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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.

The Rural Church

By George Alder
Minister, Church of Christ, Elmira
Jesus found his kindest reception among rural people. Their minds welcomed a teaching that was simple and practical.

This same simple teaching is understandable to rural people now, and in the country church we find that the demand is not for erudite statements of faith, but for a practical expression of it.

The man on the farm wants Christianity in action, and is not much interested in the latest modern thought of the theologians.

This essentially practical attitude of rural people toward the Christian faith is expressed in the social life and work of the church. The old-fashioned potluck dinner is the center of much of the social times in a rural congregation. The social life calls for simple parties, lots of conversation, and no effort for the elaborate.

The church is not obliged to compete with innumerable clubs, amusements, concerts and lectures as a city church is; it must, however, to some degree compensate for the lack of those social opportunities. Therefore the rural church which is successful has a large social program.

The members of a rural church feel close to one another, and work together in a way seldom seen in a city church. The congregation here at Elmira has in the last four years improved the building considerably. About \$5000 has been put into materials, and labor has been given willingly.

The days and evenings spent in carpentering, plumbing, painting, and other tasks have immeasurably benefited the people, for people gain a sense of belonging when they work together.

Jesus said that our hearts will be where our treasure is. This willingness to give time as well as money is a very gratifying quality of the rural community.

The rural church is a leavening influence in our society far out of proportion to its size, for in the little rural Sunday School boys and girls are taught the everlasting truths of the Scriptures. These boys and girls migrate to the cities; they become influential in business, in politics, in government, and they many times supply the leadership of the city church.

In recent years churches have begun to realize that the rural church is tremendously important, and special training is given ministers for rural work. The deserted country church of the twenties is now filled, and once more a vital factor in the community.

The qualities of the rural church are basically those qualities which have made a strong nation: neighborliness, sincere faith, strong family life, and earnestness of endeavor. Those who live close to the soil realize their partnership with the Almighty. Once men have acquired that concept, human brotherhood becomes a reality.

Church Mergers

The strong trend toward church mergers is probably not realized by the average church member, who is aware of happenings in his own church but ignorant of developments in other churches.

The decision last month of the Congregational-Christian Church and the Evangelical-Reformed Church to unite is not at all unique, though of great importance.

The United Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Church in America are to vote on the plan for their union when the national bodies meet in May at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

The eight Lutheran bodies have been working for some time on a plan for a unified Lutheran Church, and five of the eight have voted for unification. Action has been postponed with the hope of securing unanimous acceptance of the plan.

The Baptists and Disciples of Christ are discussing amalgamation, and because of the similarity of their doctrine and governing systems such a union would seem reasonably simple to effect.

On the other hand the proposed merger of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches is confronted with the problem of different types of administration as well as certain doctrinal differences. Advocates of union point out that the Methodist Church was formed by the union of two churches which had episcopal administration and one which had congregational administration.

Perhaps even more interesting than the merging of national church bodies is the trend in merging of individual churches of different affiliations.

For instance, in Boston as a result of a study conducted by the Massachusetts Council of Churches St. Andrew's Episcopal Church will merge with Baker-Maverick Congregational Church. In view of fundamental differences between the Episcopal and Congregational churches this union might seem impossible, but last fall a successful merger was effected between St.

Paul's Methodist, St. John's Episcopal and the Italian Congregational churches. Obviously these three churches must have had a good deal in common, and denominational loyalty was not considered more important than Christian efficiency.

Undoubtedly these federated churches will be more effective than the individual churches could possibly be, and they may demonstrate even to nations that union is not so difficult as many seem to believe.

And Now Television

Today most churches have movie projectors but the Methodist Church of San Leandro, Calif. is the first one we have heard of to install a television set. Realizing the attraction of television, taverns have hastened to install such equipment.

Because the First Methodist Church did not wish its members to go to taverns in order to see television programs it felt forced to purchase its own set.

Too often the church fails to recognize such challenge and opportunity. Not until young people have formed the habit of going to taverns to see television will some churches wake up to the sad fact. Then it will be a bit late to purchase the television set, even though some will say, "Better late than never." We predict that it won't be long until some wide-awake Eugene church buys a television set.

Alibis for Not Attending

If as many alibis were found for not going to the movies as for not going to church, the movies would soon close their doors! In a whimsical mood a person quoted anonymously has given the following ten reasons for not going to the movies:

I was made to go too often when I was young.

Nobody ever speaks to me when I go. They always ask me for money.

The manager has never called on me or my family.

The people who go do not live up to the fine things they see and hear in the pictures.

I get more out of my lodge, anyhow.

There is so much fighting among the picture houses.

Sunday is the only day I have for my family.

The pictures never get down to earth where I live.

I can be just as good whether I attend the movies or not.

—from Prayer and the Common Life by Georgia Harkness

Where Is the Church on Monday?

We know where the church is on Sunday at eleven o'clock (or at least a portion of it) but where is the church on Monday, or Tuesday? When the worship service is over on Sunday does the church go out of existence, or evaporate into innocuous desuetude for the next six days?

According to Dr. Samuel Cavert "Much of the feebleness of the church in relation to secular affairs has been due to its depending too exclusively on the verbal witness borne by the preacher in the pulpit, too little on the witness of the deed, borne by men and women in their daily occupations."

"For the vast majority of people the great opportunity to serve Christ as Lord is the place of their everyday work, the place where Christian motives and convictions have to be translated into action."

It would help greatly if the men of the church could see that much of their "church work" is not to be done at the church, but in connection with their daily occupations.

It ought not be difficult for men to grasp the significance of this amazingly simple concept of men's work. It is but returning to the New Testament where when men were baptized they went back to their daily tasks there to become witnesses to their new-found hope. The centurion went back to his command, the Ethiopian eunuch to his task as secretary of the treasury of an empire, the jailer to the handling of his prisoners, the proconsul to his governmental duties, Lydia to her selling of purple, and Dionysius to his seat in the city council.

—The Christian Evangelist

Bibles in Zoque, Bwilebwi

Year by year the American Bible Society has been adding to its list of translations of the Bible. As missionaries produce a written language for a primitive tribe, they put the Bible into the newly recorded language. In this manner the Bible has been translated at least partly in more than 1000 languages.

Latest added to the list is Zoque, the language of an Indian tribe in Chiapas, southern Mexico. The Gospels, bound in bright-colored paper, and printed with the Spanish text in parallel columns, have been published by the American Bible Society. The translation, made by Dr. William Wonderly and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Harrison, took eight years.

Translation of the New Testament into Bwilebwi, language of 30,000 people in the Belgian Congo, has been completed and will soon be published by the National Bible Society of Scotland.

—The Lutheran

Missionary Fellowship Meal For Baptist Groups Thursday

Miss Margaret F. Moran of Nellore, South India, will speak at the missionary fellowship supper at First Baptist Church Thursday at 6:20 p.m. Miss Moran has served under Women's American Baptist Foreign Mission Society for nearly 40 years and established the first Bible Training School for women in the Telugu field.

Sunday at 11 a.m. Dr. Vance H. Webster will continue the series on "The Ten Commandments or Rules for Living Today" by speaking on the theme, "Covenantness." Lowell Chase and the senior choir will sing. The service will be broadcast over KASH. The Lord's Supper will be observed and new members received.

The Bible School is working toward the goal "Teaching the Truth to a Thousand Every Sunday." There were 903 in the main school last Sunday and more than 500 in the Berean, Riverview, Willagillespie and River Road chapels.

The seven fellowship groups will meet at 6:30. At 7:30 the Life Service League will participate in



MRS. MARGARITA MORAN

the evening service. Sermon: "Lying." The monthly "sing and sip" for young people will be held at 8 p.m.

Lenten Rites at Cen. Lutheran

The first of a series of Lenten sermons on the Seven Last Words will be preached by Pastor Harold Aalbu at Central Lutheran Church. It will be a children's service with a group from the junior department singing "From Greenland's Icy Mountains." The choir will sing "How Beautiful Upon the Mountains" by Stainer.

"Background of the Passion," the first of a series of special Sunday evening Lenten services, will be the subject of the evening sermon. Eleanor Hansen and Arlene Gubrud will sing a duet "Alas, and Did My Saviour Bleed." The historic litany will be said at the evening service.

Grace Lutheran to Have Double Service

Beginning Sunday, March 6, two identical Sunday morning services will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Eugene.

The first service will begin at 9 a.m., the second service at 11. The seating capacity of the church can no longer accommodate the constantly increasing attendance at one service.

Holy communion will be observed in both services and the pastor, Rev. W. B. Maier, will speak on "Faith and Repentance."

The children's classes of the Sunday school will continue to convene at 9:45 a.m. in the church parlor. The young people's classes and the adult class will meet at 10 a.m. Beginning Sunday, Dr. E. S. Wengert will serve regularly as leader of the adult class.

Walter Leungers will meet Sunday at 7:30 p.m. J. W. Beechams will be guest topic discussion leader, on "The Christian and Politics."

Choir rehearsal, Wednesday, 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.

Rev. W. B. Maier will be in Portland Monday and Tuesday to attend a meeting of the board of directors of the Northwest district, on which he serves as chairman of the district church extension committee.

United Lutheran Takes New Members Sunday; Has Movie on DPs

The congregation of United Lutheran Church holds its services at the Music Building of Northwest Christian College, East Eleventh and Kincaid, Church school at 9:45 a.m.

At the morning service Pastor J. L. Sawyer will speak on "Watch and Pray." The choir will sing "Come Unto Me" by Burleigh. The sacrament to the Lord's Supper will be administered and new members will be received.

The Luther League will hold a devotional business meeting at 5:30 p.m., at the parsonage, 866 E. 11th Ave.

The sound film "Answer for Anne" will be shown at a special service at 7:30 p.m., at the Music Building. This film is in the interests of the Lutheran World Action Appeal for 1949 and deals with the matter of Displaced Persons in Europe.

AT WILLAGILLESPIE

"Lost! Acres of Fertile Ground. Will Someone Help Before it is too Late?" is Pastor Elwood Marvin's subject for the Communion Sunday services at the Community Baptist Chapel, 345 Willagillespie Road.

A play and special music will be presented by the Guild Girls of the First Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m. Remember our Sunday school goal of 140. Be there at 9:45.

Activities to remember this week: Prayer meeting, Tuesday; Boy Scouts, Wednesday; choir practice, Thursday.

Coming dates to remember: Dr. Osterholm from Africa speaks next Sunday at 11. Revival meetings begin March 27. Marvin Skidmore, Evangelist of Prineville, Oregon, speaker.

ENIMAUS LUTHERAN

"False and True Greatness" will be Rev. H. A. Svendsen's sermon topic at the 11 a.m. service, Enmaus Lutheran Church. Sunday School and Bible Class, 9:45 a.m. The Gold-Band League will meet at 7:30 p.m.

YFC Rally

Eugene Youth for Christ has for its main feature Saturday at 7:45 p.m. at Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, the latest Moody film produced by Dr. Irwin Moon, "The Voice of the Deep." In this sermon from science comes thrilling adventures beneath the ocean; you can actually hear fish talk.

The message of the evening will be delivered by Rev. Harold Volk, who is currently conducting a revival at the Eugene Church of Nazarene. Also featured is the Eugene Lighthouse Temple 80-piece Band and Orchestra, directed by Miss Lottie Anthony, music instructor at the Bible Standard Institute. The Youth for Christ Rally staff will be on hand.

Presbyterian Has Conference, Family Night

"Immune" will be the theme of the sermon by Paul S. Mellish at Central Presbyterian Church Sunday morning. New members will be received at this service. The choir will sing "Turn Ye Even to Me" by Barker, and "Suffer the Little Children" by Hausman, will be sung by Lester Ready. The choir will practice after the morning service because of the University concert series Wednesday.

The Junior High Westminster Fellowship will meet in the Parish House from 3 to 7:30 p.m. for a planning conference. All Junior High Westminster Fellowship members are welcome to attend. At 6:15 p.m. the Senior High and Geneva Fellowships will hold a joint meeting at the Parish House. Plans for the Nelscott Retreat will be completed.

Thursday at 8:30 p.m. there will be a "Family Night" potluck supper and program. This will be the last in the series of Unit II, "The Church at Work in the World," and the theme of this meeting will be "The Church Shows the Way," which will be a presentation of the role of the Christian church in the building of a new world. A report of the Amsterdam Conference of the World Council of Churches will be given. There will be a program for the children at the Parish House.

At Christian

"God Marks People" is the message of Pastor Hugh N. McCallum of First Christian Church at 11 a.m. The choir will sing the anthem "Let Thy Blessed Spirit" by Norden and a trio, "Lift Thine Eyes" by Miriam McCallum Fulton, Marybeth and Vera McCallum. At 7:30 p.m. service Rev. McCallum will speak on "Who Will Play the Big Fisherman?" James Cornett will sing the "Beatitudes" by Malott.

Don't forget Bible school at 9:45 a.m.; nursery service for both morning services; Junior Church from 11 to 12 in the junior department.

Junior H group meets at 5 p.m. for a social period, and Christian Endeavor at 6 p.m. High School group meets at 5:30 p.m. for a social period and Christian Endeavor at 6:15 in the annex. Town and Campus group meets at 8 p.m. in the White Room. The University Fellowship meets at the campus YMCA lounge (Kincaid St.) at 6 p.m. with Mrs. Paul B. Means as the speaker.

Mid-week service Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the White Room.

AT BAILEY HILL

"Healing by Faith" is the topic of the sermon by Rev. Kenneth Dooley of the First Evangelical United Brethren Church of Eugene at the Bailey Hill Church services Sunday morning at the Four Oaks Grange Hall. The Scripture reference is Luke 8:48.

Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. and prayer meeting is Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Holland.

LeAnn and Muriel Westerlund, young daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Westerlund of Eugene, will play special musical selections on the piano and marimba.

AT THURSTON

"An Intelligent Fool" is the subject of the sermon which the Rev. Charles Richards, pastor of the Thurston Christian Church will preach Sunday, March 6, at 11 a.m. Sunday school 10 a.m. A nursery is maintained during the church hour. All community people are most cordially invited.

At Free Methodist

At Free Methodist Church, "Rebuilding Our Altars" will be the theme of the pastor, Wesley Graves, at the morning worship service. Frank Houser will direct the congregational singing. Iva Lee and Shirley Phillips will sing a special song.

"Resolved that Peter Was the Most Influential of the Disciples," will be the subject of a debate sponsored by the young people during their service, 7 p.m. This is open to the public.

At Veneta

VENETA — The Rev. John Benston, pastor of the Baptist Church, will bring to his congregation Sunday morning, a message on "Four Ups in the Life of Christ." Communion service will follow.

For the evening service, the pastor will speak on "Some Things That Make Faith Impossible." Young people, 6:30, with Nina Aicorn leading. Bible study and prayer meeting, Wednesday, 8 p.m.



P. WALDO DAVIS

There's something fishy about this. The "Voice of the Deep," or "God Who Believes It" is a "whale" of a movie. It is showing this week at the Youth for Christ rally, the First Evangelical United Brethren Church, the Junction City Baptist Church, and others.

P. Waldo Davis At River Road Baptist

"Betrayal" is Rev. W. M. Whitwell's 11 a.m. sermon topic at the River Road Baptist Chapel, 1105 River Road. This is the first in a series of Easter messages on the theme, "Characters of the Cross." The choir will sing the anthem, "O Praise The Lord."

The Junior Youth Fellowship meets at 4 p.m. Sunday to study "The One, True, Loving God." Each one present will construct a picture of Elijah's altar and sacrifice. A gift will be given to those juniors who complete all ten lessons without missing a Sunday.

The Junior High Fellowship meeting at 6:15 p.m. will learn new choruses, and study the stories of some great hymns. Youth Fellowship officers will be elected at this meeting.

Evening preaching services begin at the River Road Baptist Chapel Sunday, 7:30 p.m. There will be an inspiring song service, special musical numbers, and a message by the pastor on "God's Soil Types," the first of a series on "Stories of Jesus."

The mid-week prayer service, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., will feature another devotional message on "The Real Lord's Prayer," on "The Real Lord's Prayer."

P. Waldo Davis is the guest musician in the evening. He will play two hymn medleys on his set of 22 musical bells. Special musical numbers including solos, trios, and quartets, arranged by Mrs. Lyle Bushnell, will be featured in each service.

Announcing the Opening of

the *Hat Box*

Springfield's Own Millinery Store . . . SAT., MARCH 5th

You are cordially invited to come in and see our new spring hats moderately priced to fit your budget.

333 Main St. Springfield

Catholic Information

What to feed the Kellys on a Friday

"Please, Mrs. Murray, help me out! I'm having the Kellys for dinner on Friday. Both are 'fish-eaters' and all of us loathe fish."

"Fish-eaters? Yes, Mrs. Hartman, we Catholics call ourselves that too—just in fun. But we don't have to eat fish on Fridays. It's just meat that we mustn't eat."

But why don't you serve your guests eggs—or salmon, tuna fish, lobster, crab, oysters, clams, or any other sea food? Frog legs and terrapin are also within the law. But don't give them poultry or meat soups. No Kelly would eat those."

"Thanks, Mrs. Murray; but would meat really hurt you on a Friday? Would it be a sin? And suppose you forgot the day of the week?"

"If I forgot it was Friday, Mrs. Hartman, meat at all three meals would not be a sin, for no one can sin without intending to do it. And meat that is wholesome on a Thursday or a Saturday is just as wholesome on a Friday."

"You see, Mrs. Hartman, Christ once said to His Apostles, 'Who heareth you, heareth me,' and thus gave to His Church authority to legislate."

make laws for the spiritual good of the faithful. Therefore, liberally disobeying the law, we are deliberately disobeying God. Just there is where we come in."

"On the first Good Friday, Hartman, Christ hung long agonizing hours and sacrificed His life for us. Isn't it that we can do to sacrifice each Friday for Him and remind of the Redeemer mankind? The Church that's why we have Friday abstinence—a law as old as Christianity."

"Ah, Mrs. Hartman, old days would only so that we all would be the same God in the way! Then you wouldn't rying over what to feed on a Friday, for you whole household would eaters' too."

If it's anything Catholic! For information, Catholic subject write: Columbus, Box 211, Eugene, Ore.

"The CHURCHES OF CHRIST salute you

THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM

TO BE SAVED.

"Which also after a true likeness doth now also save you, even baptism, not the away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21).

TO COMMEMORATE HIS BURIAL AND RESURRECTION.

"Having been buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through the working of God, who raised him from the dead" (Col. 2:12). See also, Rom. 6:4.

TO HAVE OUR SINS REMITTED.

"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling his name" (Acts 22:16).

TO ENTER THE CHURCH.

"For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13).

TO ENTER CHRIST.

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ" (Gal. 3:27).

The following Churches of Christ in this community welcome you to attend all of their

494 10th Ave. West (Eugene) Monroe near Fifth (Cottage Grove) 12th and C Streets (Springfield) Central