

THE PARSON'S PARAGRAPHS

BY W. ROBERT INSKO

THE EPISCOPAL PRIEST

The parson that writes these paragraphs is an Episcopal Priest. I seldom mention my tradition of the Christian religion, in these paragraphs, but do not hesitate to do so upon request. This Friday's paragraphs attempt to fulfill several requests. Several persons that I have talked with on the streets and in business houses in Dunn and Erwin have asked me, "What kind of a minister are you? Why do you wear that "turned-around" collar?"

Then last Sunday I announced at the late service that I would attend on Tuesday, in Chapel Hill, at the Chapel of the Cross, the ordination to the Priesthood of a friend of mine. After the service a visitor said to me, "I didn't know you referred to your clergy as Priest." This brought to mind another comment recently made to me when I said something of the Priesthood of the Episcopal Church. This person said, "But how can you be a priest. You're not a Roman Catholic!"

Well, I am not a Roman Catholic, though my tradition has much in common with the Roman Catholic tradition, just as it has much in common with the Protestant tradition, but I am a priest. There are many priests that are not Roman Catholic Priests. The great Eastern branch of the Christian Church, including the Russian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox are ministered to by a Priesthood, just as the 40,000,000 Anglicans (Episcopalians) in the world are ministered to by a priesthood. All non-Roman Catholics of classical Christianity, that is, Christianity that is of the historic stream that developed in the first, second, and third, centuries, rather than beginning around the fifteenth century and the Protestant Reformation, are ministered to by a Priesthood.

In the book of Common Prayer, that Prayer Book

through which Episcopalians attempt to live the drama of redemption has found in the Holy Bible, in the Offices of Instruction, are the following questions and answers that may be helpful in defining the ministry of our Church.

What orders of Ministers are there in the Church?
 Answer. Bishops, Priests, and Deacons; which orders have been in the Church from the earliest times.

What is the office of a Bishop?
 Answer. The office of a Bishop is, to be a chief pastor to the Church; to confer Holy Order; and to administer Confirmation.

What is the office of a Priest?
 Answer. The office of a Priest is, to minister to the people committed to his care; to preach the Word of God; to baptize; to celebrate the Holy Communion; and to pronounce Absolution and Blessing in God's Name.

What is the office of a Deacon?
 Answer. The office of a Deacon is, to assist the Priest in Divine Sacrifice, and in his other ministrations, under the direction of the Bishop.

The ministry of the Episcopal Church is "from the Apostle's time." The "Ministers of Apostolic Succession," in the Prayer Book phrase, are believed by us to maintain our continuity with the ancient Church and to symbolize in a living ministry the apostolic character of the Holy Catholic Church.

We gladly recognize God's blessing upon other ministries which have not been episcopally transmitted, but our communion, the Anglican communion, maintains the ancient ministry and treasures it as a witness to the organic continuity of the Church.

I hope that these few paragraphs have helped to make the questions you have asked concerning the Episcopal ministry somewhat clearer. Please do not hesitate to ask others. Just write The Parson, Box, 607, Erwin.

Program Given In Benson

On last Sunday morning the customary missionary program for 4th Sundays was presented at the Sunday School hour by members of the junior department of the Sunday School. Mrs. Noel Auman directed the program and Mrs. Ivey T. Poole was accompanist for the musical numbers.

With Nola Sue Auman as announcer the program began with Anne Pollock Johnson reading the Scripture. Next Nola Sue Auman explained the purpose of Additional Sessions Missions. James Haller and Danny Royster told about Daniel Coker and the beginning of Methodism in Liberia, Africa.

Robin Vann gave a story about Melville Cox, first white missionary to Liberia, Africa. Next Friendship Song was rendered by Robin Vann, Nola Sue Auman, Virginia Barefoot, and Anne Pollock Johnson.

The story, An African Friend, was told by W. T. Sorrell, Jr. showing how an African boy was helped by a missionary to know God's love and how by remembering how brave Jesus was, he had courage to face danger and to protect his friends when they were in danger. Tommy Parrish told the Story

of Thomas, an African boy who was helped by a missionary and later became one of Africa's first ministers in his area. Known as Rev. Thomas Marange he went over the trails of Africa from village to village preaching and teaching the people.

Closing the program was a song, God's Love and Prayer Song, given by the entire group.

Pfc. Farmer Is To Go Overseas

Pfc. James (Jimmy) R. Farmer, son of Mrs. Mary R. Farmer of Benson and the late Ira O. Farmer, is now at Fort Kilmer, N. J. awaiting orders to embark for overseas duty. He recently spent a 30 day furlough here with relatives.

Pfc. Farmer graduated from Benson High school in 1947 and from Gupton-Hall Embalming school in Nashville, Tennessee. He was associated with Rose and Company, morticians, in Benson until he entered the military service in November 1951 at Fort Knox, Ky.

Following his basic training at Fort Knox Pfc. Farmer was transferred to Camp Polk, Louisiana where he was with the 137th Tank Battalion prior to receiving orders for overseas duty. He expects to sail about February 1 for Germany.



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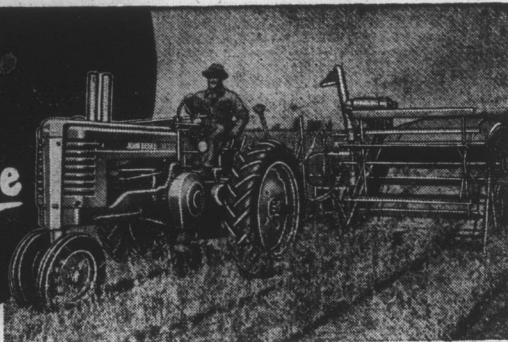
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