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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

Mill-Town Church

By the Rev. Lyle M. Knaupp
Pastor, Westfir Community Church

(Editor's note: In spite of the fact that the Rev. Mr. Knaupp has been in Westfir only a few months he has analyzed with rare insight the problems and advantages of a church in a lumber-mill community. Born in the middlewest and educated in the east, Mr. Knaupp says he is a "green" observer.)

The conditions in a lumber mill town confront the church with several unique problems or difficulties.

The first is the problem of a constantly-shifting population.

Except for a nucleus of settled families, there is a considerable population turnover within any given period of time. Consequently, the people involved in this flux never succeed in sinking deep roots, or in developing a strong sense of community spirit and responsibility. In this atmosphere of impermanence, the church has difficulty in demonstrating its long-time value and in laying solid foundations for the future.

Closely related to this problem is the fact that the population of a mill town is of such mixed or heterogeneous character.

For the church, especially if there is only one church in the community, this raises the problem of how to meet the needs of people with such widely varying backgrounds, temperaments, ideas, and aspirations. The only solution lies in a "middle-of-the-road" church program which avoids extremes and directs itself toward basic, universal goals.

Labor-management class stratification, which tends to be accentuated in a small, closely-knit mill town, presents the church with a third problem.

It is most imperative that the church keep to a neutral ground, being friendly, open, and helpful to both classes but never becoming identified with one, to the exclusion of the other. The church, in its essence, is a divine fellowship which transcends all the barriers dividing the rest of society.

Provincialism and isolationism present a problem in any small community, but especially so in a mill town.

When the life of the entire community centers about "the mill," horizons tend to be restricted to that point. Thus the world-wide significance and responsibility of the Christian Church is obscured.

It would be most unfair and misleading to emphasize the problems of the church in a lumber mill town without mentioning also its unique opportunities and advantages, for there are advantages which are particularly noticeable to a newcomer to Oregon.

In the first place the prevailing attitude is notably realistic and "down-to-earth," with a minimum of superficiality, artificiality, and false pretense, as compared to other more staid and highly-developed communities.

Life is lived nearer its deep sources in the earth; something of the rugged grandeur and simplicity of the unspoiled natural world filters into the lives of the people.

One effect is, less church-going from false motives: such as business policy, social prestige, and outworn tradition, and therefore a church with more inner vitality even if it is numerically small.

In many mill towns, the church has few conflicting leisure-time interests, so that it is confronted by an unique opportunity to relate itself to many phases of life in the community — social, economic, educational, recreational, as well as religious.

The sum of the conditions described make for an atmosphere congenial to creativity and bold experiment on the part of the church. There are few stereotyped patterns and rigid conventions and hence less chance of 'getting into a rut.'

The church is forced to pioneer in new areas, methods, and goals, or die!

Without being unduly optimistic, the writer is convinced that on the whole, the opportunities of the church in a lumber mill town outweigh the difficulties. Progress is often extremely slow and impossible to calculate statistically, but each new advance, however small, opens up broader possibilities for the days ahead.

Brotherhood Week

In Eugene and throughout the country, "Brotherhood" was stressed in churches and colleges during the past week. Sponsored by the National Conference of Jews and Christians, the observance of World Brotherhood Week began 20 years ago, but only in scattered congregations and communities.

Last year the observance was given wide publicity when President Truman declared the last week in February as Brotherhood Week.

This week rabbis preached in Methodist churches, Baptist ministers spoke in synagogues, and mass meetings were held where Catholic priests, Protestant ministers, and rabbis were speakers.

Foreign congregations were invited to join "American" congregations for fellowship dinners, and negro choirs sang in many "white" churches.

College forums led by ministers, rabbis and priests, allowed students to discover that fundamentally Jews, Catholics and Protestants have much in common.

All this is commendable. For one week we hear and read the word Brotherhood. The question is: What do we do the rest of the year?

The need for brotherhood has always existed, but today it is imperative for the peace of the world.

That considerable progress has been made is evident in the very word brotherhood. Twenty-five years ago churches were urging greater "tolerance," but saying nothing about "brotherhood."

Mere tolerance is not good enough. Tolerance does not establish good will nor develop cooperation.

Brotherhood requires the recognition of each other's rights, the understanding of each other's problems, ane thd appreciation of each other's talents and virtues.

World Day of Prayer

Again the Eugene Council of Church Women is to observe the World Day of Prayer next Friday, March 4, in a united service which this year is to be held in the Evangelical Church. One important feature which has not previously been included will be the Communion service.

All those who wish may take Communion, regardless of their church affiliation.

There is a fine bond to be forged in this sacrament, and the committee is to be congratulated in planning it. Those who do not wish to take Communion may come to the service a little later.

The program will be presented by representatives from various churches, but the offering will go for a common purpose, chosen by the National Council of Church Women. Our church women are learning real cooperation.

Through German Eyes

Last year Bishop Hanns Lilje, bishop of the Lutheran Church, Germany, visited America for a few weeks.

One of the things which most impressed him was the freedom of religion which we enjoy.

Perhaps we need to have called to our minds some of the things which we take for granted but which seemed to Bishop Lilje tremendously important.

The following is an excerpt from his report, as quoted in "The Lutheran":

"The American constitution upholds the principle of strict separation of church and state.

"But this separation does not imply a hostile renunciation as in the case of some European constitutions, but rather the precise opposite!

"Everyone is to have the right to live in accord with his faith. It is only for this reason that the state does not ally itself with any particular church.

"Public life likewise is determined by this positive conception of religious freedom. Despite the official separation of church and state the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington and the legislatures of the states have official chaplains who offer prayer at the opening of sessions.

"It is true, there is no official religious instruction in the schools, because no particular form of religion is to be imposed upon anybody.

"But no one would conclude from this that one could attack or treat the Christian faith with contempt in the schools.

"Nor would the newspapers do this. America has freedom of the press. And in these times it is astonishing what is done in the name of the freedom of the press.

"But in four extended visits to America I have not met with a single case in which a newspaper has used this freedom to attack the Christian faith."

Ouch!

Sometimes a small paragraph can say a great deal. A few lines in the latest "Presbyterian Life" should cause many churches to revaluate their program.

"Is the church competing with the club fad, or merely imitating it? The vitality of a church is often judged by the splash it makes in the weekly social calendar. Needless to say, there is no guarantee that a church is spiritually alive because it has a potluck dinner Monday night, a Tuesday afternoon tea, a luncheon forum Wednesday noon, with choir practice and fellowship hour following on Thursday."

A beautiful and sensible prayer which can be recommended to everybody is the following from an anonymous author:

"God grant me serenity to accept what I cannot change, courage to change things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

—The Father Mathew Record
quoted in the Catholic Digest

A negro student of Northwest University recently said:

"If I am dirty, I can cleanse myself. If I am ignorant, I can better myself. But if you reject me because of the color of my skin, I can only refer you to God who gave it to me!"

—Life Magazine.

Laymen's Day At Methodist

At the First Methodist Church Sunday morning Laymen's Day will be observed with lay speakers.

Lloyd C. DeLess, lay leader, will conduct a portion of the service and speakers will include Marvin T. Warlick and Lester Beals.

The morning anthem will be "Immortal, Invisible" by Thiman. Soloist, Wayne Sherwood, bass baritone. Evening youth services include Methodist Youth Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. The Wesley Foundation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the Young Adult Fellowship at 7:00 p.m.

"Brotherhood" At Congregational

"Reflections on Brotherhood Week" will be the subject of Dr. Wesley Nicholson's sermon at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services at the Congregational Church. The choir will sing "How Lovely Are The Messengers" by Mendelssohn, and the solo, "Bless the Lord," by LaForge will be sung by Phillip Green, baritone.

A full service occurs at both of the hours. Parents with children in the Sunday School find it convenient to attend the 9:30 service while their children are receiving religious instruction. The Sunday School at 9:30 provides classes beginning with the nursery and continuing through the Junior High. There is provision for the care of small children at the 11 a.m. hour.

Three young people's groups will meet in the evening: the Plymouth Club for university students at 5 in the Wheeler Room for supper and discussion; the high school Youth Church in the Annex at 7 with Joan Gustafson, Connie Seymour, Ed Smith and Jack Boettcher in charge of the program; and the Junior High Fellowship for a "Let's Get Acquainted" party at 7 p.m. at the home of Miss Barbara Beck, 2590 Central Blvd. Those needing transportation are asked to call Mrs. Vaaler, 879-M.

Women's groups: The World great day of fellowship. Evangelist Stubblefield speaks at 2:30 p.m. The fellowship dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. at the Woodrow Wilson Junior High cafeteria. Young People's service 6:30 p.m.

The Rev. Atwood Foster of Salem, district superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Oregon District, speaks at 7:30. Rev. R. E. Parrish, District Presbyter, of Cottage Grove, will preside over the meetings of the day. The public is welcome.

Unitarian Starts New Forum Series

The adult forum at the Unitarian Church, Sunday at 10 a.m., starts a new series, which will be conducted by the minister, the Rev. Sidney Peterman, and Max Morris of the University of Oregon Speech Department.

"The Basic Unity of Liberal and Religious Thought" is the subject, bearing on the theme of the coming conference of Unitarian Churches, at Portland, this summer, and also the International Association of Religious Liberals, in Amsterdam, Holland.

New members of the church are especially invited to attend this series.

"Salvation by Character," is the Rev. Peterman's topic at the 11 a.m. service, which is a consideration of the liberal doctrine of salvation.

Channing Club at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Room for social session and discussion.

LUTHERAN STUDENTS VISITS CORVALLIS

The Lutheran Student Assn. of the University of Oregon will go to Corvallis Sunday as guests of the LSA of Oregon State College.

Those wishing to go please meet at 4 p.m. at 1376 Alder St., the Lutheran Student House. Transportation will be furnished.

All Lutheran students welcome, according to Ed Heide, president.

Temple Takes New Members

"Discipleship" is the subject chosen by Rev. W. Crawford Jones, pastor of Lighthouse Temple, at 11 a.m. New members will also be received into church membership.

In the evening the pastor will speak on "Worse Than War." Special music by the Temple orchestra and choir. Sunday School 9:45 a.m., everyone invited. Youth Fellowship groups 6 p.m.

Tuesday evening the mid-week Bible study and prayer service will be conducted by the pastor. Friday evening the youth service will be conducted by young people of Bible Standard Institute.

Adventist Church Has Lay Speaker

Archie Gilbert, an elder of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, will be speaker at the 11 a.m. service, Saturday on "The Blessed Hope." At 9:30 the lesson study will be, "Purity of Heart and Life."

The Missionary Volunteers of Junction City will give the program at 3:45 p.m. depicting in song and story the love of the Good Shepherd.

All members who can are urged to attend the service of the World Day of Prayer, March 4. An interdenominational meeting will be held at the Evangelical Church at 2:15 p.m., with open communion served at 1:30 p.m. The Dorcas ladies will meet from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, and prayer meeting is on Wednesday at 8 p.m. with teachers' meeting at 9 p.m.

Fellowship Meet At Assembly of God

The Eugene Assembly of God Church has a full schedule for Sunday and Monday.

At Sunday services, the pastor, the Rev. Gordon Kampfer, preaches at 11 a.m., and again in the evening, when orchestra music and choir singing will be featured.

Sunday school is as usual at 9:45 a.m., although remodeling is going on in the building to enlarge class space. Evening meetings: Christ's Ambassadors, led by Elvin Pitts, and Junior class under Gertrude Shade, at 6:45 p.m.

Monday is "Fellowship Meeting Day" for the Eugene Assembly of God, at which time ministers and laity from all the surrounding churches in this area gather for a

GRACE LUTHERAN

At Grace Lutheran Church the pastor, the Rev. W. B. Maier, will speak on "Keeping Lent." The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Gilbert Macke, will sing, "O Love of God," by Bach.

Beginning Sunday, March 6, two identical Sunday morning services will be held. The first service will begin at 9 a.m., the second at 11 a.m.

To mark the beginning of the season of Lent, a service will be held Ash Wednesday, 8 p.m. The Rev. Maier will speak on "The Right Observance of Lent Illustrated," and the choir will sing, "Hide Thy Face From My Sins, O Lord."

Meetings: Sunday School 9:45 a.m. The Lutheran Hour will be broadcast over KORE at 9:30 a.m. The Lutheran Laymen's League will have its February meeting in the church parlor, beginning with a supper at 6:30 p.m.

Adult membership Class I, Monday, 8 p.m. Choir rehearsal Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Adult membership Class II Thursday, 8 p.m. Bible School for children ages four to 14, every Saturday 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

MINISTERS CHECK ON MENTAL HEALTH TOUR

Several ministers from Eugene are members of a group of Eugene and Springfield citizens who are touring through the Oregon State Hospital, and the Oregon Fairview Home Monday under auspices of the Mental Health Assn. of Oregon.

At First Christian

"Come and See" is the message of Pastor Hugh N. McCallum of First Christian Church at 11 a.m. The choir will sing with David Harkness having the solo part "Seek Ye the Lord." Donald Jones will sing "The Lord is My Light" by Allitson. At the 7:30 p.m. service Rev. McCallum will speak on "Importance of Spiritual Discipline." Eunice Royston will sing "Thanks Be to God."

Bible School at 9:45 a.m. Nursery service for both morning services. Junior Church from 11 to 12 in the junior department.

Junior Hi group meets at 5 p.m. for a social period and Christian Endeavor at 6 p.m. with a "Television Radio Program" on the "Week of Compassion." The Harrisburg Christian Endeavor group will be guests. High School group meets at 5:30 p.m. for a social period and Christian Endeavor at 6:15 at the annex. Town and Campus group meets at 6 p.m. in the White Room. The University Fellowship meets at the campus YMCA lounge (Kincaid St.) with Mrs. Dulcina Brown Elliott, Student Director.

Thursday there will be a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and Miss Eva Maria Johnson will be the speaker. Miss Johnson is a graduate of Northwest Christian College and University of Oregon, also spent a year at Yale and the past year has been at Indianapolis making final preparation for her missionary work in the African Congo.

Pastor J. L. Sawyer at United Lutheran Quits For Missionary Work

The congregation of United Lutheran Church meets at the Music Chapel of Northwest Christian College, East Eleventh and Kincaid.

The Rev. J. L. Sawyer, pastor, will speak on "From Blindness to Sight." At the close of the service there will be a congregational meeting to act on the resignation of Pastor Sawyer, who resigned last Sunday to accept a call from the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America to serve as field missionary on assignment at Vancouver, B.C. The resignation is to be effective April 30.

The Women's Council will meet at the John Gragg residence, 1065 E. 22nd, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Mrs. J. B. York, Mrs. Neil Barton, Mrs. Ben Wechsler, Mrs. Wm. Zeleny and Mrs. Clyde Mitchell. Mrs. C. Beckos will lead the discussion on "Worship."

Revivalist Harold Volk Starts Second Week At The Nazarene Church

Evangelist Harold Volk continues into the second week at the Church of the Nazarene, with services at the church at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The revival opened Wednesday evening with the largest congregation ever to attend the church for an opening revival night.

Central Lutheran

Holy Communion will be celebrated at Central Lutheran Church at both morning and evening services. Pastor Harold Aalbue will preach on "Destined to Be Despised" at the morning worship. He will speak about Lenten observances at the evening communior service. Ash Wednesday ushers in this serious season of the church year.

"Need Christians Sin?"

"Need Christians Sin?" is Rev. W. M. Whitwell's sermon topic at the River Road Baptist Chapel, 1105 River Road. The Bible has a "clear-cut" answer to this most important question.

The choir will present the anthem, "Love Divine."

The Junior Young People's Fellowship for those nine to 12 meets at 4 p. m. Sunday under the sponsorship of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Wheeler. The topic will be "Unbelief" and everyone will complete the picture of Noah's Ark in the Bible Craft Work Book.

The Junior High Young Peoples Fellowship meets at 6:15 p.m. Sunday to discuss the theme, "How to Conduct a Worship Service."

Prayer meeting, Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. will be a Fireside Circle, with informal fellowship, prayer and refreshments. This will be a combined meeting for all members and friends of the First Baptist Church and the Chapel.

All members of the First Baptist Church living in the River Road area are invited to meet at the Chapel for this social occasion and prayer time.

Dr. Vance H. Webster, pastor of the First Baptist Church, will address this Fireside Circles and twenty other similar Circle meetings throughout the city by at 8:15 p. m.

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Catholic Information

The church that is never empty

If you had seen the face of a certain man, who was walking dejected down the street, you probably would have said: "Poor fellow, he is in some grave trouble!"

If you had seen that same face a few minutes later at the altar rail of a Catholic church—a face whose eyes were glued on the tabernacle door in the centre of the altar—whose lips were moving slowly and silently, you might have said: "He seems to be—not just praying—but talking to someone."

And if, awhile later, you had seen that same young man leaving the church with vigorous step and with soft, grateful eyes, you might have actually witnessed the fulfillment of Christ's promise: "Come to me, all you that labor, and are burdened and I will refresh you" (Matt. 11-28).

Catholic churches are often crowded. They may at times contain no human beings. But at no time is a Catholic church empty: for in that little altar closet, called the tabernacle, there is always the Body and Blood, the Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, under the form of bread.

This is the Personal Presence the Real Presence of Him who died to redeem the world. This is the Bread of Life, concerning which Christ said: "He that eateth this bread shall live forever" (John 6:59). This is the Bread of Life, the Last Supper, divinely changed the Body of the Son of God offered daily to every Catholic Holy Communion.

This is God, himself, to whom the Catholic bends his knee before the altar and doffs his hat before the church door. The Holy Eucharist which from all quarters of the globe dreds of thousands of pilgrims public acclaim, glorification, supplication at the great Eucharistic Congresses.

Some time step inside a Catholic church when no services are held. Watch the worshippers there but one or one hundred present, you will notice that individually praying—not as prays at home or out in the spaces—but more as one communing with a Great One and a Lover who is right there personally present. If you do this, dear reader, we believe you will have respect least for the Catholic's firm conviction that a Catholic church even when deserted by humans, is never really empty.

If it's anything Catholic, Catholic! For information on Catholic subject write to Knights of Columbus, Box 211, Eugene, Ore.

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