

Churches and the Religious Side of Roseburg

Methodist Episcopal Church.

This church had its beginning September 2, 1852, when Bishop Wm. Roberts organized the Umpqua mission which included all of Oregon south of the Cascade mountains, embracing the coast region as well as the interior.

The first pastor was Rev. J. O. Raper, who, with the Presiding Elder, Rev. J. H. Wilbur, arrived about October 1, 1852, making their headquarters near what is now known as Wilbur, and establishing preaching points in the scattered settlements in the vicinity of what was later named Roseburg.

In 1853 the mission was divided, the South Umpqua charge extending from the North Umpqua river to the Canyon mountains, with Rev. J. W. Miller as pastor. One of the preaching places was at the residence of James Gilmore on Deer creek.

The name was changed to Roseburg in 1853. It was made a separate station in 1854 during the pastorate of J. L. Forsberg.

Thus it will be seen that Methodism began its work in the very early days and has pioneered its way with the early settlers of the Umpqua valley. Its growth through the years has been steady and its influence in the community has been strongly felt.

A fire destroying the church edifice, the present large structure was built in 1913. A burdensome debt has hindered the advance of the work of the church for a number of years, but that has been taken care of, and with its old time characteristic zeal and fervor the church has begun to move forward with a delightful unity of fellowship under the leadership of its new pastor, Rev. Joseph Knotts. He is the 41st pastor.

The plan of the church building has not been altogether satisfactory. Recently some remodeling and decorating has been done, which greatly adds to the appearance. In the spring the church and the parsonage are to be painted. It is planned later on to further remodel the interior so as to make it more serviceable for the work of the various departments of the organization.

In January special evangelistic services will be conducted, Rev. Joseph Knotts doing the preaching. Probably an evangelistic singer will be secured to help in the meetings.

The choir which recently rendered so successfully the Christmas cantata, is planning on presenting two more sacred concerts before summer, an especially fine one at Easter, and the other at a convenient time, possibly in May, under the splendid directorship of Mrs. C. S. Heinline.

The Ladies Aid society and the Missionary societies are increasingly active, and the work of Epworth Leagues is making itself felt in the young life of the church.

The Sunday school, under the able supervision of Mr. J. E. McClintock, is proving itself a strong element in character building, and the church is greatly strengthened thereby.

The prayer meetings are marked by their deep religious fervor and the interest in spiritual matters is a great haven to the whole church.

In the matter of membership, the enrollment of the church is the largest in its history. The steady growth of the city and continued prosperity of its citizens portended added growth and influence to the church.

First Christian Church.

The Christian church of Roseburg was organized at the home of C. A. Schibbe on May 26, 1859. R. L. Shelby to Dr. D. H. Drayton. There were 14 charter members. On September 28, A. D. Skaggs, now of Vancouver, Wash., became the first minister. Services at first were held once a month, the congregation using the Baptist church, the M. E. Church South, and the court house. On November 21, 1860, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shupe, trustees were elected and corporation papers were filed. The church building was erected in 1891, and on November 29, 1891, was dedicated to the service of God, David Wetzel, minister of the First Christian church of Portland, preaching the sermon. The congregation had to struggle with a debt for several years. For seven years they were without a regular minister, but never failed to meet and observe the Lord's Supper. It is conceded that the faithfulness of meeting each Lord's day is due to the continuance of the work. Finally a loan of \$1200 was secured from the Church Extension Board and the work was put on its feet. The congregation has continued to grow in power until today it is considered one of the strong churches of the city. The present minister, C. H. Hilton, has been with the congregation for six years. During this ministry all the indebtedness against the church has been paid, and several improvements have been put over. He sides supporting their own minister here in Roseburg, the church also supports a special worker in the state



M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH.

of Oregon, known as a Living Link worker. Rev. John T. Silvers who does evangelistic work in the state, mostly in the weaker fields is that worker. Mr. Silvers will hold a meeting for the local church in February. This congregation this year is also supporting three native helpers in Africa. The native helper is one of the natives who has been trained to preach, and who goes out in the fields beyond to help others. In addition to this, this church has contributed largely to the support of Mr. and Mrs. Madden in Japan, and has done a large amount of missionary and benevolent work. Among other activities is the effort being made at this time to accumulate a building fund. It was the policy of the board and the pastor to get the money in sight before any building was done, so as not to leave a big debt. About \$10,000 is now in hand and out at interest, thus the foundation is being well laid for this new building, which, when it is built will be an honor to the city. During the present ministry over 500 people have united with the congregation, but of course removals and deaths have taken many from the congregation, so that the present membership stands at about 425. This church is well organized in all its departments, its Bible school, under the leadership of D. E. Carr, doing exceptionally well. All the other departments show interest, and the future for the congregation looks bright.

First Baptist Church.

The First Baptist church is one of the aggressive church of the city. Its building is on the corner of Lane and Rose streets, one block from the



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

main business section of the city. It has long played a conspicuous part in the religious and moral life of the city. It was organized January 27, 1857, with 17 charter members. The first pastor was Rev. W. G. Miller, father of S. C. Miller, who is a member of the church now, and a teacher of one of the men's classes. Other early pastors who had much influence upon the church were Rev. J. W. Crawford and Rev. Stephen A. Douglass. Later pastors have been Rev. E. A. Hicks, Dr. W. H. Eaton, Rev. J. H. Dickson. These men did splendid work in the church and had an outstanding influence upon the community. The last few years the church has been led by Rev. H. L. Caldwell.

The present membership of the church is around 450. Among its members are found people from every class and calling in the community. It has been blessed by strong and intelligent leadership, both in pastors and laymen. It is at present losing one of its capable and faithful laymen by the going of Hon. O. P. Co. show to the supreme bench. He has been superintendent of its Sunday school for 23 years. The Sunday school has been one of the influential arms to the church. From a handful it has grown to an enrollment of more than 500, with an attendance the most of the year of well over 700. This school brought the Daily Vacation Bible School for the first time into practical operation in this city. It ran every day for several weeks during the last two summers.

with large enrollments and great effectiveness.

The church takes especial interest in its young people and in the young people of the community. It has a well organized, large and growing young people's society that meets every Sunday evening at 6:30. The young people are put into places of trust and honor in many departments of the church. They were almost altogether responsible for the large and successful work in the vacation school the last two summers. Every summer the church bears a part of the expense to some of its young people to go to the state young people's assembly, where they are better trained for practical work. The young people support the public worship services of the church by being present in considerable numbers. A successful club for boys is now being held on Friday evenings at 7:30.

The church is supported by voluntary contributions. These contributions have greatly grown within the last few years. Last year considerably more than \$8,000.00 was raised. Almost half of this going to the missionary and educational interests of the church, and to other benevolent interests.

The Baptist church here, as elsewhere, is a separate and distinct unit. It is governed by its own local membership, and has no outside head or authority. Its relation to the other thousands of Baptist churches is voluntary co-operation. It has no creed, nor authoritative statement of faith, other than the Bible. Each man is looked upon as his own priest with direct access to God, and a right to interpret the scriptures as God shall give him light. Liberty of conscience for the individual and the absolute democracy of its government are two of the many strong appeals it makes to the religious interests of a free people.

The purpose of the Baptist church is to effectively present the teachings and spirit of Jesus Christ, and to help the people to make a practical application of his teachings and spirit to the situations they find themselves in daily life. It wishes to help parents in their efforts to establish good character in the young. It wishes to cooperate with other institutions in the community that make for the community well-being. It gives a hearty welcome to all who attend its services and a solicited care to all who come into its membership.

Catholic Church.

St. Joseph's Parish owes its inception to the missionary zeal and energy of late Father Croke. Some seventy years ago that good priest started out from Oregon City on horse back, preaching and distributing the sacraments from there to the most southern parts of the state. His well-deserving labors were crowned with encouraging success, and he was anxious to take the most effective means to consolidate his work and follow up its success. That means was naturally to have a permanent center of operation.

Perceiving the necessity of having a parish established, and of having a church and parish house erected, the zealous missionary sought a suitable place to locate in. By a happy combination of circumstances, his choice fell upon Roseburg. The late Mr. Rose donated a plot of ground for Catholic church purposes and thus facilitated considerably on the material side the erection of the parish.

For many years the firm establishment of the parish proved difficult and tedious owing to dearth of funds and of Catholics. Even the few Catholics that could be found were scattered over a large area. Despite these grave difficulties, a church was functioning in a few short years and there could be no doubt but that the parish had come into being as something permanent.

The structure that served as a church then has long since vanished out of existence. Another building was erected on the opposite side of the plot of ground, and was in comparison to its predecessor quite commodious as a temple of the Lord. It was only a reward well merited by the patient labors of Father Croke that a parish should in time be not only firmly established but that it should grow steadily and increase in strength.

However, it was not until about 1900 that anything like substantial success appeared, when the encouragement and generous assistance of the Most Rev. Archbishop Christie made itself felt. It was as a result of his deep interest in the advancement of the parish that the present church and Parochial House were erected. The building that hitherto served as a church has caused to be removed to its present location where it serves as a

Good Bye, Old Year

(By Anon.)

An old man was sitting in front of the fireplace, his hair was white, he had a long white beard, his eyes were closed, and he seemed to be sleeping, or, was he only thinking?

The four children who sat quietly on the rug at his feet got restless. They would have to talk or they would go to sleep.

The oldest of them, a boy, leaned forward and whispered to a little girl in a lovely dress of different shades of green, sprinkled with rosebuds, daisies, bluebells and diamonds. It was made by a fairy whose name was Sunshine, and she had created that lovely dress from just earth and water.

"The old man is asleep," whispered the boy. The girl nodded, then whispered back, "He is tired after the party. Don't wake him up." "I would like to play," said the boy, "there are my play things." The girl looked over to the corner of the room. There was a spade, a rake, several packages of seeds and a garden hose. "Let's play!" said the boy—but the girl shook her head. "Not while Uncle is asleep," she said.

The other two children had been very quiet, but now the smaller of the two, a little boy in a white suit, could not be still any longer. He sat, most cried and said, "I am so cold." No wonder, thought the girl next to him, his limbs are bare. "Be still!" she whispered, "I'll cover you with my blankets."

She had several blankets, one was green and blue, another green and purple, one had a golden color and there were many others. The boy would have none of those but when she spread out the last one—a lovely thing, pure white, soft and fluffy, he eagerly reached for it and soon was snug and warm under his white blanket.

The little girl covered herself up with the golden one and all was quiet; so quiet that the old man "woke up." He rubbed his old eyes and looked at the clock—nearly twelve. "I must tell these dear children goodbye. They are all asleep. Well, let them sleep, when they wake up I will be gone and another will be in my place." He looked at the boy and the girl in the beautiful dress. "I have seen you play together many times, wish I could see it again, but I am too old and tired—Goodbye, Spring! Goodbye, Summer!"

His eyes now rested on the two others. He could only see their faces and the blankets. The little girl had a stack of them by her side. She too, was asleep. "Goodbye, Autumn! Goodbye, Winter! I hate to leave you, but I must."

The little boy under the white blanket sat up. "Are you going away, Uncle? I am going with you." "No, no. Winter, you cannot leave Spring, Summer and Autumn, they would miss you and go all over the world looking for you," said the old man.

The clock struck twelve! The old man rose and hurried to the door—the boy caught him by the coat tail. Goodbye, old year, old dear," he called after him as the shadow disappeared over the snow. While the door was open another little boy had slipped in. "Hello," said Winter, "where did you come from and what is your name?" "Father Time sent me here and my name is New Year," said the new boy. "Oh, welcome! welcome!" shouted Winter, "let's hide under my white blanket until Spring wakes up."

school. Thus the present church is the third structure on the same plot of ground that has been sanctified by the sacramental presence of our God.

In 1912 it seemed well to His Grace, the Archbishop, to entrust the welfare of the Parish to the Franciscan Capuchin Fathers who came from Ireland seeking new mission fields. His encouragement grew still apace and though only the basement of the church served long as a house of divine worship, yet in 1916 it was enlarged and the church completed. It must be justly said that it is only through the fatherly interest, encouragement and assistance of our Most Rev. Archbishop that the parish has happily attained to its present stage of development.

The Parish property consists of one entire block of ground on which stand the church, school and Parish house. The site is well and admirably chosen. The interior of the church is comfortable and attractive and can seat about four hundred people, and of the many houses of worship belonging to the various denominations at Roseburg, it may be said to stand second to none. The Parochial school which was formerly the church is a structure quite in keeping with present needs. The number of pupils averages from 35 to 45 and their education is in the hands of the beneficent Sisters of Mercy.

First Church of Christ, Scientist.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Roseburg, Oregon, is one of the 2051 branches of the Mother Church, of Boston. Twenty-three of these are college and university organizations. During the year, ending with July, there have been added to the Mother Church seventy-nine societies, one university society and seven churches.

The history of many of these societies and churches parallels that of the First Church of Roseburg. In 1838 those interested in Christian Science grouped themselves together and met in the homes of local people. When the group became too large for the homes to accommodate them,

they secured the Odd Fellows banquet hall.

In a few years many local Christian Scientists had joined the Mother Church in Boston, and in 1863 a Christian Science society was organized. The place of meeting was moved to the city hall. This was occupied until 1907, when the property on the corner of Lane and Main was purchased and remodeled as a church.

In 1914 the society was legally incorporated under the laws of Oregon as the Christian Science society of Roseburg, Oregon. It was thus known until 1919 when it was duly authorized by the Mother Church to henceforth be known as the First Church of Christ, Scientists, of Roseburg, Oregon.

The property on Main and Lane was sold in March, 1922, and the present site purchased in June. In this same month the building of the present artistic structure, at a cost of \$12,000, which was dedicated recently, free from indebtedness, was begun. On September 10, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate but simple ceremonies.

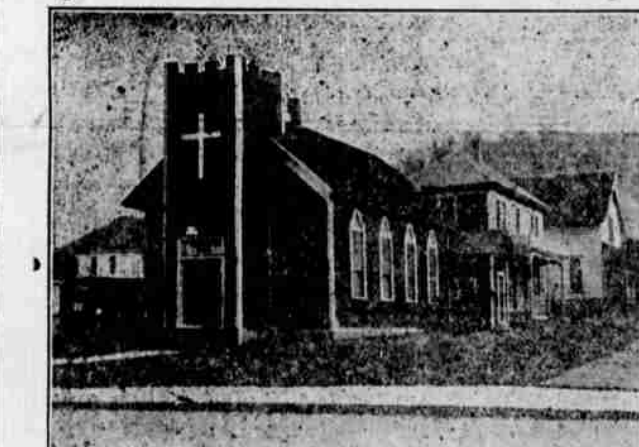
The Christian Science churches throughout the United States are famed for the beauty and artisticness. While the Roseburg church is small, it has all the qualities that make these edifices distinctive, and the city is justly proud of this structure.

First Presbyterian Church.

The First Presbyterian Church of Roseburg was organized August 3rd, 1873, with thirteen charter members. Rev. W. A. Smick was made "Stated Supply" and held this relation to the church till June 8th, 1879, when he was duly installed as pastor of the congregation by a committee from the Oregon Presbytery. The two first Elders chosen by the congregation were Mr. A. R. Flint and Mr. C. Gaddis.

In 1874 two lots located on the northwest corner of Cass and Rose streets were donated to the Presbyterian church by Aaron Rose of this city. On this location the First Presbyterian church was erected in 1875; the cornerstone was laid on October 6th, and the building was ready for worship by the end of that year.

Rev. Smick resigned from the pastorate of the church in March 1893,



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and Rev. Edward Eccleson was called as pastor July 23rd of the same year, he resigned and Rev. R. B. Dilworth was called as pastor July 21st, 1895, which position he held until March, 1898. Rev. E. A. Holdridge was Stated Supply of the congregation from May, 6th, 1898 to March, 1899.

Rev. John A. Townsend, D. D., was called as pastor March 23rd, 1899, and served this church for ten years, resigning March, 1909.

During Dr. Townsend's ministry a Manse was purchased and another important advance was also made by the church going to self-support, ceasing to receive financial help from the Home Mission board of the Presbyterian church. Rev. Joseph E. Burkhardt was called as pastor March 29th, 1909, and served until October 10th, 1912. The congregation decided to sell the old property, and build a new church on the corner of Jackson and Lane streets. The new building was erected in 1909 also a new Manse.

Rev. P. J. Lux, Ph. D., was called to the pastorate April 2nd, 1913, and resigned April 1916. Rev. E. W. Warrington was called and installed as pastor November 15th, 1916, and the work made splendid progress under his administration. He resigned November 1st, 1921, to take up Y. M. C. A. work at O. A. C. in Corvallis. The present pastor, Rev. L. Bowring Quick, began his ministry in this church in 1918 when he supplied the pulpit for one year during Rev. Warrington's service with the Y. M. C. A. overseas. Rev. Quick was called to the pastorate after Rev. Warrington resigned and took up his work in Roseburg November, 1921.

Time and space prohibit the mention of the many faithful and loyal members and officers who have made possible the present splendid organization. These were mentioned in a more complete history of the church written by Mrs. W. A. Smick, and published in the Roseburg News-Review after the 50th anniversary service held in this church in September of the present year.

There are now 375 members on the Active Member Roll, this does not include a large number of names on the Reserve Roll, the roll being revised each year. The Bible school has an enrollment of 293 members, including all departments. There are 14 classes.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Mr. B. L. Eddy is superintendent and Mrs. George Burchard is superintendent of primary department.

The church has three flourishing Christian Endeavor Societies, The Senior, Intermediate, and Junior. The last two meeting Sunday afternoon. The church has received nearly 100 members since January, 1923, and the attendance at both morning and evening services on the Lord's day is most satisfactory.

Three mid-week services are held each week. The prayer meeting on Wednesday evening has averaged about 75 throughout the year, with the exception of the summer months. There is a "Victorious Life Meeting" held each Friday afternoon at 3:00 p. m. and an hours Bible study held every Friday evening at 7:30. At the close of this service, a prayer service is held in the parlors of the church for any who are sick and desire special prayer. A number of persons have been healed at these meetings. There is an Active Ladies Aid Society with Miss F. Howell as president and Mrs. W. W. Ashcraft, secretary. The Women's Missionary Society with Mrs. C. A. Chamberlain, and Mrs. Grace Arundel secretary is another of the live organizations of the church.

The present Elders are Mr. E. Helliwell, Mr. B. L. Eddy, Mr. George Burchard, Mr. B. Nichols, Mr. F. Fisher, Mr. John Pinkerton and the clerk of the session, Mr. H. C. Parslow.

During 1923 the congregation cleared the church of all indebtedness and the outlook spiritually and financially is most encouraging.

Episcopal Church, South, meeting house in Roseburg was built. Either J. W. Craig, or D. C. McFarland was pastor at that time. The work went forward in this building for many years and many great preachers occupied its pulpit.

A more modern building was erected in 1893 by Rev. J. W. Fenton who was pastor at that time. Later a neat little chapel was built upon the present site and served to several years.

The present splendid building was begun in 1921 under the leadership of the Rev. J. C. Jones who is now the presiding elder of the Portland district. It was completed under the pastorate of the Rev. J. H. Needham. This structure is modern and complete in every detail and is second to none in the Portland district. It was made possible by the tireless energy and devotion of the active membership of the local church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, prides itself upon its justly earned reputation for its spirit of tolerance toward other denominations and creeds, and its hearty cooperation in all movements which have as an objective the upbuilding of civilization and the betterment of the human race. It has always stood, and will continue to stand, with an unbroken front opposing evil in whatever form it may appear. It recognizes the boundless possibilities for spiritual development in the great west and northwest. For 40 years this church has wrought hand in hand with the other Protestant denominations in this great field which is open to all alike; in which no bounds or limits have been placed upon any church by agreement, plan or otherwise. The great cause of the salvation of souls and the uplift of humanity and the battle against the great enemy, the world, the flesh, and the devil, truly require the united efforts of all available Christian forces.

The annual revival campaign of the church will open March 2, under the able leadership of the Rev. J. C. Jones, Evangelistic Party. The prayer of the church is that many souls may be saved to the Kingdom, the spiritual life of the church strengthened, and the moral atmosphere of Roseburg improved generally.

Free Methodist Church.

A society of the Free Methodist Church of North America was organized in Roseburg about the year 1892 with a membership of about 10 or 12, and for a number of years they worshipped in a hall or in the homes of some of the members of the society. In later years Mr. A. J. Bellows of West Roseburg kindly donated a plot of land of sufficient size upon which to erect a church building and a church parsonage.

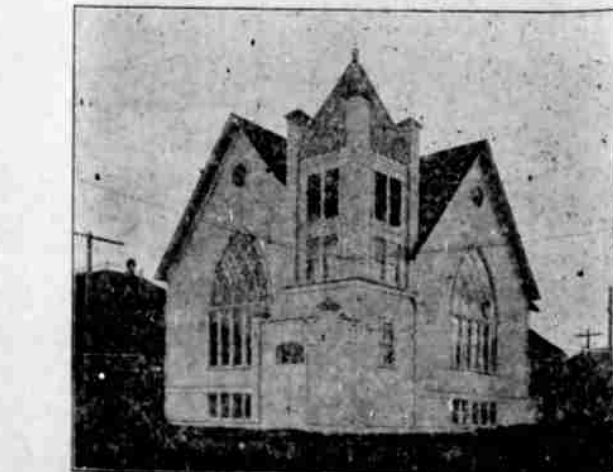
Said church building was erected mainly through the efforts and labors of Rev. W. E. Goode, who was at the time presiding elder of the district, also the efforts of Rev. J. M. Reese, now deceased, who from start to finish never faltered by the way until its completion.

The church was dedicated to Bishop E. P. Hart of San Francisco. Since that time a number of pastors have served the society, and during the pastorate of Rev. C. H. P. H. P. cell, he, with the society, planned and completed a very neat small parsonage. He was ably assisted by Mr. Levi White, Sr., he being a first-class mechanic, never ceased work until the completion of the parsonage, and this time the society has a church property valued at about \$2,000. There are no encumbrances to be as a drag-net to hamper the society.

Our present pastor, the Rev. B. A. Hammer, late of Canada, is holding hold of the work with hopes of a successful year.

St. George's Episcopal.

The St. George's Episcopal church has a large membership in Douglas county and holds regular services at the church in this city. Rev. Andrew O. Dodge, the new rector, who recently arrived here from Kansas, has made many friends and the church membership is pleased to see interest renewed. For several years the St. George's church was without a rector. Rev. White being the last one to preside. The church edifice is located on the corner of Cass and Main streets. Rev. Dodge holds services in Oakland, Sutherland and Riddle thus giving the members of the church in these sections an opportunity to attend the services.



BAPTIST CHURCH, LANE AND ROSE STREETS



M. E. CHURCH