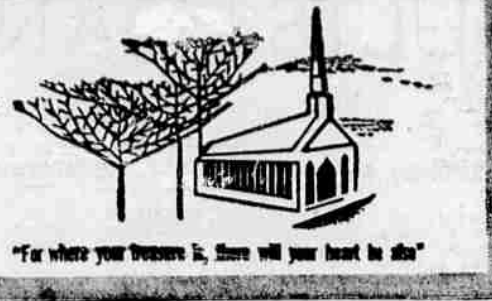


An investment in Your Future

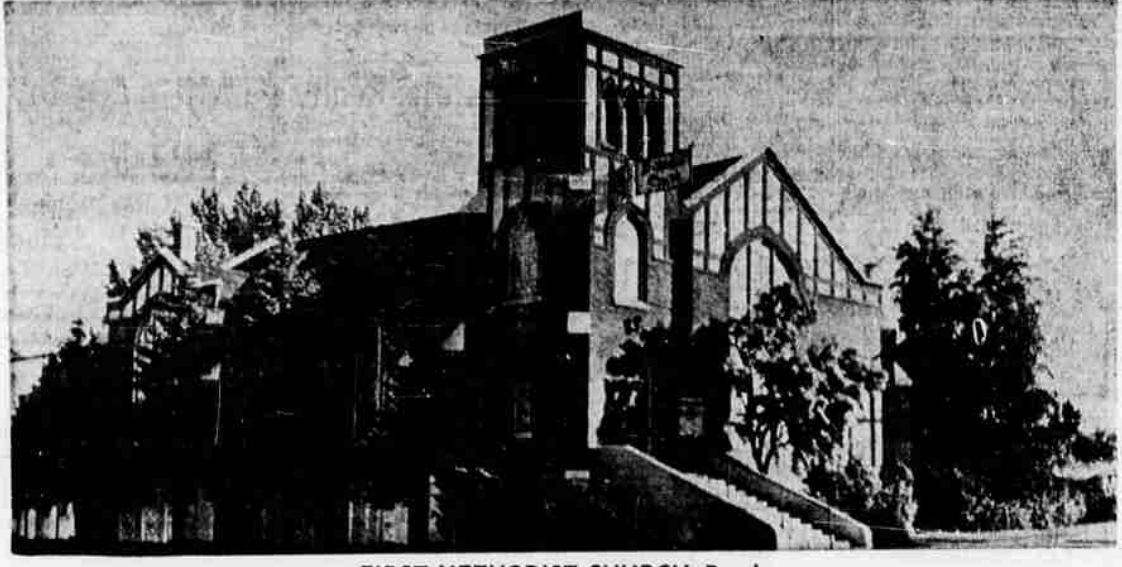
ATTEND CHURCH



"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"

YOUR MINISTERS, PRIESTS AND THESE SPONSORS INVITE YOU TO ATTEND CHURCH

YOUR MINISTERS, PRIESTS AND THESE SPONSORS INVITE YOU TO ATTEND CHURCH



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Have You Forgotten Something?

by the Reverend James S. Thompson Pastor of the First Methodist Church, Bend

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One day three businessmen were faced with a problem. They needed essential papers from their offices on the 60th floor of a New York office building. The difficulty was that the elevator operators were on strike. One of the men said, "If we keep ourselves occupied as we climb the stairs, it won't be so tedious. George, you're good at humorous stories, you entertain us for the first 25 floors. I'll conjure up a few mysteries for the next 25 floors. Bill, you do whatever you like for the last ten floors."

Up the men went, the first 25 floors sped by as the humorist spun his tales. Even the second 25 floors seemed easy as they concentrated on the "Who done it" mysteries. As they started up from the 50th floor, the leader said, "Bill it's your turn."

Bill replied, "I'm really not good at stories." The leader answered, "Well, tell us anything." Bill paused a moment and then he said, "I'll begin with a tragedy, we left the key on the first floor!"

Isn't this a parable of life for many people? They set their goals, climb the stairs of a challenging education and launch an exciting career. They look forward with anticipation to the days when they can enjoy the fruits of their labor. But in their preoccupation with reaching the goals they have before them, they forget to take the key to the life they seek. The key I believe is the church.

had left the key on the first floor. We might go further and ask, how does the church help us to satisfy the deeper longing? What is unique about the church? In a church, worship is central. When we truly worship God, He ceases to be remote. In this encounter, we can bring to Him as Glen Clark said, "Our Soul's Sincere Desires". When sorrow comes, God as our Heavenly Father, spreads the healing balm of love across our hearts. When we are crushed under the burden of sin, we discover in God's presence, His redeeming forgiveness. When we feel that we have lost our way, God gently puts his hand in ours and says "Come and follow me." When we feel hopelessly weak in challenging the evil of our day, we discover both God's strength and the power of the Christian fellowship about us.

It has been well said, "The Church has many critics but no rivals." In other places we can find entertainment but no place can make God as real for us as the church. Have you ever realized that "worship," "worth" and "worthy" all have the same root? Worship does increase your own sense of personal worth and makes you more worthy of the dignity God ordained in us. The key to this experience is the church.

Across the ages we read of a man whose life was plagued by failures and discouragement, but he never lost this sense of "worth" through Christ. He was beaten, stoned, imprisoned and slandered. He spent the last years of his life as a chained criminal awaiting death. Yet through it all he was assured of the presence of God in company with fellow church men. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

Paul had found the key - God - as he revealed himself in worship. No Roman ruler could threaten him. Even standing in chains before King Agrippa he could acclaim, "I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might

become such as I am - except for these chains." (Acts 26:29)

Would you like to have this inner assurance and power and the sense of victory that Paul knew? You will never find it in the rush of competitive life unless you have with you the key. The church is the key which brings us ever back to God's presence.

May I make a few brief suggestions that will help your worship experience to be meaningful? 1. Come in anticipation, seeking to find God in some way. If your home is hectic, let the prelude be your time of quiet meditation and the beginning of your search.

2. Never go alone if you can help it. Invite someone to share the experience with you. Worship is also a fellowship and a sharing experience.

3. Participate in the worship service. The person who never joins in singing the great hymns of the church, or in voicing the prayers or in listening to the anthem or special music will be the poorer for it. Open your mind to the minister's message. He has something vital to say.

4. When the benediction has been pronounced, take a few moments to speak to others and greet the minister. This will bind you more closely to others who shared the same experience.

5. Find some project that is being undertaken by the church for community or world good and ask to be counted in. If you enter the church in this spirit, you will wonder why you waited so long to pick up the key.

NOTICE: Please notify The Bulletin promptly for any changes to be made in this directory.

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CALENDAR and DIRECTORY of CHURCHES of CENTRAL OREGON

Table with columns for church names and locations (Bend, Madras, LaPine, Terrebonne, Crescent, Culver, Powell Butte, Prineville, Redmond, Tumalo, Gilchrist, Sisters). Each entry lists church details, services, and contact information.