

CHURCH CONSTRUCTION TOP STORY IN 1956 CHURCH NEWS

Stories Also on New Churches and Pastors

By PEG HUTCHINSON
Mail Tribune Church Editor

Church construction in the valley was the top story of 1956 in the church news department. Several large building projects were completed during the year. Others are still in the process of being finished. Some are still in the blueprint stage, according to a poll conducted of many of the local churches.

Congregations Sponsoring

The First Methodist church congregation during the year sponsored the St. Luke's Methodist church in the east part of town. While another church, First Church of the Nazarene, plans to sponsor a new congregation next year when the Mt. Pitt Avenue Church of the Nazarene church building is completed at Mt. Pitt ave. and Chestnut st. Both new churches brought new ministers to the area.

One building program nearly completed is Our Lady of Fatima Catholic church, Shady Cove, which held Christmas eve midnight mass this year as their first service.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Berean Baptist church, White City, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, and Philadelphia church have completed their buildings this year and held formal dedication services.

Other Churches

Partly built is the new church for the Free Methodists, and in the preliminary building stage are churches for Bethel Assembly of God on East McAndrews rd. and Pilgrim Holiness church on their property at East Jackson and Bessie sts.

The Re-Organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints purchased their building from the Free Methodist church at 10th and Ivy sts., while First Presbyterian church, Phoenix, and Apostolic Faith church completed remodeling of their church buildings.

St. Joseph's Catholic church in Jacksonville was reopened for weekly mass during 1956 and Central Point Community Bible church completed their new parsonage.

Church School Buildings

Sunday school buildings were also included in the year's building program.

Outstanding among them is the \$112,000 building completed for St. Mark's Episcopal church school. Also completed and dedicated was the Sunday school building for the Congregational church. Still being built is the Sunday school building for the Country church, Midway Four Corners on Table Rock rd.

New ministers arriving during the year also formed a large part of the religious news. **New Ministers**

Eight new ministers and six new full time assistant ministers have assumed their duties here during 1956.

Among them is the Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson, who will be pastor of the Ascension Lutheran church, ELC, when it is formally organized next year.

Others new to the area and their churches include the Rev. John A. Taylor, St. Luke's Methodist; the Rev. R. E. Cull, First Assembly of God; the Rev. Dwayne Batchelor, Mt. Pitt Avenue Church of the Nazarene; the Rev. Lester Wilcox Jr., Forest Acres Community; Elder John D. Trude, Seventh-day Adventist; the Rev. Loyce Carver, Apostolic Faith; and the Rev. J. M. Shelley, Central Point Church of Christ.

Assistant Ministers

New assistant ministers are the Rev. Haddon Robinson, First Baptist; the Rev. George A. Trobough, First Methodist; the Rev. John Bright, St. Mark's Episcopal; the Rev. W. Lee Mansveld, First Church of the Nazarene; the Rev. John A. Hg. Sacred Heart Catholic; and Lt. R. L. Anthony, Salvation Army.

Here is a month-by-month summary of church news, selected from church news stories appearing in The Mail Tribune.

JANUARY

The Rev. James W. Noely, First Baptist church, starts sermon series to last entire year. Eastwood Baptist church honors elected officers. The Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Mathewson, attend annual International Four-square church convention in Los Angeles, Calif. Congregational church installs new officers. Phoenix First Presbyterian installs four newly elected officers. Chapel named in honor of Clarence A. Meeker by Medford First Methodists.

FEBRUARY

First interdenominational youth rally held in Medford. Berean Baptist church, White City, holds services in new chapel on Crater Lake highway. New Kingdom hall at 2402 Jacksonville highway dedicated by

Jehovah's Witnesses. Faith Advent Christian church group organized to meet at 1329 Saling ave. Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb, First Methodist church, leaves on two week evangelistic mission to Hawaii under auspices of the National Council of Churches of Christ in USA. Lent begins. Dedication rites for Philadelphia church planned. St. Joseph's Catholic church, Jacksonville, reopened for regular weekly mass. Medford Ministerial association outlines plans for Easter season and tells of directory of churches to be published. Local men attend National council of Presbyterian men in San Francisco. The Rev. Haddon Robinson of New York City assumes duties as assistant at First Baptist church. Assemblies of God church Sunday schools in valley announce goal of 1,000 student attendance set for year.

MARCH

Remodeling begins at Phoenix First Presbyterian church. Girl Scout Week recognized in many churches. First Church of Christ Scientist building dedicated at Oakwood and Windsor avenues. Congregational church dedicates new Sunday school building. Holy Week noon services conducted at Craterian theater daily by Medford Ministerial association. One Great Hour of Sharing observed in local churches. Holy Week services announced. Palm Sunday. Good Friday services scheduled. Easter services held. Easter Sunrise services for youth on Huener's Butte east of Phoenix. Public Sunrise Easter services held at Starlite Drive-in theater by St. Peter's Lutheran church. Medford Ministerial association distributes 500 church directories to businesses.

APRIL

Daily Vacation Bible school dates announced by several churches. Medford city council directed city legal department to prepare an ordinance creating a zone for churches. 34th anniversary of Medford First Church of the Nazarene commemorated. Pilgrim Holiness church purchases land and starts clearing it for new church building site.

MAY

Congregationalists name their church Sunday school building Pilgrim house. 50th anniversary observed by Eagle Point Community Bible school. Berean Baptist church, White City, building dedicated. Mother's day sermon topic in many churches. Interchurch daily devotional program sponsored by the Medford Council of Church Women and Medford ministerial association. Meeker Memorial chapel dedicated by Medford First Methodists. Dr. R. E. Balcomb elected to four year term on commission to study racial relations and jurisdictional structure within the Methodist church. Salem area and southern Oregon Friends church representatives meet in Talent. The Rev. Raymond Hurn, First Church of the Nazarene, elected president of Medford Ministerial association with the Rev. Clynton Crisman, Friends church vice president, and the Rev. Richard M. Jones, Eastwood Baptist church, secretary. The Rev. Marvin Lumley assumes duties as pastor of the Phoenix Church of the Nazarene. St. Luke's Methodist church formally organized. First Baptist church does minor remodeling.

JUNE

First Church of the Nazarene installs officers. Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb preaches sermon chosen by congregation as most helpful during past year, "The Life Worth Living," given Dec. 11, 1955. The Rev. G. E. Walston, Advent Christian church, leaves for New Hampshire to attend national church conference. Churches engage assistant pastors for summer, many students. The Rev. Raymond W. Hurn, First Church of the Nazarene, to attend church schools convention of the Nazarene church in Kansas City, Mo., as delegate. The Rev. George A. Trobough assumes duties as associate minister at First Methodist church. Vacation Bible schools start in many churches. First services held by St. Luke's Methodist church in Bigham hall at county fairgrounds. The Rev. Ernest F. Post, Forest Acres Community church, leaves for California after organizing and building church cited by American Baptist convention as the "church making the most progress" during Baptist Achievement year in Oregon for churches having less than 100 members. The Rev. John Albert Taylor arrives to be pastor of St. Luke's Methodist church.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION—Mt. Pitt Avenue Church of the Nazarene educational unit shown above at Mt. Pitt ave. and Chestnut st. is one of the several buildings now under construction by churches in the Medford area. The Mt. Pitt Avenue church, sponsored by the First Church of the Nazarene, will meet in the unit when finished until the other two buildings in the group are completed. The Rev. Dwayne Batchelor is pastor of the congregation.

JULY

The Rev. John A. Bright arrives as new assistant at St. Mark's Episcopal church. Dr. D. Kirkland West, First Presbyterian church, elected to Synod of Oregon committees. Future charter members of Mt. Pitt Avenue Church of the Nazarene meet with district superintendent of the Oregon-Pacific District Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Raymond Balcomb places second in Northwest Methodist sermon contest. The Rev. W. Lee Mansveld arrives as new assistant to the pastor and minister of music at First Church of the Nazarene. Free Methodist church building started. The Rev. Robert E. Cull arrives from Payette, Idaho, as new minister at the First Assembly of God church, 1108 West Main st. Everett Faber elected to man the national Board of Education of the Methodist church, member of First Methodist church holds Sunday afternoon service at the rim of Crater Lake. St. Peter's Lutheran church receives gift of Presence Light for sanctuary.

AUGUST

Dr. Raymond E. Balcomb attends organizational meeting in Chicago of commission to study the jurisdictional structure of the Methodist church. The Rev. Dwayne Batchelor, arrives from Kansas City to start Mt. Pitt Avenue Church of the Nazarene. Central Church of Christ free of debt due to Gardner legacy. Forest Acres Community church new pastor, the Rev. Lester Wilcox Jr., arrives. Free Methodist church sells building at 10th and Ivy sts. to Re-Organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Free Methodist church holds services in Pythian hall. The Rev. Stephen H. Fritchman, minister of First Unitarian church, Los Angeles, speaks here. Youth camp attendance reported high. Local Kingdom hall of Jehovah's Witnesses sends 85 delegates to Salem convention. Unity Truth Center closed during month. Country church, Midway Four Corners starts construction of Sunday school building.

SEPTEMBER

First Baptist church starts series of Teen Time chili feeds for youth following high school football games. The Rev. C. W. Frost, Apostolic Faith minister, leaves for St. Louis, Mo. \$113,000 St. Mark's Episcopal church school building dedicated. Talent ingathering service held at Holy Church of God, and Holy sts. Elder E. F. Coy, pastor Seventh-day Adventist church, transferred to Gresham, Ore. Free Methodist church holds services in Moose hall, 11 Newtown st. Elder John D. Trude assumes duties at Seventh-day Adventist churches in Medford and Eagle Point. The Rev. Loyce Carver arrives from Los Angeles as pastor of Apostolic Faith church. Central Point Community Bible church completes new parsonage. Medford Ministerial

association announces committee chairmen. Promotion Sunday held in many churches. The Rev. John A. Hg. arrives to assume duties as assistant priest at Sacred Heart Catholic church, Jacksonville, to assume full time duties at Central Point Presbyterian church. Bethel Assembly of God church starts preliminary construction on new church building on East McAndrews.

OCTOBER

World Wide communion observed Oct. 7. The Rev. G. Herbert Hillerman, Zion Lutheran church, official representative of Pacific Synod to United Lutheran church in America convention in Harrisburg, Pa. Young people of Ashland First Methodist church contribute new outdoor fireplace to church. Dr. D. Kirkland West chosen by Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian church of USA to conduct preaching mission in Alaska. Dr. G. B. Williamson, general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene, at Nazarene church here. Family Rosary crusade announced by Sacred Heart Catholic church. Revival meetings held in churches. "Religion in the News," television program starts on KBEST-TV with the Rev. George A. Trobough, associate minister of First Methodist church, moderator. Friends church observes 14th anniversary. The Rev. Floyd Yeats, Temple Baptist church, accepts call to Burlington, Wash., church. Churches hold Laymen's Sunday. The Rev. Mr. Jean M. Shelley arrives as new minister at Central Point Church of Christ. 1500 attend smorgasbord at First Methodist church. Emmanuel Apostolic church, 1110 North Central, changes name to Emmanuel Pentecostal Church Jesus Name. Lt. R. L. Anthony assumes duties at local Salvation Army church from Portland Harbor Light Corps.

NOVEMBER

Gerald Bross leaves for two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at San Antonio, Texas, member of local church. St. Luke's Methodist church holds charter service. The Rev. Ellmore J. Gilstrap retires after 45 years in ministry and leaves Central Church of Christ. The Rev. Perry M. Johnson starts as pastor of the First Baptist church in Phoenix. Church of the Brethren dedicates new electronic organ gift of Ashland Church of the Brethren. Dr. Raymond Balcomb's sermon published in "New Christian Advocate" magazine November issue. 2,000 children enroll in Bible history classes in Medford and county sponsored by Jackson county Board of Christian Education. Union Thanksgiving service held at First Christian church sponsored by Medford Ministerial association. The Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson and Miss Ruth Zacher arrive to start Ascension Lutheran church, ELC. Trail Community church incorporated with the Rev. Ernest Evers as pastor. The Rev. Haddon Robinson, assistant pastor First Baptist church, leaves on month of evangelistic cam-

paigns in Eastern United States and Canada. The Rev. Robert L. Green, vicar of Church of the Good Shepherd, Prospect, and St. Martin's, Shady Cove, called to Astoria church.

DECEMBER

Remodeling completed at Apostolic Faith church. Parish mission held at Sacred Heart Catholic church. Churches ask for donations of money and clothing for Hungarian refugees. Christmas programs start with first scheduled Dec. 16. Salvation Army kettles appear on Medford streets. Ascension Lutheran church announces first services Jan. 6 in Pythian hall. Fire at Sacred Heart Catholic church Parish hall. W. E. Atkin elected lay elder of Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church for 1957. Christmas eve midnight mass celebrated in Our Lady of Fatima Catholic church in Shady Cove for first mass. Dr. Norman K. Tully resigns as pastor of First Presbyterian church, Jacksonville, to assume full time duties at Central Point Presbyterian church. Bethel Assembly of God church starts preliminary construction on new church building on East McAndrews.

The great scientist Louis Pasteur once said, "Study a great man." Medford Public Library has many inspiring biographies of famous persons.

4-H Club News

Phoenix-Talent Tractor Club

The first meeting of the combined Phoenix-Talent Tractor club was held at the home of Tom Carter the leader. Ten members were present. We elected officers. John James was elected president, Dean Sommers was elected vice president, Ginger Martin was elected secretary and Dianne Carter news reporter.

We chose the name Rubber Burners from the two following: Sod Busters and Kneuckle Busters. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served. Girls have been encouraged to join.

Dianne Carter
News Reporter

New Ruch Club

The first general meeting of the newly formed Ruch 4-H club was held at the Ruch school Thursday, Dec. 20.

Romelle Fossen, president of the Dairy club opened the meeting by leading in the allegiance to the flag and the 4-H salute. Ed Fossen, leader of the Dairy club introduced William A. Johnson, a retail milk business man of Grants Pass who was guest speaker.

Johnson spoke on the importance of good breeding stock, and pointers of judging cows. Johnson is a former county judge. Jerome Peterson, junior leader

Klamath Falls Band Plans Trip To SF

Klamath Falls Union high school band completed plans here today for its trip to San Francisco and an appearance at the East-West Shrine football game Saturday.

The Klamath High band has been invited to perform at half-time of the annual classic, staged for the benefit of crippled children.

The electrical club spoke on "low voltage control." Entertainment was furnished by the Beef club and refreshments were furnished by the Hog club. A reading was given by Linda Dahl.

Mrs. Charles Williams, leader of the Home Economics club, announced that they were trying to stimulate an interest in books by urging everyone in the community to write to the Medford library asking for book service in this area. If enough letters are sent in, a Bookmobile may be made available to the community.

A Forestry club is available to children in this vicinity, and if enough are interested, W. L. Shannon will head the club.

The next general meeting will be held Wednesday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Ruch school cafeteria.

Helga Mitchell
Publicity Chairman

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<p>ESTATE ELECTRIC</p> <p>RANGE</p> <p>With Griddle</p> <p>\$39⁴⁵</p>	<p>AIR FLO</p> <p>DRYER</p> <p>Use On 110 Volt</p> <p>Only \$29⁹⁵</p>	<p>12 CU. FT. WESTINGHOUSE</p> <p>DELUXE</p> <p>REFRIGERATOR</p> <p>Full Width Freezer, Better Keeper</p> <p>Only \$169⁹⁵</p>
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