

Morrow Churches Represent Many Different Faiths

By HELEN A. COHN

Nineteen churches in Morrow county serve a total of some 1500 members and the churches represent ten different denominations.

Three churches, Boardman Community church, Good Shepherd Lutheran and St. Mary's Catholic, are located in Boardman. Two more are in Irriagon, Assembly of God and Community Baptist church. Ione has three, Ione Community church, St. Williams Catholic and First Baptist. There is the Church of Christ in Lexington and the Valby Lutheran church near Eightmile.

The other nine churches of the county are located in Heppner.

A brief history of Heppner churches is as follows:
The Baptist church was erected in 1878. It was put up by all of the citizens of Heppner, and stood on the lots where the Lanham apartments now stand. This church was without a pastor part of the time, and was used by other faiths before their churches were built. In 1916, after this building no longer functioned as a church, it was presented to the city by Jeff Jones. The building was moved to the site of the Assembly of God, where it was used for a library. This old white church building was destroyed in the Commercial Club fire in the spring of 1918.

The South Methodist church was erected in 1881 on Chase Street. The first minister was the Rev. P. M. Bell, and the last was the Rev. Mr. Golder. On July 4, 1918, this little white church burned, and was never rebuilt.

The North Methodist, now known as the First Methodist, was built in the fall of 1888. Before this time, members of this faith had met in the schoolhouse and the old Baptist church, where a circuit rider by the name of J. A. Kirkman ministered to the flock. Dr. Henry Rasmus was the first minister after the church was built.

The North Methodist church was caught in the flood of 1903, and was twisted and turned off its foundation. It was restored, and has added many improvements since then. The Rev. Austin McGhee is the present minister.

All Saints Episcopal church, located on North Chase Street, was completed on May 26, 1899. It was dedicated on All Saints Day, 1900, by Bishop Scott. Old baptismal records date back to 1882, and are signed by Rev. Potwine. Rev. Warren was minister in 1899. The first All Saints church is said to have resembled the one now on Church and Gale streets. The flood of 1903 utterly demolished the first church building, but the cornerstone of this church was found in the wreckage and set in the foundation of the new building on Church street. This new church was dedicated by Bishop B. Wister Morris on April 10, 1904, when the Rev. W. Seymour Short of Astoria gave the dedicatory sermon. John Warren was then resident minister. In the fall of 1926, the new parish house was started and was dedicated by Bishop Remington in 1927. A new rectory was purchased in 1956. Father Bruce Spencer is the present rector.

The First Christian church, located on Gale street, was dedi-

cated February 7, 1897, by the Rev. J. W. Jenkins. Before this time, members had met in the opera house under the Rev. Homer Gray. The Rev. Jasper Vincent Crawford was one of the early ministers of this church.

A fire destroyed this church in 1922. After this, a new church was built and dedicated in 1923, the Rev. W. O. Livingston being the minister. Since then, many improvements have been added, among them a modern parsonage. The Rev. Charles Knox is the present pastor.

The first St. Patrick's Catholic church was located on Cemetery Hill. It was built in 1887 and dedicated by Archbishop Gross. Father Mercier was the priest at that time. Prior to that time, Father Conrady had visited the town once a month. The first church, a white wooden one, is now the home of the American Legion. The new St. Patrick's church, located on Gale street, was built in 1941 and dedicated by Bishop McGrath. Father McCormack was then the resident priest. Later, a rectory was built. Then in 1960, a large parish hall was built, and this was dedicated by Bishop Leipzig. Father Beard is the resident priest at the present time.

The Assembly of God was organized in 1931 by A. G. Snoderly. At first, this organization met in homes, then in a tabernacle. The present church was dedicated in 1943, when Sterl Speiz was minister. The present minister is H. A. Wollington.

The Seventh Day Adventist church was built and dedicated in April, 1955. Members had been holding services from 1950 until the church was built. Elder Don Spaulding was their first minister and the present minister is Elder David Bauer. The Adventists maintain a school, also.

Although Valby Lutheran church is not located in Heppner, it deserves a place in this church history. Located between the Eightmile and Gooseberry districts, it is a small, white church which was built in 1897 by the Swedish farmers of this area. "Valby" means Shepherd's Dell. It was dedicated by Pastor J. A. Anderson. The sermons were given in Swedish and English. Valby and Hope Lutheran churches share the same minister.

Hope Lutheran church first met in Lexington in the Congregational church. Its pastor was E. W. Philippi. Later, members met in the Seventh Day Adventist church in Heppner, under Pastor Armin Rietz. Hope Lutheran was dedicated on September 15, 1957. The pastor was then Merlin Zier. A new pastor, Kenneth Robinson, will take over in June, 1961.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints first met in the Legion Hall in 1949, where they still meet. The branch president is Ralph Richards. They maintain a Sunday school and a youth organization called the Mutual Improvement Association.

The Church of the Nazarene holds services in the Seventh Day Adventist church.

All of these churches extend a cordial welcome to new friends to attend services. If there is a need of pastors' services, anyone is invited to call upon the pastor of his preference.



Morrow County Churches

Invite You

To Attend The Church of Your Choice Regularly

YOU'LL FIND A FRIENDLY WELCOME IN ALL CHURCHES OF THE COUNTY

Here Are Churches And Their Locations in Morrow County

LEXINGTON

Church of Christ
Walter Smith, Pastor

IONE

Ione Community Church
Rev. Rod MacKenzie, Pastor
First Baptist Church

St. Williams Catholic Church
Rev. Raymond Beard

IRRIGON

Assembly of God Church
Rev. John Kenney, Pastor
Community Baptist Church
Rev. George Hash, Pastor

BOARDMAN

Boardman Community Church
Rol Burg, Missionary Pastor
Good Shepherd Lutheran
Rev. H. C. Schultze, Pastor
St. Mary's Catholic
Father Leopold O'Reardon

EIGHTMILE

Valby Lutheran Church
Pastor Kenneth Robinson

HEPPNER

All Saints' Episcopal Church
460 N. Gale
The Rev. C. Bruce Spencer, Rector

Assembly of God Church
Corner, Gale and West Willow Sts.
Rev. Homer Wollington, Pastor

Christian Church
293 N. Gale
Charles V. Knox, Minister

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
American Legion Hall
Ralph Richards, Branch President

Church of the Nazarene
560 N. Minor
Rev. M. Carlton Sober

Hope Lutheran Church
695 E. Cowins
Pastor Kenneth Robinson

Methodist Church
185 Church Street
Rev. Austin McGhee, Pastor

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
560 N. Minor
David Bauer, Pastor

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
527 N. Gale
Rev. Raymond Beard



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