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March 15, 1973.

My good friend Hank:

I had a wonderful few days last summer at Camp Michaux. I have seldom met with more sincere and interested people. I was doing the thing I like to do and it seems those for whom I was doing it were appreciative of my efforts. For this I am more than pleased.

You will remember the two fellows who met with Jesus one night, when they left in the morning they called to everyone and told them of their experiences. You could tell by what they said and the way they said it, that they were more than interested in a new type of endeavor. A Clemsy parallel, and your men came to the mountain, heard, were interested, and they have told others. To me this is the way it has to be. How these people from your church have honored me! I am humbly appreciative.

Now, I love to do the very thing you have asked of me. I do a great deal of this type of work. And to be invited to have part in such an important Anniversary service is indeed an unusual honor. Thank you all very much.

I am sorry I cannot say yes. I have ^{never} been more thankful. You see, I am interim pastor for a two church charge, here in the southern part of Pennsylvania. I preach twice each Sunday morning. I leave home rather early and I do not get back until

about 1:00 P.M. This is a long hard morning for me and I feel I cannot be out late on any Saturday night. I am certain you can see why I have to say no to you.

I have been at these churches since October 1972. They are trying to procure a new pastor, but they to now have not been successful. If this work comes to a close, I could and would love to do your bidding. But you cannot wait to finalize your programming. For this same reason I had to say no to St. John's W. Shaffer, church in Baltimore for May 26, and to a Barberhop musical in Hanover, Pa. for the same evening you have chosen, Sept. 28.

These Anniversaries are wonderful occasions. I know you will have a wonderful time.

While I was pastor at Emmanuel church, Hanover Pa, we celebrated our 200 anniversary. We had a wonderful and most meaningful occasion.

Now to all of your good folks a most wonderful Easter season.

Sincerely,
Newton E. Smith