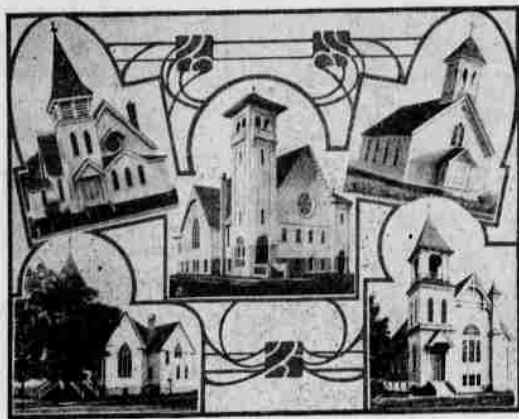


# Dallas Churches Are Gaining In Membership



DALLAS CHURCHES.

The churches of Dallas are very closely associated with the best interests of the city and its people. As important factors in the public welfare, they hark back to the very beginnings, when the foundations of empire were hewn out of an unconquered wilderness. The ministers of the gospel were pioneers among the pioneers, who endured with their neighbors all the hardships, and born with them the many trying privations of the founding of this splendid commonwealth in this beautiful Willamette valley.

Their untiring enterprise and brotherly spirit, coupled with their devotion to the spiritual interests of the people, and their wide-awake interest in public affairs had very much to do with moulding the public mind and the civil and educational institutions, for which Oregon is justly famous, in the county today. The churches of Dallas are always on the right side of every moral question which affects either private or public welfare. They stand for the public school and the thorough education of our children. They believe in public improvement, and a city beautiful. They ever advocate, both by practice and present the highest moral and business ideals among our citizens. Our churches believe in Dallas and work for the home town. As leaders in movements for reform they are safe guides and are always alert in assisting the poor and unfortunate, and to them the bereaved may turn for sympathy and consolation and never be turned away.

The churches of Dallas by their influence and power add value to our property, they give greater value to human life, and are factors which give assurance of public safety. And while the church thus stands for all that is best in modern civilization, it is an asset of our body politic whose value can hardly be overestimated.

### Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Laban Case was the first pastor of which a record has been preserved. He served the church in 1854. From 1846 to 1854 the Dallas circuit was a part of the Willamette district of the Oregon Mission, which extended from the Columbia river to Mexico, and from the Pacific to the Rocky mountains. The church has been served by many able preachers and faithful workers from those pioneer times. The church under the present pastorate has witnessed a constant growth, and an increasing regard by the public. Its pastor is known throughout Methodism as a defender of the faith. His recent book, issued by the Methodist press, is regarded as a powerful defense of christianity by his denomination. The church is in a happy and prosperous condition, is free from schisms and cliques, and is known as the friends of strangers.

The membership at present numbers 265. Thirty-six united during the past year. The Sunday school has an enrollment of three hundred, and has thirty-five on the Cradle roll. The Epworth league consists of forty wide-awake young people. Last year they paid \$30 for the education of a student in Japan. The Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary societies are strong and have their work well organized. The Ladies' Aid society is one of the active and popular agencies in the social work of the church. The total of \$383 was given last year for the various benevolent enterprises of the organization. The pastor, as a mark of appreciation, has recently been given a liberal increase in salary; and a few admiring friends recently sent to the pastor's home a gift of fifty dollars in furniture. Plans are forming for another successful year.

### The Presbyterian Church.

A change of pastorate last July, created an occasion for new plans of work and a new enthusiasm among the members of the church. The attendance throughout the summer at the regular services was so encouraging that no one thought of closing up the church for a vacation, as was the custom previous years. "While the organization stands complete, and the three fold work of evangelism, education and social service is relieving a wholesome attention, yet it has not attained to that efficiency as a working force in the community to which the great Presbyterian church of

America summons," says the Rev. D. A. MacKenzie, pastor. The membership last June numbered 126. Within the last five months, 19 new names have been added to the roll, making a present membership of 145. The plan and policy of the pastor and session is, that new members may and ought to unite with the church every Sunday. The Bible school is organized for the entire membership and adherents of the church. It embraces part of the educational department of the church. Every person from the youngest to the oldest Presbyterian in Dallas is enjoined to unite with some class either as a teacher, officer, or scholar.

The ladies of the church maintain three organizations: Ladies' Aid society, which holds weekly meetings, missionary society, which meets monthly, and the Leisure Hour club, which meets monthly in the homes of the ladies for the cultivation of sociability and the get-better-acquainted spirit in the congregation. All three societies are in a flourishing condition. The young people of the church are organized as a Christian Endeavor society. This organization has just been reorganized with a new corps of officers and committees. The young people are laying plans for a busy and enjoyable season during the coming months. The music of the church is in charge of an efficient organist, Mrs. Olive Bicknell, and Mr. Willis Simonton as chorister, and a double quartet of singers. The aim is to furnish the best music in the city.

The Presbyterian church is a worshipping branch of the Church of Christ. For that reason its services are quiet, prayerful and thoughtful. It encourages the attendance of refined, educated and thoughtful people to the services. The present pastor is a graduate of Cornell University and Auburn Theological Seminary. He believes in pastoral evangelism, and holds professional evangelism as a menace to the church.

### United Evangelical Church.

At the request of The Observer, Rev. G. E. Erskine, pastor of the United Evangelical church, submitted the following brief statement concerning the strength and condition of that church. At the present time there is a recorded membership of 128. Of this number, 12 have been added during this conference year which began in April, 1915. The records of the Sunday school show an enrollment of 120, and the reports for the last quarter show 14 more in attendance each Sabbath than for the corresponding quarter of last year. There is also a cradle roll of 11 members.

Other societies of the church are: Christian Endeavor, 30 members; Junior Endeavor, 16 members; Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary society, 27 members; Mission band, 30 members; Ladies' Aid, 43 members. All these societies are active, and their leaders optimistic for their future success and progress in the work. The finances of the church are well in hand for the current year, and, owing to a successful financial rally, held in October, the financial receipts are in excess of last year at this time.

Bridgeport, in the country, with a membership of 28, is attached to Dallas, and served by the pastor on Sunday afternoon, but it not included in the above statement.

### The Adventist Church.

While this church has no resident pastor at this time regular meetings are held, as is also Sunday school. During the past season religious lectures were held under the auspices of this church, and the result was that the membership was considerably increased. The Sunday school has a goodly attendance, and is accomplishing much in the interest of the young people. The church edifice on Washington street was painted in the early fall, and other minor improvements made. It is the aim of the parishioners to secure the services of a resident pastor within a short time.

### The Baptist Church.

Under the pastoral guidance of Rev. W. T. Tapscott, who has just completed the first year of his ministry in Dallas, the Baptist church has shown a steady and healthy increase in every department of its activities.

The increase in membership has been nearly twenty per cent, while the average attendance has increased over forty per cent. The financial income is forty-seven per cent increase over that of the preceding year. The organization has made several betterments to its church property during the year, notably the painting of the exterior and the installation of a lighting system. The former improvement was made at a cost of \$80, while the latter one was a donation from F. E. Davis, one of the church's prominent members.

The Sunday school and Young Peoples' societies are manifesting vigorous life and growth, the church is united and is looking forward to the incoming year as the very best in its history.

### The Christian Church.

The Christian church has made solid growth in all its departments during the year now closing. The church proper has made a net gain of 62, making the membership stand at the present time at about 460. The Bible school is one of the largest in the county, having nineteen classes, consisting of beginners, primary, juniors, intermediate and adult departments, all of which are thoroughly organized and offered by experienced Bible school teachers, each having completed the International teachers' training course. The average attendance for the past year is about 250. The largest days' attendance was 423. There have been 48 converts from the school the past year.

The Christian Endeavor society has made material gains during the year. The following are some of the items: Purchased piano, \$400; paid state apportionment, \$28.50; paid church budget, \$26; given ten socials; gained 20 per cent in efficiency; won state contest; won front rank pennant; sent 54 delegates to Turner; six delegates to state convention at Eugene; has had state president for the last two years.

The C. W. B. M. is gaining in membership. A great number of missionary books have been read in the past year. This society has been a fusing power in uniting the church for service. The Junior church, the newest member of the church family, is doing a new and needful work among the children. Meeting in the basement at the same hour as the regular church service, and fitting the teaching of Christ to the children's minds it promises to be a power in the years to come. The Sisterhood of the church likewise has made good gaining both in membership and efficiency. The monthly social gathering of the ladies are very pleasant and helpful.

Taking all in all it has been a glorious year. We have not accomplished all, or always done the best, but it is the earnest desire of the Christian church to be an aggressive power for good, and a friend to all in Dallas during the coming year.

As a worker in the vineyard of the Master, Rev. McConnell is what is known as a live wire. He is an active organizer, and is especially strong with the younger element of the church. Prior to his coming to Dallas he had devoted a considerable period of time to evangelistic work, and his success was pronounced.

### St. Phillip's Church.

The Rev. Fr. Teck, who has charge of the Dallas and Independence parishes, and who has his residence at the latter place, holds regular services at the local Catholic church each Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, and on Saturday afternoon is present at a meeting of young people of the parish, when the catechism of the church is taught. The Father spends Saturday afternoon and Sunday forenoon in this city, and frequently visits his parishioners in their homes, where he is always a welcome guest. The church has a membership of about twenty-five families, and there are about a dozen members of the young people's class. The edifice of worship is located on Washington street, and while not pretensions is adequate to meet every demand upon it.

### Christian Science Church.

Four years ago the present fall a branch of the parent church of Christian Science was organized in Dallas by a few members, and now has fourteen adherents, with a number of applicants, who will join the church within the ensuing fortnight. Mr. Karl B. Kugel is first reader, and Mrs. A. Adams second reader. Meetings are held each Sunday forenoon at the regular hour in the City Bank building, and has an average congregation of thirty. Sunday school is also held at 9:30, with two classes, in charge of Mrs. Ethel Plank and Mrs. K. B. Kugel. Another class, to include the juveniles, will be organized before the close of the year. In connection with the church the society maintains a reading room at its meeting place, which is open on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons, when the public is invited to visit the rooms and peruse literature provided for its use.

### Apostolic Faith Mission.

This is a branch of the Portland Mission, and has sixty adherents in Dallas. The high ideal of the organization is to reach those persons whom

# Waiting For Santa Claus



are down and out, and in order to accomplish this purpose street meetings are held, where small bands of these religious workers come into immediate contact with members of that class. The mission has no membership, no salaried minister and keeps no books of any kind or nature, but the work is carried on by volunteers, who comprise the congregations. A business meeting is held on the first Friday of each month, when the Lord's supper is partaken of, followed by foot washing. Those connected with the organization are firm believers in divine healing, and local cases are pointed out to prove that their faith is not erroneous. The first meeting by those of this faith in Dallas was held in 1907, and the attendance has increased until today it is seldom that the attendance is under fifty at any of the five meetings of the week. Fred Smith is the local minister.

### WANTS BILLIARD GAMES.

Commercial Club May Arrange Games With Dallas.

Statesman: T. C. Cherrington, former resident of Salem, but now a retired business man of Dallas, where he is an active member of the La Creole Club, is in the city for a few days. Mr. Cherrington is a great advocate of sociability, not only between individuals, but between cities as well, and he is anxious to arrange a series of games between members of the La Creole club and of the social department of the Salem Commercial club, as he believes that it will promote better feeling between the two localities. La Creole clubmen, he says, are there with the goods when it comes

to pool, billiards, whist, etc, and he wants an opportunity for them to meet the Salemites. While here, Mr. Cherrington is talking politics and visiting his brother, W. M. Cherrington.

### GRANGE PASSES RESOLUTIONS.

Urges County Appropriation in Support of County Fair.

At a recent regular meeting of Monmouth Grange, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: Whereas, Polk county has been greatly benefited by the county fair, and whereas, school fair work would be greatly handicapped by the withdrawal of financial assistance hereto given, and whereas, the success of the county and schools of the county in winning first place at the State fair this year was made possible by the appropriation from the county, and whereas, the county fair is one of great value in advertising and boosting Polk county, be it

Resolved by the Monmouth Grange in regular session that we do earnestly urge the continuance of appropriations as liberal as the financial condition of the county will permit.

### Woman's Relief Corps Elects.

General Gibson No. 42, Woman's Relief corps of Independence, at the annual election named the following officers: President, Bessie Groves; senior vice-president, Dena Stillwell; junior vice-president, Maggie Graves; chaplain, Mary Bingman; treasurer, Loma M. Ewing; conductor, Minnie M. Felzer; guard, Eliza A. Ewing. Delegates elected to attend the department convention in Eugene in

June, 1916, Emily Bascue, Dick.

Twice-a-Week Observer 11.30

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