

Potpourri Of Recent Events

By GEORGE B. RUSS

NOTE — To the many readers of Mr. Russ' columns: Because of space limitations last week, we did not carry "Writers Forum" and "Potpourri" so this week we are doubling up. We try not to have this happen. Thanks for your forbearance. —The Editor



MELVIN CUTLER

With the cancellation of Mrs. Pauline Boxley's Youth Day speaker, the Union Baptist order of worship service returned to its general format with Dr. Grady D. Davis at the pulpit. A change of pace for a short-lived period is a welcomed intruder, however, the average church-goer will quickly feel cheated if change of pace looks as though it has become a fixture. Folk will complain about length of sermons, disagree on what happens to a person after death, criticize the man of God's ability to deliver the message, but the Zanthippes of the congregation looks askance at change of pace, no matter how edifying. "What a Fellowship" was sung with lively gusto as the congregation entered into the



JOHN BORENS

October 19, Youth Day Service because they were sure that the inimitable pastor would be at the pulpit. Rev. Mrs. Lottie Kee presided over the Youth Day Service. The Tots Choir and the Young Adult Choir were in charge of the music. Spreading of the Gospel was brilliantly depicted in Phase III of "Prison Ministry", Acts 12, by Dr. Davis.

The Young Adult Choir presented Rev. Melvin Cutler and Rev. John Borens in concert, Sunday, October 19, at 4:30 p.m. Both men are seniors at Duke Divinity School, working toward their Master of Divinity degrees. Cutler is associate minister at Union Baptist and minister-elect of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va. Borens is pastor of Stanton Memorial CME Church at Pittsboro. He studied music with the Chicago School of Music and the Roosevelt Conservatory of Music. Borens is married to the former Emma Pearl Douglas of Shreveport, Louisiana. The couple has three children: Johnnie, Jennifer and John Milton.

The only Revival, Spring or Fall, that has attracted people en masse in the last decade was the recent, Oct. 19-26, "Great Youth Jubilee" held at the Mount Gilead Baptist Church; Reverend Alexander Mosely, minister. Theme: "Youth in Action for Christ."

Chairman/Coordinator for this Spiritual Youth Jubilee was Levi Mitchell. Committee persons: Mrs. Georgia Mitchell, Miss Marietta Jones, Mrs. Wilhemena Upchurch, Glenn Pettiford, Bernard Morrison, Miss Marcha Smith, William Cross, Jr., and Mrs. Shirley Taylor. This fellowship and worshipful experience is a natural for future engagements.

The U. B. C. Recreation Department will release its annual Gospel Sing, Sunday, November 9,

at 6:30 p.m. Featured on the program will be the Jordannaire, The Goldennaires and the Soul Guiders of Durham. Join the long list of patrons or just follow the sounds imminent from the Appreciation Program making its 1975 debut.

Lawrence Harper and Vernon Clark will conduct the Sunday, November 16, Devotional Service. Both men have great messages of faith and trust to edify the service.

At times, we all feel a need for Christian Counseling. The Rev. Melvin D. Cutler is available each Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., to give Christian guidance Counseling to those who are despondent, unsure of the next turn to make in the cross roads of life.



MRS. GENEVA P. McCANN

Church memorials, like the pictures of loved ones placed on office desks, work benches, night tables, or atop chests of drawers where we can see them often, are soon forgotten no matter how well-intentioned we were when these reminders are established. For a while we cherish these "In Remembrances," but soon their presences are lost in the maze of cares that blind our objective eyes and thoughts to the presence of

these well-intended reminders. This is a natural tendency and no offense is intended to the loved one, however, it is unforgivable for us to allow these memorials to be lost completely.

In 1970, two flags were placed on the rostrum in the Union Baptist Church sanctuary. These beautiful flags were placed there in honor and memory of Deacon and Mrs. Callie Prince by their daughter, Mrs. Geneva Prince McCann.

At least once a year, salutes are made to these beautiful flags by the children of the Bible Vacation School: the American and Christian flags dedicated to the church in memory of a family whose members contributed a great deal to the development of the early church. With no disrespect to the donor, or to the venerated family who loved and sacrificed much for the church, no thought is given to why, when, or where these flags came from. The oversight should not be continued, therefore, the Church Historian contacted the quiet, amiable Mrs. McCann who resides in the Prince homeplace on North Elizabeth Street. My findings

"Music of the Black Church," brilliantly interpreted by the young ministers, accompanied by Grover Wilson, Jr., included such popular favorites as: "Jericho," "Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," "Beams of Heaven." The Young Adult Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Hattie P. Partin, crowned the documentary with today's sounds in their interpretation of "Precious Lord."

The HPP production was well-coordinated in other areas. The decorum of the Young Adult Ushers and the splendid services executed by the Hospitality Committee, who served a good will ambassadors for the Duke Divinity School faculty members and friends; the Mount Olive Baptist Church delegation and the Boren family and friends from Staton Memorial Church at Pittsboro.

POTPOURRI PILL: Watch it, fellows, if you're still seeing a parade of leggy beauties clad in only postage stamp garments, you're seeing what has gone by and your eyes are playing tricks with your torpid imagination. Those lovelies who had much to show off in their miniskirts are still hanging in there with fitted pant suits and well-designed dresses with "dust ruffles." We don't shut out temptation by crawling into a dark hole nor is a well-turned ankle an invitation to the kiss of death.

Reverend N. B. Sanders was spokesman for the Wednesday evening, mid-week worship service, "Christians In The Wrong Place." was the subject of his prophetic message based on the text, 1 John, 15:14. The UBC Senior Male Chorus rendered the music; the Grady Davis Choir conducted the lively praise services during the month of October. The October 22 praise service was conducted by Mrs. Mary Taylor, Mrs. Mary Pointer, Mrs. Bernadette Cooper.

Again, thanks to our Sunday visitors: Mrs. Dorothy Boyd Thomas, Shady Hill Church, Roxboro; Kenneth Clark, Coladechia, Raleigh; Mrs. Patricia Steven, St. Paly Holy Church, Roxboro; Miss Stephanie Steven, Roxboro; Mrs. Ella Berrell, Church of God, Roxboro; Mrs. Willimena Davis, Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Durham; Randy/Travis Caldwell, Colquitt Dennis, Durham.

Mrs. Edna Fuller (Baby Sister), Philadelphia, Pa.; Claude Suitt, Mahattan, N. Y., son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Suitt; Ms. Eva Day, Pine Grove Baptist, Creedmoor; Mr. and Mrs. Willie A. Glenn, Trenton, N. J.; Visiting grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Glenn; Clinton Glenn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Glenn, Trenton, N. J.

are being filed along with other information pertinent to the church's salute to our Missionary Department whose 79th theme is: "Day By Day, Perform Thy Mission."

Mrs. Geneva Prince McCann announced in the very outset that she would begin at the beginning. "I am the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Callie Prince. My daddy was a deacon of Union Baptist Church until his death — from 1926 to 1945. He was a wonderful father, never too busy to give advice to his children — no matter what the question was, he listened and gave us an answer. We did not bother our mother with our questions, but she was a wonderful Christian mother who explained to us how to live a clean, Christian life. Russ, there were nine of us children. I joined Union Baptist at the age of twelve. I have always loved church music, so I began taking music lessons with Mr. Charlie Gattis. He wouldn't allow me to use any sheet music, he gave me a hymn book as soon as I could play with both hands. I was an apt student and soon I was able to play for the

BYPU. I played for the BYPU every Sunday evening until 1925. In the meantime, Mr. Gattis organized a BYPU band. This band attracted much growth to our training union.

WRITERS

FORUM

by George B. Russ



MRS. LUCILLE FULLER

In the past the Women's Day Committee, seemingly, left no stone unturned in its preparations for a smashing successful observance, but this year the gadding about was kept down to an astonishing minimum and the results were amazingly momentous.

Women's Day, 1975, was the best ever. The music was celestial; Mrs. Doris P. Hollan and her entourage of beautiful pulpit associates: Ms. Louis Allan, Mrs. Annie Daniels, Rev. Mrs. Lottie B. Kee, was the touch of purple-velvet in today's crown; and, the Women's Day Messengers, Mrs. Celestia H. Sanders was par excellence; "Jesus, The Sweetest Name I Know" was the subject of the speakers' discourse. A straight forward, clearly defined message for persons of all ages. The Women's Day Theme: "The Divine Concern For the Troubled" was dexteriously woven into the message, so completely, that the manifestation was of beauty, cogency and lucidity.

The Women's Day Choir's repertoire included such popular favorites as: anthem, "One More River to Cross: Blessed Assurance, We've Come This Far by Faith, May the Work I've Done Speak for Me" and "Where Shall I Go." Soloist, Mrs. Zenobia Harden, "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

Many fine things materialized during the Union Baptist Women's Day salute to Christian women: a dedication ceremony for a baby and a little girl, a banquet style fellowship dinner; the 6:30 p.m. service was presided over by Mrs. Willie M. Fields. At this time a treatise of the Women's Day theme: "Divine Concern For The Troubled" was formulated by an all women panel: Miss Beverly Holland, Mrs. Maxine Mason, and Miss Eva D. Best. The prelude to the panel discussion was aptly performed by the Women's Day Choir, Mrs. Addie Mack.

The closing remarks for this memorable event were, naturally, given by Mrs. Lucilla Fuller, chairman of the Women's Day observance. In October, 1974, on Women's Day, Mrs. Fuller was awarded a handsome plaque for years of faithful service. A well-earned memento, by any standards, but this kind-lady was reluctant to accept the gift. She avoids praises the way an ascetic

I played the piano, Deacon Richard Rogers, William Fuller, Louise Lyons played cornet; violinists were Mrs. Pauline Fuller, Otha Holloway; Nilas Thompson played the trombone; Mr. Gattis played the cornet, too. The band was very successful and played until the death of our pastor, the Reverend C. H. Dunn. We played a while after

Reverend A. S. Croom began his pastorate at Union Baptist Church. Shortly after Rev. Croom came, I began playing for the St. John Baptist church on Third Street — Mr. John Fuller was the director of the choir there. When Miss Jessie Carroway entered college, I became pianist for the Union Baptist Sunday School. Rev. Croom was still pastor. For nearly a decade, I served the Sunday School and during this interim, Rev. Croom

avoids pomp and splendor. Her remarks are always short, to the point with a motherly sweetness in her voice. She displays as much ecstasy for small favors as she shows for huge, honied presentations.

The soft spoken, well-composed Mrs. Lucilla Fuller has always worked very closely to the well-being for Union Baptist Church. She has always cared enough to see that everything has a place and kept in place when not in use. Her reprimands never exceed more than mild rebuffs, however, her pursed lips and penetrating brown eyes drive home the message fast. She is a martinet without the fuss and fury of most women disciplinarian; a lovable person without the sweet talk.

Apparently, this sainted person is not a clock-watcher but she never arrives to a meeting late; always cool, calm and composed and on time.

During the early fifties, Reverend A. S. Croom conferred upon Mrs. Fuller the title of "Mother-of-the-church." An appropriate agnomen for a truly dedicated Christian woman.

Occasionally a frown will distort the placidity of her face, but this negative is short-lived. The lady, in office, rules with the velvet glove touch and this observation covers many situations from captain of a group rallying funds to purchase chairs for the Old Gray Street Church House; helping prepare the Saturday dinners to be sold by order; raising funds for Lincoln Hospital Linen Drive; working indirectly with all the church groups to raise cash to purchase a facility for the church. "Miss Lucilla" serves with a heartwarming finesse. She has served as Chairperson of the Up-To-Date Galeda Club for a score of years — a member since the club's inception in 1928. Mrs. Fuller sings with the Senior Choir, has served as president; a member of the Senior Missionary Circle and sings with the Missionary Choir. Records show that she worked with Church's Missionary Aid since the Depression Era. Her greatest preponderant is her motherly concern for other people's well-being: your health, happiness and the salubrity of your church attitude. Mrs. Lucilla Fuller is the wife of Dr. William Fuller, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Fayetteville Street, Durham — a byproduct of Union Baptist; one of the church's benefactors: clerk of the church, Sunday School and Youth Training Union.

"When The Gates Swing Open, a solo often sung by Mrs. Fuller, is an epitome of her religious life; "through the years, I'll keep on toiling; through the storm and rain, watchfully and patiently waiting til the Saviour returns."

died. Dr. Grady D. Davis was chosen to serve as the official leader of Union Baptist, January 1, 1963. Shortly after he took over his pastoral duties, he suggested that a Tiny Tots Choir be organized. I played for this choir until sickness forced me to resign.

After the death of my father and mother, two roses were placed on the table beside Reverend Croom's Chair on the rostrum every Sunday morning, in their memory, for 15 years. After prayerful consideration, I decided to place an attractive, useful facility to the pulpit: two handsome flags. These were dedicated and placed on the platform in 1970, in loving memory of my parents, Deacon and Mrs. Callie Prince.