



Dr. Marvin Carr, coordinator for the Upshur Cooperative Parish, gives participants in the German exchange program a brief history of Upshur County.

Exchange

From Page 1A

11th, 12th and 13th grades. Some schools only go through the 12th grade in Germany.

"We prepare people to go to university with an emphasis on religion studies, music and arts," she said. "You can tell we are a school affiliated with our church because before Easter Break and all important Christian holidays, there is a time of prayer and meditation. We try to make students welcome and have a personal relationship with them."

The German curriculum includes some teaching on America, according to Clough.

"Everybody whether they are an English major or not, learns something about America in the 12th grade," she said. "Some of the concepts of the 'American dream' are part of the examination."

Black history and the Civil Rights Movement are also studied.

Since their arrival, the students and the Cloughs have received lots of hospitality from people and say they will remember how friendly everyone was.

Kuhl added, "The theme of the Methodist Church (Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.), this is

what we've experienced."

Clough said, "It's really good to live with people I think, much better to stay with families. We are right there in their lives, it's the best way to come to know people and to use the language."

The German exchange participants all mostly belong to the Lutheran church in Germany and have been interested in the differences between the styles of worship and programs each church does.

Wirth said that there is not much for youth in the Lutheran church. During their visits at the United Methodist churches, they have enjoyed talking to the youth about why they come and will take new ideas back with them.

On Monday, some of the students were visiting the Upshur Cooperative Parish House for an orientation with Dr. Marvin Carr and Director Carol Duffield. They also visited one of Upshur County's historic landmarks — the Pringle Tree.

The students joined the joint vacation Bible school between Chapel Hill UMC and First UMC Sunday night and had trips planned to Beckley and Blackwater Falls among other places this week. They will depart for Germany on Sunday.

Palitsch added, "Everything was exciting."



Pictured at right are Christina Clough (teacher) and her daughter Lena Elisabeth Clough, 5, in front of the historic Pringle Tree.