

CHURCHES OF MANY DENOMINATIONS MINISTER TO RURAL RELIGIOUS NEEDS

Two years ago the Methodist churches of the vicinity were combined into the Powell Valley circuit. It was first known as the Gresham Social Center and the Rev. A. S. Hisey and the Rev. Earl B. Cotton were the two pastors in charge of this large circuit which was an experiment in the Oregon conference. Under the wise leadership of Mr. Hisey the movement grew and the value of the idea developed. Points that had been too weak to support a pastor were supplied by men chosen and placed by him and the weaker points on the circuit began to take on new life with the inspiration of strong leadership looking after their interests.

At the close of the first year the name of the circuit was changed from Gresham Social center to the Powell Valley circuit. The change was made when the original records of the establishment of the Methodist churches in this section were found among the papers of the late Dan Dunbar. These records, dating back to the year 1853, are the priceless possession of the circuit and when it was found that the original name of the circuit had been the Powell Valley circuit, that name was unanimously adopted as the most appropriate and significant name that could be chosen, carrying, as it did such historical significance and the traditions of the early Methodists who came here settling this country and establishing churches when the now prosperous farms were still covered with virgin timber, and the thriving towns and village were cross-roads stores.

With the beginning of this year plans were enlarged and two more full-time workers were secured, the Rev. E. G. Ranton, a senior at Kimball School of Theology, who was appointed to Boring and Pleasant Valley churches, and Mrs. Alta Gentry, who was made parish secretary. The Rev. Geo. C. Berreman took the place of Mr. Cotton, who was transferred to Willamina. Mr. Hisey remained the head of the circuit and Mr. Smith the pastor at Rockwood, Fairview and Troutdale.

Gresham church is the largest on the circuit. With a membership of more than 200 and the forces well organized, it is doing excellent work. The church has outgrown its present property and has rented the lower part of the Odd Fellow's hall across the street for the primary and beginner's departments of the Sunday school and for social events. The pastor has his study and office in this building.

Pleasant Home Methodist.

The church at Pleasant Home has increased its membership 100 per cent during the past few years and now has a total of 116 members. During the past year another room has been added to the church building to care for the increasing numbers at Sunday school and provide for graded worship, and also to provide for social events and club activities. The church has recently been painted and reshingled and the exterior put in first-class shape. The parsonage was repaired and improved with the addition of large porches and paint. This work was largely under the direction of the Ladies' Aid, of which Mrs. M. Lennartz is president and Mrs. Idell Wilson secretary-treasurer.

The Sunday school is progressing under H. G. Bickford, superintendent. The school is graded through the intermediate classes and uses modern graded lessons. All the pupils up to the age of 13 years meet in the elementary department for their own service of worship and for class study. The enrollment in this department has nearly doubled in the past year. During the past two years the number of teachers has been increased from two to six and a superintendent to care for the increasing classes and better grading. Mrs. Alta Gentry is superintendent of that department.

The young people have recently started Epworth League meetings but as yet have not organized.

Rev. G. C. Berreman is pastor. Mr. Berreman also has charge of the church at Sandy and at Cherryville. Sandy has a fine little Sunday school of some 35 members under the leadership of Mrs. A. C. Baumbach.

Fairview Methodist.

Fairview Methodist church is one of the pioneer churches of the area. A few years back it was decided that the church had served its mission and a move was made to dispose of the property. But Fairview Methodist rose up en masse and declared themselves alive and proved it by taking the money from the sale of the old property and building an attractive little church near the schoolhouse. They have several organizations of which they are proud but the work among the young people is especially strong. Miss Rachel Peterson is president of the Epworth League, and Mrs. Orin Brooks, superintendent of the junior Epworth League which takes care of the younger members.

The Rev. L. F. Smith is pastor. Mrs. Flora Peterson is president of the Ladies' Aid society. S. C. Dixon

is superintendent of the Sunday school which is doing good work with six classes.

Fairview M. E. church has plans made for a social hall in connection with the church building to be used for social events and Sunday school work.

Rockwood Methodist.

Rockwood church is located the farthest west of any in this territory. The church property includes a parsonage, where the Rev. L. F. Smith and his wife reside. This was recently repaired and the church was wired for electric lights. The Sunday school, which is under the superintendency of C. B. Johnson, is made up of five classes. Preaching services are held on Sunday evenings. Last fall the ladies organized an Aid society with Mrs. L. Lamb as president.

Troutdale Methodist.

At Troutdale the work of rebuilding and refinishing the church has just been completed. The building was lowered several feet onto a new concrete foundation. This improved the appearance and added to the feeling of safety. Then the building was redecorated inside with new paper and paint until one wonders if it can be the same place. The Sunday school was reorganized recently with Rev. Mr. Smith. The work of the school is progressing and the people are justly proud of their new place of worship. Bishop W. O. Shepherd and District Superintendent D. H. Leach will have charge of the rededication services on December 31.

One of the big factors in the work at Troutdale is the Ladies' Aid society, which the pastor states is one of the best organized and most efficient of any in the state. It has a record of excellent work accomplished. Mrs. W. E. Spence is president.

Boring Methodist.

Boring, another of the old time churches that has braved the storms through fair or foul weather is drawing into the bay of prosperity slowly but surely. The Sunday school, under the leadership of O. W. Boring, has an attendance of about 60. The Rev. E. G. Ranton gives the people morning services, which they have long desired. This is the only church in town. Other officers of the school are assistant superintendent, L. L. Mallicoat; organist, Mrs. Joe Lundy; secretary, Lester Boring; treasurer, Mrs. L. H. Mallicoat; librarian, Donald Morand. The cradle roll superintendent is Mrs. Wm. Morand.

The Ladies' Aid is a big factor in the church and does very effective work. Mrs. Emma Gregson is president, Mrs. O. W. Boring, vice president; Mrs. L. H. Mallicoat, secretary and Mrs. J. Lundy, treasurer.

A movement was recently started in the Odd Fellow's lodge to circulate a subscription list for funds to paint the church building. This movement is an evidence of the splendid community spirit which is growing in Boring.

Pleasant Valley Community.

Last year the community church at Pleasant Valley asked to be included in the Powell Valley circuit. This wish was granted and this church is supplied by the Boring pastor, who preaches at Pleasant Valley every Sunday evening.

The Sunday school, under the leadership of Wm. Richey, has an average attendance of about 30. There are four classes. Herbert Poppleton is assistant superintendent and Bertha Evans secretary-treasurer.

Bethel Baptist, Gresham.

The Bethel Baptist church in Gresham is the largest of the three in this vicinity. The Rev. David Q. Barry is pastor. This church has grown rapidly during the past year and has added both to its membership and to its equipment. The building of the \$4000 parsonage was a task thought almost impossible a year ago but it has been done and the pastor says that it is now virtually paid for. This has taken heroic work on the part of all and the Ladies' Guild played no small part in this work. With bazaars, fairs and with the profits from the cafeteria which they conducted on the fair grounds last summer, they had turned over into the building fund nearly \$1200 before this last bazaar. With money on hand and the proceeds of this last bazaar they expect to soon reach the \$1500 mark. Mrs. A. J. W.

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Christmas Greetings

Members, neighbors, friends, editor of the Outlook, and all who wish to receive it, I wish you a Happy Christmas!

Another year with its joys and sorrows, its ups and downs, its reverses and successes, lies behind us. We are undoubtedly richer in experience, have a wider vision, a warmer heart, a more helpful spirit, for having lived through the past year, which has been a momentous one in many respects.

We deplore the distress and hatred still manifest among the nations of the Old World. Human greed and selfishness lie at the bottom of the unfortunate conditions. Nothing but the spirit of Christ can dispell the fog, despoil the heart of greed, and restore good will among men. May the angels' message come with renewed power at this Christmas time!

Even in our own beloved country turmoil and uneasiness have existed to a more marked degree than formerly. We need the spirit of Christ in industry and international relations. Our country prides itself upon its wealth and power but it should exert itself more to secure world justice.

In our own state we have also had our little differences, but they have been settled amicably and, we trust, for the best of all concerned. Let us all forget and pull together!

Our community has become more stabilized and has widened its influence and outreach during the past year. Our people are happy and optimistic in regard to the future. We believe that we are destined to witness an era of prosperity and a deepening of those human qualities that render neighborliness most agreeable.

Again, I wish you all a Happy Christmas!

ANDREW JOHNSON,

Pastor Haley Baptist Church.



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Brown is justly proud of her position as president of this band of energetic women.

C. W. Guile is chairman of the board of deacons and G. Markwart is president of the board of trustees.

Mrs. Mary Davidson is superintendent of the Sunday school. Mrs. Mary Shoemaker is superintendent of the home department and Mrs. D. Q. Barry of the cradle roll.

One of the attractive features of this church is the choir, of which H. W. Strong is director and Mrs. Mable Clow, accompanist. Concerts given by this choir are real musical treats, which fill the church to capacity.

Mrs. Barry is president of the missionary society and Mrs. C. W. Guile, secretary. They conduct study classes and promote the work of mission in many ways.

Pleasant Home Baptist

The Rev. Mr. Barry is also pastor of the Baptist church at Pleasant Home where he conducts evening services each Sunday.

H. C. Nelson is superintendent of the Sunday school at this church. The school uses graded lessons for the younger children, who are especially happy under the direction of Mrs. Sadie Chase, an expert with children of primary age. Mr. Nelson attends many conventions and meetings for superintendents and thus adds to the efficiency of her school.

Mrs. D. D. Jack is president of the Ladies' Aid society which meets every two weeks and is both a social and financial aid to the church. Alice Jack is secretary.

Miss Ida Chase is president of the

World Wide Guild, a missionary organization for girls of the 'teen age.

Miss Myrtle Nasshahn is president of the B. Y. P. U. which meets every Sunday evening in interesting sessions.

Haley Baptist.

The Rev. Andrew Johnson is pastor at Haley and has a flourishing little church.

Herbert Olsen is president of the B. Y. P. U. which meets every other Sunday evening. This year each member of the society invested \$1 and a social will be held in the near future to have an accounting and bring in the \$1 and whatever it has earned. The society recently gave a cantata "The Pink Rose", which was much enjoyed.

Mrs. J. H. Lindgren is superintendent of the Sunday school which has an average attendance of about 45. There are five classes. Mrs. A. Johnson is superintendent of the cradle roll. The birthday offerings are used to help support an orphan home in the east and the bank is opened and the money sent about Christmas time each year. The Sunday school helps in mission and relief work.

The Ladies' Aid, of which Mrs. A. Johnson is president, has a membership of 25 or 30. The ladies raised \$119.00 at their recent bazaar. This society is also a mission circle and conducts mission study work as a part of its program.

All services are in the English language except the Sunday morning preaching service, which is in Swedish.

Continued on page 15

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