

# Church Building Boom In America Declared Smashing All Records

Washington (U.P.)—America's church-building boom is still smashing records.

The Commerce Department reported today that \$219,000,000 was spent during the first four months of this year for construction of churches, synagogues, Sunday schools and other religious edifices.

That is more than twice as much as Americans spent for worship facilities during the entire year of 1956, a decade ago. So far this year, outlays for religious construction are running about two per cent above the previous all-time record set last year.

**Private Estimates Higher**  
The Commerce Department estimates that total 1956 spending will approach \$850,000,000.

## Mission Service Will Be Topic At Presbyterian

Dr. Gordon Mahy Jr., recently returned from mission service in the Philippine islands, will speak on the theme, "With Christ in the Philippines," at both Sunday morning services of the First Presbyterian church.

Upon arrival from the Philippines this past week, the Rev. Mr. Mahy was honored by having the degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him at Lewis and Clark college of Portland.

For many years he was associated with Dr. D. Kirkland West, pastor of the church, in mission work in China, but since the Communists forced him to leave he has acted as chaplain and lecturer at Silliman university, Dumaguete, in the Philippines. During both morning services the Chancel choir will sing, and Mrs. Rosalind Hoover will furnish a soprano solo.

**Recent Members**  
Last week 60 persons met with the session of the church and were received as members. At the first morning service next Sunday, the young people who were in the communicants' class will be publicly welcomed as members, and their parents will sit with them in the worship service. The adults will be received in a service at the second service.

At the service at 7 p. m., the Senior High Westminster fellowship will join with the adults to hear Dr. Mahy tell more of his experiences. Mrs. Mahy and other members of the family will also share in the service. A reception will follow in the social hall of the church.

Some private estimates go as high as \$900,000,000.

Even at this prodigious rate, however, the churches have barely begun to meet their needs for more space to accommodate steadily-growing congregations.

Some church leaders estimate that \$7,000,000,000 will be spent during the next decade on the greatest building program in religious history.

A number of factors have contributed to the building boom—the overall growth in population, the postwar exodus of millions of families from cities to suburbs, and the favorable economic climate (reflected in increased contributions) which permits churches to undertake long-needed building programs which were deferred during the depression and war years.

**Religious Interest**  
But the "primary" explanation, according to Dr. Harry Atkinson, head of the Church Builders Bureau of the National Council of Churches, is "the tremendous resurgence of religious interest in the United States since the end of World War II."

He noted that church membership has climbed steadily and spectacularly since the war. The latest Yearbook of American churches reported total membership of all denominations at 97,500,000 or more than 60 per cent of the U. S. population.

## 'Graduation' Set at Friends

A graduation ceremony for three-year olds going from the cradle roll to the nursery department will be a feature of the 11 a. m. service at Friends church Sunday.

Cradle roll mothers have made blue and pink caps and gowns for the young "graduates" to wear as they are promoted. Mrs. Bert Langston, cradle roll superintendent, will have charge of the ceremony.

Also at 11 a. m., pastor Clynton Crisman will have a service of dedication for babies born during the past year. His message will be, "A Great Day in the Life of a Mother."

At the 9:45 a. m. service, the pastor's message will be, "The Christian Home." A ladies' trio will sing during both worship services.

Mothers day theme will be carried out in all departments of the Sunday school, both at 9:45 and 11 a. m.

Christian Endeavor societies and children's story hour will meet at 8:30 p. m., with congregational meeting for praise and worship at 7:30 p. m. The high school boys' quartet will sing and the pastor will speak.



**JAMES E. BAKER**  
Assembly Speaker

## Assembly of God Members To Hear Missionary Speak

James E. Baker, formerly a missionary to China and Hongkong, and more recently in Formosa, will be guest speaker at the Medford Assembly of God, 1108 West Main st., Sunday at 7:30 p. m. Films of mission work will be shown.

Mr. Baker and his family recently returned to this country after spending eight years in missionary service in the Far East. He will relate experiences and tell of progress of missions. The son of missionary parents, he was born and raised in China. He studied at Asbury college in Wilmore, Ky. and at Central Bible institute in Springfield, Mo. From 1941 to 1945 he was on the faculty of Central Bible institute.

In 1946 Mr. Baker, with his wife, returned to China.

At the conclusion of his furlough, Mr. Baker plans to return to Formosa. He is now visiting churches of the Assemblies of God presenting needs of work in Formosa.

The public is invited.

## Dedication Held; Conference Ends

Over 200 persons attended dedication Sunday of the newly built Berean Baptist church at White City.

Dr. Chester J. Padgett, Los Angeles, guest speaker, continued his stay in the valley and has been speaking nightly at the church. Tonight will mark the close of the Bible conference which he has conducted.

He is a graduate of Wheaton college and Princeton seminary, N. J., and at the present is pastor of the Colverly Church of Placencia, Placencia, Calif. He also has taught for the past 10 years at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles and Talbot seminary for three years.

## Officer To Arrive For Discussions With Unitarians

The Rev. Frank Ricker, secretary of the Pacific coast Unitarian council, will arrive in the valley today to discuss problems with members of the Unitarian fellowship group in Ashland and Medford. He is making a tour of Unitarian churches and fellowships of the northwest.

Officers of the local fellowship will meet with the Rev. Mr. Ricker this evening and he also will speak at a meeting today at 8:45 p. m., at Grants Pass in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Flory, 740 Northwest Fourth st.

## Bishop To Conduct Historic Rites; To Honor Members

The historic rite of the laying on of hands in confirmation will be administered by the Right Rev. Benjamin D. Dagwell, bishop of Oregon, to a class of 12 adults at the 11 a. m. service at St. Mark's Episcopal church on Sunday.

The class, which has been under instruction from the Rev. Robert Burger, assistant priest, for the past three months will include, Mesdames Maisie Daily, Yvonne Irene Earnest, Eleanor Othelia Edmonds, Jo Ann Barbara Hart, Tessie Walker Roberts, Anna McNeil, Nell Opal Nilsson, Carrie Adella Yoakley, Miss Nancy Lee Rinabarger, and Messrs. Floyd Henry Hart, Robert Jackson Keeney, Jerry Carlton Neill.

The Rev. George R. V. Bolster, rector, will conduct the service, and music will be furnished by the senior choir under the direction of Ward Smith, with Mrs. E. G. Conrad, organist.

Following the service the newly confirmed class members will be guests of honor at a coffee hour arranged by the Altar guild. In the afternoon the bishop will administer confirmation rites at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Prospect, and St. Martin's church, Shady Cove.

## Dr. R. E. Balcomb Elected to Post

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, minister of the First Methodist church, has been elected by the Methodist General conference, in quadrennial session at Minneapolis, Minn., to a four-year study commission on racial relations and jurisdictional structure within the Methodist church. The commission is composed of 12 bishops, 23 ministers, and 35 laymen.

Dr. Balcomb is the only ministerial representative from the Pacific Northwest. According to Bishop A. Raymond Grant of Portland, this is "the most important commission authorized by the general conference." The purpose of the commission will be to advise the church as to ways and means of fully implementing its resolution looking toward full racial integration in the church.

## Temple Baptists Set Dedication

Services for the dedication of children will be held at the Temple Baptist church, 794 Lozier lane, at the 11 a. m. service on Mother's day. Poems, songs, and a message by the pastor, the Rev. Floyd H. Yeats, will be given.

Opportunity will be offered parents to dedicate their children in commemoration of the time mothers brought their children to be blessed of Jesus. Hands will be laid upon each child and a prayer offered for each family.

The children will not become a part of the church in the service, except those old enough to do so of their own accord. They will not be sprinkled nor baptized during ceremony, only dedicated. Every one of any denomination is invited to attend and dedicate their children.

## HORN BROOK Church Superintendent Due

By MRS. H. N. CHAPMAN

Hornbrook—The Rev. "Ben" Gould of Chico, district superintendent of the northern California-Nevada district of the Methodist church, will be at the local church, Monday, May 13, for a special meeting. The Rev. C. C. Addington has requested that all persons interested in the welfare and the future of the church be present. The meeting will be held at the church at 10:15 a. m. (DST).

On May 6, Mr. and Mrs. Luran Payne were hosts at a barbecue party at their ranch up the Klamath river. Besides the Paynes and their two sons, Bob and Lornie, those present were Mr. and Mrs. E. M. French and daughter Nancy, Mr. and Mrs. Eb Marlowe and daughter Linda, Mr. and Mrs. John Jolly and daughter Judy, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chiuminatto, all of Yreka, and from Hornbrook, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Walsh and daughter Sharee, Mr. and Mrs. Al Kutsky and daughters, Megan, Joan and Suzanne, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bennett and children Douglas, Benjamin and Marsha.

The afternoon was spent playing baseball. The party was one of a series given by the group in celebration of each other's birthdays, this one being in honor of Mrs. Payne and Mrs. French.

The Boy Scout camporee which was scheduled for a recent date had to be postponed because of the rain. A new date may be announced later.

The boys are conducting an intensive fund-raising campaign this spring. Object of the campaign is to raise enough money to make it possible for every boy in the local troop to attend the regular Boy Scout camp at Lake o' the Woods this summer.

## Nazarenes Plan Week Observance

Local Nazarenes will cooperate with the denomination-wide week of intercession from May 13 to May 20, a traditional commemoration of Pentecost in the New Testament church. Services of prayer will be conducted throughout the week as Nazarenes around the world pray for a renaissance of Pentecost in the life of the church.

Scheduled prayer meetings of the week will include an early breakfast prayer meeting Tuesday morning, a regular midweek prayer meeting on Wednesday at 7:30 p. m., prayer and fasting Thursday noon, high school prayer fellowship Thursday night, cottage prayer meetings scheduled throughout the city for Friday evening, prayer around the church altar Saturday at 7 p. m., and a final Pentecost Sunday prayer meeting to be held at 6 a. m., around the church altar Sunday, May 20.

## Central Church Program Listed

"So You've Decided To Build a Home," will be the title of the sermon Sunday at Central Church of Christ, Central and Jackson sts., to be given by the Rev. Ellmore J. Gilstrap, pastor. A Mother day program at Bible school at 9:45 a. m., will be conducted and music at the morning worship will be in the same theme.

The evening service will begin at 6 p. m., and at 7 p. m., Al Versic will speak on the subject, "Three Men Named Ananias." Mr. Versic is a San Jose Bible college graduate.

Communion services will be conducted at 7:20 p. m., and the services will conclude at 7:30 p. m.

## First Baptists Sunday Program To Honor Mothers

A Mothers day sermon will be given Sunday at First Baptist church by the pastor, the Rev. James W. Neely. "Bible Photos of Mother," will be the topic at the service which will be held at 11 a. m.

During the past week, 31 families have joined at the church in services which observed Home week. The services next Sunday will be designed to stress the position of the home in church and community living.

A group of families in the church now have a period of Bible reading and prayer at breakfast and dinner. A training program in this line will be conducted next fall under direction of Robert Harlow.

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