding conference be taken into account.

Significant votes of non-concurrence were also taken on a number of petitions by the committee or the conference. Resoundingly defeated or not considered were petitions to: withdraw from the NCC and WCC, allow designated giving, harsher or more restrictive homosexual ordination peti-

tions, changing of the abortion section in Social Principles, restrictions of the Board of Global Ministries Mission funding, etc.

### OTHER DECISIONS

In other action, the conference:

- \* recognized and celebrated the ministries of Royal Synwolt, Bob Smith, Royce Robinson, Dick Selleck, Darwin Salisbury, Bob Brubaker and other significant conference leaders that were changing jobs, or stepping down,

- \* will work for more barrier free conference meetings,

- \* voted to suspend (end) the Nestle Company boycott tied into the Infant Formula task force at the recommendation of the General Council of Ministries, who were empowered to act for the 1980 General Conference.

- \* received the statisticians report (but not the rationale for the drop) that reported 741 fewer members (92,711) and the treasurer's report that reported \$1,806,880 more paid (all items) by the churches.

- \* voted in corporate session to sell the Grand Rapids District parsonage, if required, with provision made to hold the funds through the endowment fund.

### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"Well, this has been an exciting conference for me. I just came here kind of high and there are some very special things for me like the opportunity for our church to be able to be represented on the program here and also for us to be part of a legislative group. The whole feel of the conference was good and the way we handled some things such as elections and what went with that. I'm glad was here."

—Mel Williams  
Benton Harbor Hope



### ADMIRAL LAROCQUE

Special speaker at a Church and Society dinner and for the evening program Friday, challenged the conference to work for nuclear disarmament.

ference, caution was given that the budget must be raised back home. Also, concern was shown that church world service and benevolence giving were dropped to 92% in 1982. Churches were urged to make this payment, even as they were commended for the conference's nation high special giving. Legislation was passed that six-lane certificates for mission giving be presented only to those churches that have also paid their world service and benevolence apportionment in full.

A report on Lake Louise giving that stated more time is needed to reach the goal, and an extension until September 30, 1984 for churches to the Pension Fund Crusade were also part of conference. Pension fund is now at \$1,898,871 received (56%) with 96.6% accepted of the \$3,490,667 goal.

### GENERAL CONFERENCE PETITIONS

John Francis reported for the petitions committee and annual conference voted to send a number of petitions to



### STILL GOING STRONG

Alvin "Pappy" Dotsen is escorted by Charles Fullmer after greeting the conference.

### CONFERENCE ISSUES

Annual conference issues, with pictures, appointments, stories will be June 16 (West Michigan, mailed June 9) and June 23 (Detroit, mailed June 16).

Extra copies (20 or more) are available at 10 cents each. Write or call the Advocate, 318 Springbrook Ave., Adrian 48221. (517/262-2075).



### PEACE DEBATE

Richard D. Wilson of the Muskegon Lakeside UMC reads a lengthy resolution to peace resolutions brought by Church and Society chairperson Bob Brubaker (background). The Lakeside church brought a large number of petitions which were not concurred with.



### HOST PASTOR WINCES

The host pastor of conference's 1st not always a happy one. Dave Crocker of Albion 1st reacts to another request for help from presiding Bishop Ed Ammons.



### PETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairperson John Francis from Holland fields a question. This important group meet only once every four years to make recommendations about petitions annual conference will send to General Conference.



### RETIREES WAIT THEIR TURN

The popular last words of retirees were received with appreciation by conference. Eleven were retired. Shown here are the Howells, Saltburys, Mathews, Huns and Crosbys (r to l).

## Part of God's "Rag-Tag" Army Hears Bishop Open Conference

Bishop Edsel Ammons reminded West Michigan United Methodists that they have to wrestle with the question: "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" But he also reminded the 750 clergy and lay delegates that God goes with his tiny army in that struggle during his opening homily to the annual conference entitled "Be Steady—Be the Church."

"We also become lost tribes of God not only because of the pressures of an alien culture which surrounds us, but because of alien attitudes and perceptions within the life of the church itself resulting in low visibility and confusion about spiritual realities," the bishop said.

He added that we are tempted to

withdraw from the world or to seek escape in speculating about the future. But as Paul said in his heartfelt plea for faithfulness to the church, "Be steady, be alert, be the church, (stay on the case)," were the words of advice given by the bishop.

He went on to say, "We are again living through an era of concentrated and (I suspect) carefully orchestrated attacks on major religious institutions and their commendable records of Christian charity in behalf of the poor and the disadvantaged of this nation and the world." Bishops Ammons then made clear that reasoned criticism is necessary, but the present criticism is designed to be destructive.

He noted that, "What I am talking about demands much more than right answers to the questions being raised. There are a lot of us preachers who have it all together in the head—right theology, right language—but not in the heart. .... Be in touch with your roots not just in your head."

After a powerful story of two sisters, one who lost touch with her roots, Bishop Ammons quoted Arthur Schlesinger: "The crucial issue of our day is not conservatism against liberalism, but weariness and vitality." He went on to say, "And for clergy and lay leaders of the church that is the issue and the challenge. ... There are a lot of weary and undernourished Christians in our congregations who are being asked to do more than their resources and strength will allow."

He then called the conference to "use the storehouse of truth and grace in order to feed, prepare, and equip the saints for a united witness in a divided world."

Bishop Ammons concluded with the moving and hopeful word picture from Martin Bell's *Way of the Woad* [*The Gospel in New Images*]. He pictured a rag-tag army, out of step, stopping along the way, going in circles, led by a



AW, YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!

"Bing" Crosby shares his affection for helpmate Wanda as Bishop Edsel and June Ammons look on during the delightful and moving time with the retirees. Each minister and spouse had their moment before Conference.

## Highlights of West Michigan Council Report

ALBION (MCA)—The Bob and Ellen show on Wednesday afternoon of conference was not the introduction of the new Grand Rapids district superintendent and her husband, but was the last report made by outgoing Conference Council on Ministries director Bob Smith in tandem with Ellen Brubaker, vice-chairperson of the council.

Some of the highlights they lifted up for conference were:

"For the past six years West Michigan has led all of United Methodism in per capita giving to World Hunger and UMCOR. Domestic hunger programs and plans have come from grass roots local areas to the districts and the conference.

"The Ethnic Minority Local Church emphasis has been strengthened. Although much remains to be done, the seeds are planted and growing.

"Days on the District are still one of the most creative programs the conference does, and will continue every other year.

"The camping program is good, reaching between 13,000-15,000 people each year.

"Led the North Central Jurisdiction in Advance Special giving, 90% of the churches participated in Advance Specials, and the largest number ever were the Lane Churches.

"This year the emphasis is on Women in the Church, and this has been the theme of the 1983 annual conference.

"E.M.L.C. has been a conference priority, with the conference raising over \$250,000 for Ethnic Ministries. Established a new black church in Benton Harbor (Hope), appointed a black associate pastor at Muskegon Heights, and at this conference are appointing a black associate to Muskegon Central. Working on a new black church in the Lansing area, a Spanish-speaking church in Grand Rapids, and Tom John, a Native American, is in training in seminary!

"Peace with Justice has been the major conference priority. Established five peace centers in the conference, with a tenth coming. Promoted the Jobs with Peace program in Michigan. Now need more educational emphasis.

"Moving towards more long term planning with Strategic Planning Commission recommendations and a major long range plan.

"Calling for a New Church Development Program, with at least ten new churches needed, both ethnic and non-ethnic."

very old and very tired God.

*The homily closed with these words from Bell "...we're only human. And most of us are afraid and lonely and would like to hold hands or cry or run away. And we don't know where we're going, and we can't seem to trust God—especially when it's dark out and we can't see God. But God won't go on without us. And that's why it's taking so long. Listen! The drumbeat isn't even regular. Everyone is out of step. And there! You see? God keeps stopping along the way to pick up one of the tiny soldiers who decided to wander off and play with a frog or run in a field, or whose foot got tangled in the underbrush. God will never get anywhere that way! And yet, the march goes on...."*

Then Bishop Ammons shared: "Indeed, the march does go on, our wanderings and weariness notwithstanding. And now we know it—for the resurrected One has shown us—that God will pick us up. Therefore, we are able to be steady, be alert, be the church."

## Conference Bids Fond Farewell to 11 Retirees

ALBION (MCA)—Laughter and tears were the order of the day when the 1983 retirees shared their reminiscences and their wisdom late Friday afternoon, June 3.

As has often been noted, we sometimes use humor as a way to keep our sense of proportion in times of stress and passage. Humor abounded, but so did a genuine affection for the ministry accomplished and the ministers who accomplished it.

Some sample quotes are illustrative: "I've heard ministers say they've been in the ministry so many years and enjoyed every minute of it. That's a lie! There are times I haven't enjoyed it. But there have been many great times!" (Howell).

"I'm going to sit out on our retirement home deck, and watch something move that I don't have to push." (Hutchens).

"How much I appreciate you lay people of the conference for giving me the opportunity to be a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ." (Isahaminger).

"I don't look it, but I was a boy preacher at one time!" (Rupert).

"I'm old enough to retire early, but I'm not old enough to quit, so I'm going on." (Sallebury).

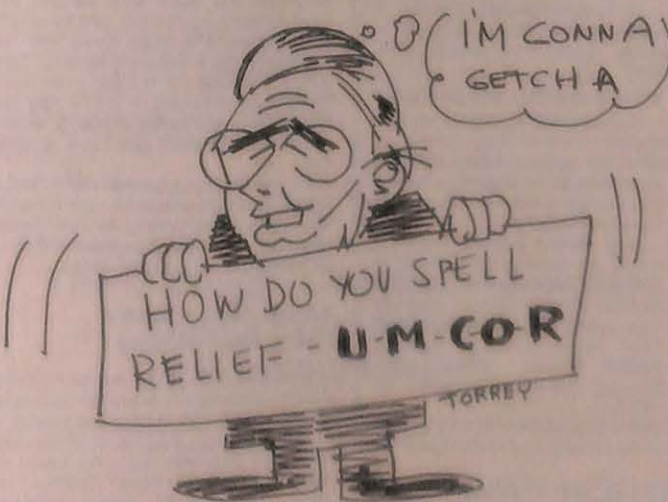
### WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE RETIREES:

(List includes last charge and place of retirement, if known.)

Aitha M. Barnes, Reading, Zanesville, Oh.; James (Bing) and Wanda Crosby, Cassopolis; Gaylord and Betty Howell, Barrien Springs, Northern Michigan; Clarence and Gene Hutchens, Allegan, 1707 Grand River Drive, Eaton Rapids; Marvin and Phyllis Isahaminger, Epalon, Battle Creek; William and Betty Jane Mathae, Scottville; Hoover and Hazel Rupert, Kalamazoo First, Epworth Heights (summer), Florida Southern Univ. (winter).

Darwin (Red) and Marilyn Sallebury, Grand Rapids District Superintendent; Grand Rapids, Robert and Helen Smith, Conference Staff Council Director, Grand Rapids and UMCOR; Wayne and Florence Speese, Lake Harbor Muskegon to 1975, presently Director Muskegon County Council on Alcoholism Information Center; Chester and Margaret Turner, Otterbein College, Otterbein College.

The retirees and spouses were honored at a dinner following the program, hosted by Bishop and Mrs. Ammons.



BOB SMITH WAS EVERYWHERE!

Even the message board at the West Michigan Annual Conference had this cartoon by Bill Torrey reminding delegates about the UMCOR needs.

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### REACTION TO CONFERENCE '83

"Well, I think it's interesting how we can come and observe as youth delegates and get to know the church better. We had voice and vote in electing a youth delegate to General Conference! This is my second conference and it's great to be part of this."

—Michelle Bourgeois  
Mt. Pleasant First



**Senator Corbin Addresses Adult/Family Ministries Division at Conference**

Senator Gary L. Corbin (D-Clio) spoke to the Division of Adult and Family Ministries of the Board of Local Church Ministries at 1 p.m. on June 9 in the Tobias Room at Adrian College.

Senator Corbin is the only ordained minister in the Michigan Legislature. He is the majority floor leader of the Senate. He spoke on adult, family, and other issues related to family life, currently being faced in the legislature.

Senator Corbin, ordained by the Church of God in Anderson, Indiana, is highly respected in legislative circles. He has spoken to numerous church groups and was the featured speaker at the International Freedom Festival in downtown Detroit three years ago.

**Dorothy Mercer Certified as WM Director of Music**

KENTWOOD—In the West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church, there are only two certified directors of music—one is Jan McCree of the Eaton Rapids United Methodist Church; and the other is Dorothy Mercer of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kentwood, who was just certified by Bishop Edsel Ammons on March 25.

The rarity of the certification is due to the dedication required for the accomplishment thereof. In addition to



Dorothy Mercer, member of St. Paul's UMC, Kentwood, sits at the keyboard she knows and plays so well. Dorothy is the director of music at Faith United Methodist Church and was just recently certified by the bishop of the West Michigan Conference.

needing a bachelor's degree from an accredited college with a major in music and additional study in church music, theology, Bible, worship, hymnology, and membership in the Methodist church, other ongoing requirements include:

Recognized Christian character, leadership, ability, personal competence and commitment to the church's ministry through music;

Physical capacity, emotional maturity, sound judgment, and ability to work with people;

Basic understanding of liturgy, ritual, and the educational ministry of the United Methodist Church;

A continuing program of study and enrichment including (a) reading, (b) participation in professional groups—

**What's Happening**

IN THE MICHIGAN AREA IN THE MICHIGAN AREA

**Single Adult Retreat**, Camp Albright, Reed City, June 24, 25, and 26. Sponsored by the West Michigan Conference Single Adult Committee. Theme: Single—Why Me! Cost: \$45 for weekend. \$20.00 Saturday only and \$15 for children under 12. Pre-register: Ms. Norma Cobbs, 305 Electric Ct., Sturgis, MI 49091. Phone: 616-651-2543, after 5 p.m. A \$10.00 non-returnable registration fee must accompany registration.

**"The World is Still Our Parish,"** Monday-Thursday, July 11-14 at Anderson College, Anderson, Indiana. A Good News Convocation on World Missions with major speakers, music, seminars, includes a program for youth and children. Tour the world with missionaries from four continents. Registration is \$22 single, \$44 couple, \$58 family, \$16 student (does not include housing or food). For more information contact Rev. Howard Tyner, 612 Cassville Rd., Kokomo, IN 46901, tel. 317/457-3384.

**1983 Detroit Conference School of Christian Mission** has as theme, "Come! Let Us Grow Together." Weekend school runs July 15 to Sunday, July 17, at Adrian College. The five-day school runs Sunday, July 17 through Thursday, July 21. Drive-in Day is Tuesday, July 19. Contact: Sue Walls, publicity director, 225 Munger Road, Holly, MI 48442, 313-634-8423.

**Lab V**, July 22, 23, 24, at Adrian First UMC, 1245 W. Maple, Adrian. Sponsored by Detroit Conf. Board of Local Church Ministries. Cost: \$55.00 before July 7; \$65.00 after July 7. Send registration to Betty Stewart, 225 E. Court St., Flint, MI 48502, (313) 235-4651 or 234-3221, checks payable to Pam Mathieu.

**Junior high bike hike**, sponsored by the Detroit Conference Division on Outdoor Education, July 25-30. Designed for youth entering 8th and 9th grades in the fall. Location: Judson Collins Camp. Cost: \$83 per person. Leader: Harold Durfey. Info: Camp Registrar, 155 West Congress, Detroit, MI 48226, phone 313-961-8340.

**New Beginnings Seminar**, August 9-11, beginning at noon, Emrich Conference Center, Brighton, MI. For pastors newly appointed and their spouses. Recommended as a valuable continuing education event and an excellent transition experience. Training staff: Dr. Ross Nicholson, Dr. Norbert Smith, Mrs. Jenella Smith, Rev. James Thompson. Sponsored by Division of Leader Development, Board of Local Church Ministries. Registrar: Patricia Paine, Detroit Conference, 155 West Congress, Suite 200, Detroit, MI 48226, 313/961-8340.

community, denominational, ecumenical, (c) graduate study at intervals, (d) personal renewal of spiritual life; and

Effective experience for at least twelve months in a full time (or fully responsible) appointed or employed relationship as the leader of music in a local United Methodist Church.

Once a director of music is certified, he or she must stay currently certified each year by: taking units of continuing education, by reading scholarly texts in the field, and by remaining currently and actively employed in music in a Methodist church. □

**INDIVIDUAL SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEER-IN-MISSION OPPORTUNITIES UMCOR OPPORTUNITIES**

One orthopedic surgeon needed to serve at the Maua Hospital in Maua, Kenya (about 90 miles north of Nairobi) from August 5-26, 1983.

One gynecologist needed to serve at the Maua Hospital in Maua, Kenya from August 5-26, 1983.

**WORLD DIVISION OPPORTUNITY**

One airplane mechanic for two engine Cessna 402 needed to serve for approximately three-six months in Zaire. Departure date to be arranged with Pat Rothrock. Possible support.

(Any direct project expenses would be income-tax deductible for the volunteer if funneled through InterSharing. Approximate round trip airfare from New York City is \$1150.) Interested people should contact InterSharing, Box 145, Kalamazoo, MI 49005.

**Detroit Conf. to Sponsor Junior High Bike Hike Based at Judson Collins Camp**

The Detroit Conference Division on Outdoor Education is sponsoring, from July 25-30, a first-time bike hike designed for youth entering the eighth and ninth grades in the fall. This event will be based out of Judson Collins Camp in the Irish Hills and the bikers will tour the Pinckney and Waterloo State Recreation Areas. The cost is \$83.00 a person and if the fee is paid in full prior to camp, there is a \$5.00 discount.

Mr. Harold Durfey, an experienced dean from Manitou Beach, will lead the bikers, and adult counselors will also accompany them. Depending on the weather and terrain, the group may average 30 miles per day and will make side trips to visit the Chelsea Home and also to see the grave of Judson Collins, for whom the camp was named. All tents, cooking equipment, and food will be furnished and large items will be transported in a separate vehicle. The bikers will need to furnish their own bikes (3 to 10 speed), a duffie bag for their clothes and personal items, an air mattress or ground pad, and a bike flag.

For more information and registration forms, those interested should contact the local church office, or the Camp Registrar, 155 West Congress, Detroit, MI 48226, phone: 313-961-8340.

**Adrian Alumni Board Elects New Officers**

ADRIAN, Mich.—The Adrian College Alumni Association board of directors elected officers for the coming year at a recent meeting. Elected to one-year terms are Elizabeth Blair St. Clair of Adrian; Margaret Powell Thomas of Tiffin, Ohio; and Dr. James King of Hillsdale.

**Our Churches**

**Bud Buchner and Ed Rogers Honored at Fruitport's Minister Appreciation Dinner**

Rev. Lewis "Bud" Buchner and Edward Rogers and their families were honored May 15 at Minister Appreciation Dinner sponsored by the Fruitport United Methodist Fellowship.

The event was held at the Angus Restaurant in Muskegon. Following dinner, certificates of appreciation were presented to Rev. Buchner and Rev. Rogers for their devoted and faithful service to the fellowship and each was presented with a beautifully-decorated cake which was enjoyed by the entire group.

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Dewey of Spring Lake led the group in a singing-along and also provided background music using piano, trumpet and organ.

In addition to his responsibilities as pastor of Ravenna United Methodist Church, Rev. Buchner has volunteered as pastor of the Fruitport United Methodist Fellowship since its beginning in February, 1982. Also since beginning, Rev. Rogers has served as worship leader and youth leader in the fellowship, in addition to his ongoing responsibilities in the Muskegon ministry.



Rev. Lewis "Bud" Buchner (left) and Rev. Ed Rogers were honored at Fruitport United Methodist Minister Appreciation Dinner, May 15.

**SAFETY TIPS FROM OWOSSO FIRST UMC**

Do not ride in an automobile if you get in the way of one—They cause 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do not stay at home; 17% of all accidents happen there.

Do not walk around the streets; 14% of all accidents occur with pedestrians.

Do not travel by air, rail or water; 16% of all accidents are the result of these activities.

Only .001% of all fatal accidents occur in church. Obviously it is the safest place to be.



**AMMONS PREACHES IN TRAY CITY**  
Bishop Edsel Ammons preaching at 125th anniversary of Tray City Central United Methodist Church.

**BAY SHORE EVANGELICAL CAMP**

OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Presents: "SUMMER CAMPING FOR 1983"

Camp Number	Week	Costs	Specials	Registration	Residence	Food
40	June 27-July 1	\$200.00	1-2-3	100.00	G. Thomas & G. Booth	\$25.00
41	July 4-8	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	G. Thomas & G. Booth	\$25.00
42	July 11-15	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	J. Egan	\$25.00
43	July 18-22	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	J. Egan	\$25.00
44	July 25-29	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	J. Egan	\$25.00
45	Aug 1-5	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	J. Egan	\$25.00
46	Aug 8-12	200.00	1-2-3	100.00	J. Egan	\$25.00

**BAY SHORE CAMP**

located on 400 Miles Road, Bay Shore, Michigan, and is owned and operated by the churches of the members of the Bay Shore Evangelical Church of the United Methodist Church. It is an evangelistic center, offering a wide range of activities for youth and adults. The camp is a place of spiritual growth and will make Jesus Christ the center of your life. Each year a new building program of \$200,000 is planned, including a new dining hall, a new dormitory, and a new parking lot.

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The annual CROP Walk for the Williamston-Webberville area brought out 536 walkers and 14 runners on a 14-mile run/walk.

**Williamston-Webberville CROP Walk Draws 550**

With a goal of \$14,000 to relieve world hunger, 536 walkers and 14 runners of Williamston, Webberville, and surrounding areas participated in their annual CROP Walk on April 24. The course covered 14 miles between Williamston and Webberville. The community project helps to support a food bank for the needy in the area and a homebound-meal program. A total of 25% of the funds raised in the walk will return to the participating communities to help local people. Co-ordinators for the CROP Walk

were William Wheeler of Webberville United Methodist Church and Mrs. Jo Schoff of Williamston UMC.

Other churches and groups that walked and had recruiters from their areas were Perry-Shaftsburg UMC, Stockbridge UMC, Williamston Center UMC, Williamston Free Methodist Church, Wheatfield UMC, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Rowley Wesleyan Church, Van Town-Dansville UMC; St. John's Lutheran Church of Fowlerville; Webberville UMC; Williamston UMC; Kiwanis of Williamston; the Webberville 4-H Club; and Webberville and Williamston school students.

This year David Bower, the director of the Lansing CROP office, walked with this group.

The Kiwanis Club of Williamston and the United Methodist Women of the Webberville and Williamston churches provided the snack for the walkers.

**West Mendon Banquet Names Two Mothers of the Year**

The 30th annual mother-daughter banquet of the West Mendon United Methodist Church was held recently at the Mendon High School cafeteria with 113 mothers, daughters, grandmothers and friends present.

The welcome was given by the president of the UMW, grace was given by Sara Morse, and the banquet was served by the men of the church.

The toastmistress for the program was Joyce Kline. Toasts to the mothers, daughters and grandmothers were given by Lou Ann Moord, Barbara Harrison and Rebecca Moord. Dorothy Stoldt and Dora Plummer were named mothers of the year and given corsages and plants.

The speaker of the evening was Mrs. Kathleen Marvin of Three Rivers, who gave an inspiring message, "Tell It to Your Children." The benediction was given by Marilyn Higgins.



West Mendon's mothers of the year are (l-r) Dorothy Stoldt and Dora Plummer.

**MISS JEAN LOVE**, director of single student housing and middler student at Asbury Theological Seminary, won the second place John Harrison Ness Memorial Award. Sponsored by the General Commission on Archives and



History of the United Methodist Church in Madison, New Jersey, Jean won the \$100.00 second prize for her paper, "The Devotion of John Wesley As Revealed in His Letters to Women." This is the first time Asbury Seminary has submitted papers to be considered for this award. From St. Johns, Miss Love is a candidate for deacon's orders in the Detroit Conference. She hopes to graduate from seminary in May, 1984, with a master of divinity, and return to the Detroit Conference as a pastor.

**BISHOP JOEL D. McDAVID**, presiding Bishop of the Atlanta Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church, has been appointed to the faculty of Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Appointed as Churchman in Residence, McDavid will begin at Candler in September 1984, following his retirement in June of 1984. He will teach Church Administration and Mission and will counsel students regarding the ministry, particularly in relationships with annual conferences.

**West Berlin Has Mother And Daughter Banquet**

The West Berlin UMC Mother-Daughter Banquet was held on Thursday evening, May 18, in the church fellowship hall.

Barbara Becker with daughter Kay Egan and Sandy Revoldt planned a fine program complete with beautifully designed keepsake programs.

Myra Faust and Dorothy Kohlhaugen greeted guests as they arrived. After everyone was seated, Myra Faust gave the invocation.

Following dinner, UMW President, Louise Coard welcomed all and introduced Carol Willing who gave a tribute to her mother, Gertie Brooks, followed by a tribute to all mothers present. Carlee and Corie Brooks and Crissy Willing recited their rendition of "Roses are Red" in honor of their grandmother Brooks.

The West Berlinettes sang two songs after which Julia Nickolaus read a tribute she penned in honor of her grandmother, Margaret Nickolaus. Christine Nickolaus read a tribute to all grandmothers.

Two films, "Clowns are for Laughing" and "The Big Dipper" were shown by Kay Nickolaus. Gertie Brooks followed with a Tribute to Daughters.

The Oldest Mother Award went to Ingrid Massie who is 89 years young. Mother-of-the-Most-Children Award went to June Kline who proudly boasts a family of 12 children. The longest hair contest for children was won by Jodi Pierski and shortest hair contest was won by Carlee Brooks.

The Sing-along was led by Gertie Brooks and a back-up crew of lovely young ladies. The audience was allowed to sit and sing "Mother," but was asked to stand as the tempo and volume increased for "Smiles" and "Get An Excited!"

The program closed with the benediction by Rev. Arntz.



**EAGLE SCOUT AT WILLIAM S. FORD MEMORIAL UMC**  
The William S. Ford Memorial UMC in Detroit celebrates its first Eagle Scout in 15 years. John Riley, who began as a Cub Scout, has earned the highest rank in scouting. John's hobbies are baseball, football, and track, and he is on the swimming team. He will become the assistant scout master in the fall. Pictured above are (L-R): Scout Master Robert Vehoski; Rev. Juanita Ferguson, pastor at William S. Ford Memorial UMC; Eagle Scout John Riley, Wayne Pihajja, chairman of the administrative board; and Robert Sobie, assistant scout master.

**"My Peace I Give to You..."**

**PAUL DOUGLAS MERRELL**, age 33, died April 22, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, after a courageous struggle with cancer. Born January 17, 1950 in Pontiac, he was the second son of Rev. and Mrs. Roger W. Merrell, now of 1045 Queen Ct., Milford, MI. Paul married Carol Bird of Milan. He was operations manager of McDonald's of Livingston County. He and his family actively supported the Brighton UMC. On May 1, the bell choir robes were dedicated to his memory. Paul was president of the Brighton Area Jaycees in 1976-77 and was active in benevolent community projects, including Boy Scouts. In addition to his wife, he is

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# Bible For Today

BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY BIBLE

## Deborah: Supporter and Leader

For Sunday, June 26  
Judges 4:4-9, 14-16; 5:1-3

By Paul L. Hartman



survived by two sons, Nathaniel and Timothy, both at home; his parents; three brothers, Dan of Kanab, Utah, Kirby of Royal Oak and Frank of Milford; two sisters, Barbara Merrell of Ypsilanti and Mary Merrell-Thomas of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial services took place April 24 at the First UMC of Brighton with Dr. Richard C. Cheatham officiating. Memorial gifts in Mr. Merrell's name are suggested to the Ronald McDonald House in care of McDonald's of Livingston County, 6163 West Grand River, Brighton, MI 48116. Contributions may also be given to the Brighton Methodist Church, 400 East Grand River, Brighton, MI 48116.

daughter and son-in-law Waneta and Jim Hawes of Mt. Clemens; 9 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law Kenneth and Margie Stevens of Burton; nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held at the Atherton UMC, with Rev. Charles Marble officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to this church.

**MRS. GERTRUDE LILA PRESTON (DOTY)**, age 94, of Boyne City, formerly of Saginaw, died June 3 at Grandvue Medical Care Facility in East Jordan. Born in Fairgrove on July 15, 1888, the former Gertrude Smalling married Rev. Samuel Morley Preston in Saginaw in 1943. He died in 1961. Gertrude lived in Saginaw most of her life, summering in Boyne City after her retirement. She was a legal secretary for Crane and Crane of Saginaw. She was also a director of dramatics for churches and clubs in Saginaw. A member of the Boyne City UMC and Jefferson Ave. UMC in Saginaw, she is survived by a niece, Mrs. Harold (Madeline) Diehl of Boyne City. Graveside services were held June 4, with Rev. Allan Valkema officiating. Memorials may be sent to the Jefferson Ave. UMC, Saginaw, and Boyne City UMC.

**REV. MERTON L. STEVENS** died May 23 at Hurley Medical Center, Burton. He was 81. Born in Flint on June 13, 1901, he married Metha Whitney on August 26, 1922. He was an active UM minister for 40 years, serving as district superintendent of the Port Huron District from 1960-1966. He was a member of the Detroit Conference. Surviving are his wife Metha; two sons and daughters-in-law, Whitney and Marilyn Stevens of Plymouth, John and Mary Stevens of VanWert, Ohio;

**HAVE YOU** ever had the experience of being empowered by someone's presence? Isn't it a wonderful feeling? You have seen it happen many times. A little boy playing baseball may not play up to his potential until he sees his parents in the stands. Then, he makes a saving catch or drives in the winning run. A woman may find that caring for her children on her own is too much until a certain friend stops by, and she is empowered to start anew. **We can all recall moments in our lives when we have been strengthened by someone else.**

This was the effect Deborah had on

Barak. He was a military leader with an almost impossible task. Deborah had prophesied victory over Jabin's army, but Barak did not feel particular confidence in this prediction. That's why he said to Deborah, "If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go." Barak was empowered by Deborah's presence.

Like the other Judges of the Old Testament, Deborah was a charismatic leader who organized the loose confederated tribes between the end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the monarchy. Her historical pattern during this period involved the breaking of the power of the Canaanites on the part of God's people, followed by punishment through the oppression of foreign powers, followed by repentance, which led to the call of a strong deliverer. **The Judges were deliverers who were called for special purpose and given spiritual gifts of wisdom, leadership, and power.**

I am always impressed with the way God calls and uses people. The Judge had no special prerequisites. They did not begin with leadership qualifications or outstanding personal strength. They were an exile because of his illegitimate birth and led an outlaw tribe. They were often given to fits of murder rage. Deborah, our main character, was unique among the Judges as the woman mentioned. **However, they shared the common experience of being called and blessed by God to perform extraordinary feats with unusual objects. They were extremely successful with such weapons as a goad, a tent peg, and the jawbone, remains of an animal. The Judge described in Judges underscores the need to trust in the power of God rather than in our own strength.**

Though the stories told in the Bible border on legend, we believe that God still works in this way. God still empowers people to perform extraordinary things. **God continues to empower us to do things which lead to deliverance and return us to the right relationship with God. Either we feel God's power directly or we are empowered through the presence of someone else.**

The story of Deborah and Barak teaches us that God does not give power to be left unused. **Too often when we pray for strength we don't intend to use it. When we ask for God's power, we should be prepared to use the power God gives. When we are empowered by God, either directly or through someone else, we dare not say, "Later." This very moment is the time to use God's strength and use it.**

Think about the times you have been empowered to do some special thing. **And think about the ways by which your strength came. Now, be sure to thank God for the many Deborahs in your life.**

### A New Day



\*Not pictured: Lori Vothnes

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