

**BETHEL A. M. E. CHURCH NEWS**

(Continued From Page 1)

Atlanta, Ga., was the speaker for the Mens Day program at Bethel Church, Sunday, March 22, at 11:00 a. m. Dr. Middleton used as a subject, "The Meaning of Lent." The season of meditation and sacrifice.

Others appearing on the program were Mr. Q. H. Holt, who presided; Mr. James Slappy, invocation; responsive reading, the Reverend S. O. McLaughlin, Announcements and acknowledgement of visitors, Mr. L. S. Penn, Jr.; introduction of speaker, Dr. Wendell P. Jones; Invitation to Christian Discipleship, Rev. L. S. Penn, Sr.; Music was rendered by the Male Chorus of Bethel, with Mrs. Comey Enzlow at the console.

Among the visitors were Dr. and Mrs. L. C. Dowdy and daughter of A. and T. State University, and Mrs. John A. Middleton and daughter of Atlanta, Ga.

**BEGONIA GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS IN MARCH**

**First March Meeting**

The first meeting held March 4 was a business meeting held in the home of Mrs. W. I. Peterson, 800 South Benbow Road at 8:00 p. m., where plans were completed for their annual Tea and Flower Show to be held at the Southeast Branch Y.W.C.A., South Murrow Boulevard, Sunday, April 5, from 4 to 6 p. m.

Members present were Mesdames James Tonkins, Jr., James E. Burnett, W. I. Peterson, Manley Royal, Mildred Reed, Samuel Headen, Mrs. Donnell Pearce and Mrs. Melvin Henderson.

**Second March Meeting**

The second March meeting was held in the home of Mrs. James E. Burnett, 1305 Marboro Drive. This was a workshop meeting, with Mrs. Fletcher Owens, guest demonstrator, giving the demonstration in flower arrangements, using twigs, flowers and foliage. Mrs. Owens was superb in her demonstration, and the group gained useful information from the lesson. Mrs. Samuel Headen presented Mrs. Owens to the group.

Members who took part in the lesson were Mrs. W. I. Peterson, Mrs. Manley Royal, Mrs. Everett Graves, Mrs. James Tonkins, Jr., Mrs. P. B. Shoffner, Mrs. Dorsey Hayes, Mrs. Samuel Headen, Mrs. James E. Burnett, Mrs. Mildred Reed, Mrs. Melvin Henderson, and Mrs. Charles O. Gill.

Next month the club will participate in Ceramic Workshops at the Glenwood Community Center.

Staff Photographer  
L. A. WISE  
616 Benbow Road  
272-4023

**SENATOR PROPOSES**  
(Continued from Page 1)

our federal judiciary has demonstrated extraordinary vigor and strength in protecting society as a whole and the basic rights of individuals.

But there is now increasing concern about the needs of our federal judiciary—concern about the unprecedented increase in civil and criminal litigation and other serious and wide-ranging problems. It is obvious that the courts require greater public scrutiny as well as more effective planning for their needs by the other branches of our government.

In the belief that Congress can meet its constitutional obligation as a coordinate branch of the government more fully by clearly determining the needs of the federal judiciary, Senator Kennedy and I are proposing the following resolution: that Congress respectfully request the Chief Justice of the United States to appear annually before a joint session of the Congress to report on the state of the federal judiciary. Congressman Allard Lowenstein of New York has already introduced a similar resolution in the House.

Such a "State of the Judiciary" message, we believe, would enable both Congress and the public to become fully informed, from year to year, about the work and the progress of the federal courts of our nation. Such a plan would contribute materially to a better understanding among the three great branches of our government.

It is time that the problems of our judicial system be presented, both to Congress and to

the country, at the highest level. Not only does the work of the judiciary need explaining to the country as never before, but a new and frightening set of figures on the growth of litigation in the federal courts bears witness to the need for long-range planning and congressional action.

The caseload in the federal courts has reached an all-time high. Continuing a trend begun ten years ago, new filings in the courts of appeals increased again in fiscal 1969—12.4 percent over the year before. Both the number of appeals docketed and the number pending have more than doubled in just seven years. Until fiscal 1969, new filings in the federal district courts had remained fairly constant for a number of years. Then last year, the combined civil and criminal cases newly docketed rose 8.4 per cent over the year before.

Overall, both courts of appeals and the district courts faced an across-the-board increase in judicial business in fiscal 1969 of approximately 10 per cent. Pending caseloads increased 19 percent in the courts of appeals and 7 percent in the district courts.

Myriad problems stem from these heavy caseloads. There are too few judges, too few courtrooms, too few supporting personnel. It takes too long to prepare transcripts and records. Delays in criminal cases directly affect the fight against crime as well as fair administration of justice, and delays in civil cases make the cost and inconvenience of litigation virtually prohibitive in many instances. Problems of bail, probation, judicial disability, the protracted case, and a hundred other subjects plague our courts. It would take an entire issue of the Congressional Record merely to list the litany of horrors inherent in the litigation and appeal of cases today.

I do not mean to imply that progress has not been achieved or that substantial changes are not taking place. On the contrary, new innovations are constantly being made, and dedicated

men all over the country are striving for new and better answers. My colleague, Senator Tydings of Maryland, has done an outstanding job in this area in his Subcommittee on Improvements in Judiciary Machinery. Our Supreme Court Justices and the Judicial Conference of the United States have given much of their valuable time to the question of judicial problems and judicial improvements.

But the point that needs to be made is that neither the problems nor the answers are being

brought into focus for the country and the Congress, and action is seldom galvanized even in the face of emergencies.

An annual address to the Congress by the Chief Justice might well allow the country its first realistic look at the state of its judiciary, pinpoint current and long-range problems, suggest solutions as well as areas for study, and motivate the Congress to effective action. An address by the Chief Justice would tend to focus everyone's attention on the priority items.



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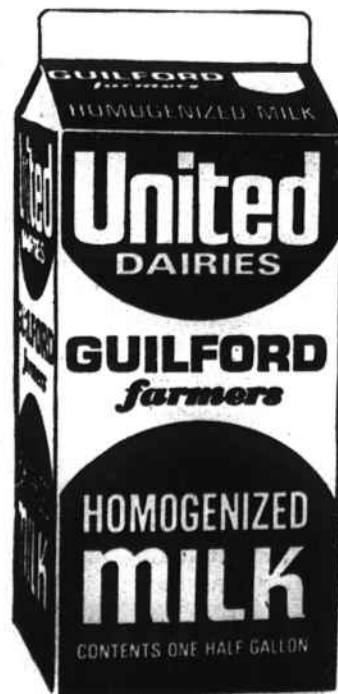
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