

Eleven Churches in Medford

The churches of Medford have not yet built their permanent church edifices, and in that respect are not up with the growth of the city. We have here, however, the various leading denominations. There are eleven in all with their buildings for worship and work. These denominations are as follows: Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, Free Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Christian, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic, Seventh Day Adventists and Christian Science. There follows a brief account of each church.

Presbyterian.

The Presbyterian church was organized in 1855 with nine members. Since its organization 555 have united with the church. The present membership is 255. The enrollment of the Sunday school is 250. The organizations of the church are: The Ladies' Aid, the Woman's Missionary society, the Men's club, the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor, the F. I. L. club and organized Sunday school classes.

Last year \$3,000 was expended in enlarging and improving the church edifice. There is in this church a pipe organ, and the interior is modern and up-to-date. There is a large and finely equipped auditorium, a church parlor, a kitchen, and club room or chapel. The building is heated by a hot air furnace. The church's property is valued at \$40,000. This church stands for progress, for righteousness, for truth, for a clean city and for everything that is uplifting to humanity. The church is located at the corner of Main and Holly streets, and by the city park. Weston F. Shields is pastor.

Methodist Episcopal.

This church was organized about 1855. The present church building was erected under the pastorates of J. W. Miller and G. W. Quimby. In 1892 this church became self-supporting and E. E. Phipps was appointed pastor. At that time the membership was less than 100 and the pastor's salary was \$276.

The membership has steadily increased until now it is more than 400, and the Sunday school enrollment is over 500. The financial and benevolent work of the church has kept pace with the numerical growth. Last year the church building was enlarged and remodelled at an expense of about \$2,000, which gave much needed room for both the congregations and the Sunday school. A large tent has been added to the church's equipment to provide for the Sunday school and for other organizations in the church. This is needed in addition to the room in the regular church building. This church has prospered greatly under the pastorate of E. O. Eldridge, the present pastor, and it still stands for the same spirituality that through John Wesley gave birth to the Methodist Episcopal church in all the world.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The Medford Oakdale Avenue Methodist church, South, situated on corner of Oakdale and Main streets, was erected in 1893 and dedicated in September at the annual conference services by Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald. This neat little church building and parsonage is located in the center of the most beautiful part of the growing city of Medford. The estimated value of this property is \$20,000.

The organization consists of 109 members with 89 enrolled in the Sabbath school. These people are loyal to their church, doing a noble work for their master. H. M. Branham is the present pastor.

Free Methodist Church.

The First Free Methodist church is located on the corner of Tenth and Ivy street. The organization of the Free Methodists in this city was effected about thirteen years ago and consisted of eleven members, three of whom resided at Talent. Aside from the earnest endeavor to maintain and set forth the issues of a practical religion we can boast of but little progress since the time of our beginning here. We now have a small and modest church building and a commodious parsonage. Our present membership is forty-two and five of this number are charter members. The church employs a regular pastor and has preaching services every Sunday morning and evening, and carries on an interest and successful Sunday school. Our midweek prayer meeting is also an important feature of our work. It is our endeavor to do work that will stand the test of eternity. J. E. Bradley is the pastor.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

The congregation of St. Mark's church numbers about seventy-five communicants in the city of Medford. There are beside a considerable number of ranch owners living in the vicinity who are members of the church. There is an active and en-

thusiastic Guild of ladies who are working for a new church building, which, with the assistance of a special committee of men and women working for the same cause, they hope to build in the near future. The church services are being held temporarily in St. Mark's hall, in St. Mark's block, a property which is held by the bishop for the church, and which is one of the most desirable business blocks in the city.

Strangers find a hearty welcome in St. Mark's church. William B. Hamilton is vicar.

First Baptist Church.

The First Baptist church of Medford was organized June 7, 1885, the first regular meeting July 4. Midweek prayer service was established and has been kept up to the present time. In February, 1887, D. T. Lawton and S. L. Bennet were ordained deacons and a house of worship with a seating capacity of 300 was erected at a cost of \$4,000. In December, 1887, the first Baptist Bible school was organized and has never missed a session to this day. In 1905 it became necessary to enlarge the auditorium. An addition was built which gave them a seating capacity of 500. Over \$54,000 has been raised for current expenses and benevolences. Since its organization there has been received into its membership 1,030. This church supports a missionary in the Philippine Islands. The missionary budget for this year is \$700. The present pastor, Robert William MacCullough, Ph. D., came to this church in May, 1913, and about 100 have been added to the membership since his coming.

Christian Church.

The Christian church of Medford with a membership of over 300, is one of the leading churches of the brotherhood in Oregon. Their present beautiful bungalow church, with modern equipment, corner of Ninth and Oakdale, was completed and occupied just a year ago and since that time the membership has nearly doubled and the interest in all branches of the church work greatly increased. On the last Sunday in November the attendance at Sunday school was 469, the largest in the history of the church and possibly the largest Sunday school attendance ever in Medford. The church is also noted for its charity work and missionary spirit. At a revival held recently by Evangelist M. Putnam and soloist, Miss Egbert, sixty-nine were added to the church. D. D. Boyle, during whose two-year pastorate the church made such splendid progress, recently resigned owing to ill health and went to California. The church will call another pastor early in the new year. On Sunday, January 4, the annual meeting and election of officers takes place, to be followed by a program and "Home Coming Dinner" at the church.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Fifteen years ago this church was

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(Adv.)

organized in response to the appeal of the early German settlers of Medford and vicinity. For twelve years it maintained its exclusive German character. With the influx of English speaking Lutherans and in the recognition of the fact that "the faith once delivered to the fathers" is greater than any language, services are now equally divided between German and English, thus affording a congenial church home for Lutherans of all nationalities on the basis of the language of America. To the many Lutherans and all others who in the future shall make of our beautiful city and its productive environments their new home, Zion Lutheran Church extends a hearty welcome to its services. Conrad Wilker is pastor of the church, corner Oakdale and Fourth streets.

Seventh Day Adventists.

The Seventh Day Adventist church building is on North Riverside and was built about four years ago. The church is prosperous and rapidly growing. In connection with the church work and as a part of it this church has a parochial school for her young people that in all things

they may be trained in a thorough knowledge of the scriptures. The property is valued at \$5,000. This church asks for a place with the organizations that stand for God, as it seeks to be true to Him and His message. The membership is about 150.

Catholic Church.

Medford, like all cities of its size and importance, has its quota of Catholics, who are amply provided for spiritually, socially and educationally. Its present cement church built six year ago in California mission style, is practically out of debt, notwithstanding that over a thousand dollars has been devoted to enlarging and improving during the year by its generous members. Two masses are celebrated every Sunday between which there is instruction in Christian doctrine, besides the usual weekly services. The Catholic societies comprise the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal insurance, social and benevolent society, St. Anne's society to care for sanctuary, sick and poor, the Young Ladies' Sodality and Altar Boys' society. There is a parish hall to accommodate the social needs

and substantial priest's residence. Ten Holy Names' sisters conduct a large academy wherein grammar grade and high school education is imparted to day scholars and boarders, who likewise can have training in music, painting and other arts. J. M. O'Neill, the present pastor, is assisted by W. J. Meagher in looking after the interests of the city parish, and the churches of Jacksonville and Eagle Point.

First Church of Christ, Scientist.

September 14, 1908, Christian Science Society of Medford, Oregon, was organized with nineteen members and held services in the Commercial club rooms. The Sunday school was also organized at this time. The collection taken the first Sunday of each month was set aside for the purchase of a building site.

September, 1909, a payment was made on two lots on North Oakdale avenue, the present site of the church edifice.

Annual lectures on Christian Science are given by the church by authorized Christian science lecturers. From the fall of 1909 to January 15, 1911, services were held in

more commodious quarters on North Grape street, when payment on lots was completed, followed by the erection of the church building.

The opening service was held January 15, 1911, the society receiving a charter and incorporating as First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Medford, Oregon, a branch of the Mother church in Boston, Mass.

The indebtedness of this church was cancelled and the dedication services followed Sunday, April 21, 1912.

This was the first Christian Science church edifice to be built in Southern Oregon, is of the bungalow style of architecture and cost, including building site and furnishings, \$9,000.

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