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LUMBER RIVER CONFERENCE

Since the writer of this article was born in the Hopewell Community (known as the Lowry community) near Raynham and Elrod, NC, I am a Lowry, Indian, farmer, retired teacher in North Carolina after 30 years, financially poor, member of Hopewell Church for fifty years and the Lumber River Conference. The Hopewell Community always aligned religion and education as a partnership in any working conditions. There fore, we will be using several analogies of circumstances involving the church and state. This time around it will encourage church and state willingness to work together for the benefit of helping educate boys and girls and not state versus church or the other way around. The Hopewell Church community also had a small public school system several years ago, grades one through eight. There were always examples given about education and religion in the homes and at church.

The sixteen university systems of North Carolina over the years has grown into a very large number system with a recent reporting of increasing enrollment in all of their universities. Surely, we would also like to think accordingly to the amount of state and federal tax dollars paid in the development of these public institutions of higher learning, we hope the quality is also noteworthy. The private educational institutions of higher learning in North Carolina enrollment-wise have not grown into much larger numbers claiming the number one factor is quality education. Keeping in mind the two educational systems, the state and church deserves a concernment of the people to the college professors, staff and administrators, the working percentage of qualitative analysis of the systems that is good for the people are the primary reasons in having developed these institutions of higher learning.

The history of the Lumber River Conference that remains in the listening ears of its congregations for 82 years carry with it a very interesting history of its religious culture and historic events of the past and present that we hope will reward the future. Suppose we now introduce to you some of the highlights of the Conference recently held at Riverside Holiness Methodist Memorial Church located on Pembroke bypass 74 Highway down beside the winding-treacherous Lumber River, while its on the minds of those who participated. Most Robesonians know the general locations of these eight churches that make up the Conference. However, we shall name each church and introduce some of its' personnel and points of interest, o.k.?

(1) New Bethel Holiness Methodist Church, pastor appointed for this conference year, Rev. Alonzo Oxendine. He has been pastor of Shoeheel Church for the past several years and is assigned to a much larger church community. New Bethel is located between McDonald, Fairmont and Rowland, NC. The value of building and contents is \$253,900.00. They have 171 full members, 217 officers and teachers in their Sunday School. Their general budget was over \$32,000 in round figures for the year's operation. Their pastor, Rev. Alonzo Oxendine has been a pastor in the Lumber River Conference for several years. He also has been a maintenance supervisor for several years at Pembroke State University where he is presently employed. Rev. Alonzo Oxendine attended the Conference Seminary School and was elevated to the Conference position as Elder in 1971. Rev. Oxendine, the Conference prayers will also go with you in this new assignment.

(2) Hopewell Holiness Methodist Church, location given previously. Rev. James H. Woods is pastor. Also he served as the Bishop of the Conference. He wears two hats, so to speak. We refer to him at church as Rev. Woods, at the conference as Bishop Woods. Rev. Woods was re-appointed as pastor at Hopewell this year. He and his family church with us about every Sunday and we enjoy having their services. Bishop Woods is a graduate of Pembroke State University. He went through our Conference four year seminary training, also he attended Asbury Seminary College in Wilmore, Kentucky, earning his Master's Degree in that institution. Bishop Woods has also earned the degree of hard work and relating to his people. The Hopewell Church budget exceeded \$21,000.00. Value of building and contents \$164,000.00, 66 full time church members, 59 officers and teachers in Sunday School.

(3) For Riverside Holiness Methodist Memorial Church, location previously given, the Rev. Adrian Locklear has served as pastor for a number of years, was re-appointed to serve again this coming year. Rev. Locklear lives near the city of Maxton and his family attends church at New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church. Rev. Locklear attended the Conference seminary school for four years, commissioned as Deacon in the Conference of 1970.

The value and contents of their church buildings are \$130,000.00, 21 full time church members, 63 officers and teachers in their Sunday School. His church budget exceeded \$7000.00.

(4) Macedonia Holiness Methodist Church, Rev. William Oxendine, pastor. He attended the four year Conference seminary school, was commissioned Elder by the Conference in 1949. The value of their buildings and contents are \$104,000.00, 41 full time church members, 86 officers and teachers in their Sunday School. Their church budget exceeds \$13,000.00. By the way, this church is the only one we have outside of Robeson County. It is located West of Red Springs, NC, eight or ten miles just inside the Hoke County line. Rev. Oxendine is re-appointed as their pastor. He has faithfully served them for many years.

(5) Cherokee Chapel Holiness Methodist Church located west of Red Banks, NC, several miles southwest of Red Springs and Clark's Shopping Center. The Rev. Julian Ransom, the pastor for many years has been re-appointed to that position. Rev. Ransom, a PSU graduate and a graduate of the four years Conference seminary school, was commissioned as Elder of the Conference in 1955. He has served as pastor for several of our conference churches and now he has served as pastor of Cherokee Church for a good number of years. Several years ago, he and Mrs. Jessie B. Chavis, a member of his church, were awarded Doctor Degrees by

an organization that recognized their real outstanding church work. Consequently, we have one pastor who is honored with a doctor's degree, also to inform you that Dr. Ransom, a long time employee of Pembroke State University with his expertise in education for several years, heads our Conference Seminary School with Rev. Willard W. Oxendine and Rev. Steve Locklear, professors. For further information regarding this school, you may contact Dr. Julian Ransom, Pembroke State University, Pembroke, NC 28372.

The value and contents of the building is \$350,000.00, 165 full time members, 265 officers and teachers. Their church budget exceeds \$27,000.00.

(6) New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church, located about five miles north of Pembroke on Highway 710 that runs from Rowland to Red Springs, NC. Rev. Willie Scott, Jr., a long time pastor also was re-appointed to that position. Rev. Scott attended the Conference Seminary for four years, was commissioned Deacon in the Conference of 1972. The value and contents of their building are \$180,000. 130 full time members, 173 officers and teachers. Their church budget exceeds \$33,000.00 for the year. By all comments, Rev. Scott Jr. is loved by his church people and he loves them also.

(7) Union Chapel Holiness Methodist Church, Rev. Crites Oxendine, their pastor for the first time last conference year, was re-appointed for another year. Rev. Oxendine attended the Conference four year seminary school and was commissioned by that school a Deacon of the Conference 1979. This church is located about six miles west of Pembroke and a couple of miles west of Maynor's one-stop shopping center. The value of buildings and contents are \$232,800.00, 65 full time members, 132 officers and teachers in Sunday School. Their church budget exceeds \$12,000.00. Rev. Oxendine for his first year seems to be hanging in there pretty well with the help of the church members. The Conference, I am sure, sends their prayers for him.

(8) Shoeheel Holiness Methodist Church, Rev. Joseph Anderson, attending the Conference four year seminary school, was commissioned Elder in the Conference in 1966. He replaces Rev. Alonzo Oxendine who was assigned to New Bethel this year. The Rev. Anderson is by no means a stranger in the Lumber River Conference. His age and experience has seen many of them come and go. We are sure the Shoeheel community will be helped a lot by his leadership. Prayers are with you, Rev. Anderson.

This should give you some idea of the general organization of the eight churches that I am proud to introduce to you at this time. Next time. Some real purpose of church organizations.

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EXTENSION SCENE



North Carolina
AGRICULTURAL
EXTENSION
SERVICE

JOHN G. RICHARDSON
Robeson County Extension Chairman

Farm-City Week began November 19 and ended on Thanksgiving Day. However, a tremendous number of people had worked closely together to make the Farm-City Week activities the most successful ever in Robeson County.

Several months ago the Rural Development Panel began making plans for Farm-City Week activities. A committee was named and the members were Tony Smith, chairman; John Townsend; Virginia Simkins; Frank Boyette; and Eddie Mac Locklear. These individuals represent the Agricultural and Industrial Development Commission ASCS, The Robesonian, Southern National Bank, and Robeson Technical College respectively. Also, Everett Davis, from the Extension staff worked closely with the Rural Development Panel members and also provided the leadership in developing programs and activities from the Extension Service. In addition to the people mentioned, Harvey Beckham, president of the Federal Land Bank Association, provided yeoman service as chairman of Farm-City Week activities in Robeson County. We were fortunate this year to have a big plus in that Frank Boyette who is a member of the Robeson County Rural Development Panel, also served as state chairman for Farm-City Week.

Each of these individuals worked extremely hard to develop activities that would enhance an understanding and further appreciation of the roles and importance of individuals regardless of their vocation with special consideration being given to enhancing rural, urban understanding and appreciation. Kiwanis Clubs were also actively involved in conducting numerous projects.

Some of the projects during Farm-City Week included announcements about Farm-City Week on local radio stations, the mention of and promotion of Farm-City Week on motel marquees, and numerous articles in local newspapers. Additionally, a significant amount of radio time was provided by WFMO and WTSP radio stations.

At WFMO, panel discussions were held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday of Farm-City Week. Panel participants included Tony Smith; Brad McMann—personnel manager of Munsingwear, Inc.; Al Lewis representing agribusiness; Danny Walters & Sandy Evans representing the farm community; Frank Boyette; and myself on the first day. The second day Everett Davis; Tony Smith; Wade Sealey—sales manager with Gaston Sealey Company representing agribusiness; John Armstrong—city executive with Southern National Bank in Fairmont; Roger Oxendine & Ed Lewis Jr., representing the farmers from the Fairmont area participated on the panel.

Additionally, WTSP provided three hours of air time on Monday night for an extended panel discussion and the participants on that panel included Tony Smith; Harvey Beckham; Larry Lee—plant manager of Converse, Ed Stephens—manager of Elkay Southern, and Jenness Dearborn—manager of Universal

Packaging representing industry. Frank Boyette, Bob Davis of Liberty Manufacturing, and Charles Warwick of Carolina Grain and Feed represented agribusiness, while Charles B. Pate, George Reed Pate, Mike McCarthy, Duncan Malloy, III, Ronald Hammonds, and Charles Roberts represented the farmers.

The culmination of Farm-City Week activities was a down-on-the-farm pig picking that was held at the Ted Smith farm in Parkton. Ted and Michael Smith and their families were gracious hosts for that event. Additionally, Britt Wilkes and his entourage supervised the pig cooking and numerous other chores. Each individual that was involved in the banquet certainly made a notable contribution to the overall Farm-City Week activities.

Perhaps the best mark of success regarding the weeks' events was when individuals, from across the county through chance encounters would ask in their opening greetings, "How are Farm-City Week activities going?" Those comments underscored the general understanding of the meaning of Farm-City Week and also the excellent job that Harvey Beckham, Tony Smith, Everett Davis, Frank Boyette, and so many others did. I would like to pass on my congratulations to all who were involved for their most successful effort.

"Never cut what you can untie." Joseph Joubert

"He who has his thumb on the purse has the power." Bismarck



Shown is Michael Marler as the prosecutor and Cindy Kay Locklear as the young college girl Louise. Final touches are being added to the December Pembroke Players production of "The Runner Stumbles," by Milan Stitt. The set is almost complete and last minute direction is being given to the actors. "The

Runner Stumbles" is scheduled for December 2, 3, and 4, at 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Ticket prices are \$3 public; \$2 for THE SEASON subscribers. PSU students are admitted free with valid PSU ID. For more information and ticket reservations call the PSU Box Office at 521-0778.

THE BALTIMORE EXPERIENCE

UPON BEING THANKFUL

by Herbert H. Locklear

There are always so many reasons to be thankful that one hardly knows how to list the causes which bring on a sense of appreciation. Also, upon close examination, one finds that there are many degrees of thankfulness. For example, the feeling one gets when given a clean bill of health by the doctor, after thinking the worse, is certainly more intense than realizing there is no patrolman around when a wrong turn was mistakenly made.

A close examination of the feeling of "being thankful" would support the idea that it is an involuntary emotion. That is, one can and probably will get a feeling of thankfulness for certain experiences, regardless of their belief or life persuasion.

The next question is, to whom or to what, do we attribute our thanks; to whom or to what do we give credit for the positive experiences causing our feelings of exuberances.

The sense of being thankful is greatly influenced by our own values of self worth and entitlement. If one feels that the experience is a right or

entitlement accrued to them due to their own effort, then the sense of thanks will probably be low. If, on the other hand, the experience is viewed as "a stroke of luck," or as a "Divine Providence," then the sense of thankfulness is likely to be quite high.

Then there are those of us who see ourselves as "unworthy of any good thing..." Therefore, for us, we are thankful for all things which come to us when added together make for a rewarding life. Further, through revelation we have been able to attribute all these "good things" to the controlling influence in our lives.

It is to God, at this and all seasons of the year, we give "Thanks." Thanks for that which is positive and that which seems negative when it is given by Him to discipline us; to correct us; to make us better and more pleasing to Him. In Baltimore, we also thank Him for returning to us our beloved pastor, friend and confidant.

Yes, while there are many occasions for "Thanksgiving," I'm glad I've learned how to be thankful and to whom my thanks are owed.



ROBESON COUNTY COMPENSATORY INDIAN EDUCATION PROJECT
Post Office Box 1328 - Lumberton, NC 28358

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING!!!

On Thursday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. a Public Hearing will be held in the board room at the Robeson County Board of Education. The hearing will be open to the general public, especially parents of Indian students enrolled in the Robeson County Administrative Unit. The purpose of the hearing is to provide an opportunity for full public discussion of the proposed three-year Indian Education Project grant application. At this hearing, a representative of the applicant will:

- Describe the various alternatives available under the program;
- Describe the proposed project;
- Seek comments and recommendations from those at the hearing; and,
- Provide a reasonable time for discussion of the proposed project.

The applicant, Robeson County Board of Education and the Robeson County Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee encourages your attendance and input at the hearing.

THE JOY OF FIGS

by Carlson Wade
World-Famous
Food-Nutrition Authority

LOW SODIUM DIETS

Most people are salt-watching. And with good reason, when you suspect that too much salt in your diet can lead to cardiovascular and hypertension disorders. But there is one food that can be enjoyed without fear of sodium overload—dried figs! You get an average of only 34 milligrams in one-half cup (about 3 1/2 ounces) so feel free to feast on dried figs as part of your health program.

Special Bonus in Potassium. Most sodium foods also contain potassium, a mineral you need to maintain good heart health. So when you limit sodium foods, you also deny yourself needed potassium. How to make up any shortage? Try dried figs. The same one-half cup gives you a whopping 640 milligrams of potent potassium which is needed for health of your muscles, nerves and, of course, heart. And dried figs are one of the rare foods that are low-low in sodium and high-high in potassium. It's your "must eat" food on your salt-watching program.

Vitamins, Minerals, Energy. Nature's package of goodness contains Vitamins A and C and is a prime source of calcium, magnesium, copper, iron and phosphorous as well as important carbohydrates. They boost your total health and give you vibrant energy at the same time. So who says a salt-watching diet can't be tasty good? With dried figs, your body never had it so good!

For free recipe and nutrition information, send long self-addressed, stamped envelope to: California Dried Figs, Dept. W-3, P.O. Box 700, Fresno, CA 93711.

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