

# Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists Tells Church History and Practices

By LOUIS CASSELS  
America's fastest-growing religious denomination published a 1,544-page profile of itself this week.

The profile, which comes in two massive volumes, is entitled "Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists." Its avowed purpose is "to give people of other denominations," as well as Southern Baptists themselves, "a guide to better understanding" of the history and practices of a 113-year-old religious body that has far outgrown the regional boundaries implied by its name.

Other denominations doubtless will avail themselves of the invitation to learn more about the Southern Baptist convention. Its phenomenal growth, in the North and West as well as in the South, has long been viewed by other churches with mingled admiration and irritation.

Both of these feelings are reflected in the wry joke which is currently popular among Methodist clergymen:

"In ten more years, at the present rate of growth, there will be more Southern Baptists than there are people."

While the Southern Baptist may not reach that goal, it does seem likely that they will, in a good deal less than 10 years, surpass the Methodist church to become to the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

When the last official count was taken, the Methodist

church had 9,292,046 members to 8,467,439 for the Southern Baptist convention. But that was in 1956, and many churchmen feel the gap has closed considerably since then.

The Southern Baptist convention was formally organized in Augusta, Ga., in 1845. Finding the anti-slavery agitation of Northern Baptists too much to bear, delegates from 165 Southern churches antici-

ated their state governments in secession by a full 16 years.

**Defamation Has Expanded**  
For many years after the Civil War, the convention remained a regional body of the Deep South. But in the last few years, it has reached out to the North and West with the kind of all-out evangelical program for which Baptists are famous.

Today there are 755 Southern Baptist churches with 136,000 members in Illinois; 559 churches with 105,000 members in California, and sizeable contingents in Arizona, Alaska, Colorado, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Oregon and Washington.

While envy may be a factor in the irritation which Southern Baptists growth has caused in other denominations, it is not the only factor. The Southern Baptists have doggedly refused to join the growing "ecumenical" movement which has brought other major Protestant bodies into a close cooperative relationship.

**Have Been Afloat**  
They have held aloof from the national and world councils of churches. They have rejected any idea of merger negotiations with their Northern brethren of the American Baptist convention. And they have freely planted new Southern Baptist churches in communities where other denominations, including the Northern Baptists, were already heavily represented.

An explanation of this determination to go it alone is offered in the new encyclopedia. The Southern Baptists sincerely believe that they have been entrusted with a "distinctive message and mission," and that they can "accomplish more for the cause of Christ" by continuing an "independent witness."

What are the distinctive Southern Baptist tenets? One of them, of course, is insistence on baptism by total immersion of the body.

**Seven Principles Outlined**  
The encyclopedia lists seven other "basic Baptist principles" some of which the Baptists share with other denominations. They are:

1. Reverence for the Bible as the "one authoritative source of religious truth and knowledge."
2. Emphasis on "personal faith in Jesus Christ" as the prerequisite for salvation.
3. Rejection of infant baptism on the ground that each individual must "come to God for himself."
4. Belief that baptism and the Lord's Supper are "ordinances" rather than "sacraments," and that these rites have "no saving power" of themselves.
5. The "competency of each individual soul" to gain "direct access" to God without the mediation of any priest or minister.
6. A strong emphasis on religious freedom, church-state separation, and liberty of conscience for every individual.
7. A unique doctrine of church government, under which each local church is an absolutely sovereign body which cannot be given orders by an "association, alliance or convention" which it may join.

## Phoenix Church Tells Activities For Next Week

Phoenix—The youth group of the Phoenix Church of Christ plan a snow party Saturday at Union Creek. Plans have been made to meet at the church building at 9:30 a.m. Transportation is provided from Phoenix to Union Creek. The young people are to bring a sack lunch and hot chocolate to drink.

Mr. Kenneth Arnold, minister, and his wife, of the church, and Bill Heberling, assistant minister of the Central Point Church of Christ, traveled to San Jose, Calif., last week to the 14th annual Conference on Evangelism.

"It is Good for Us to Be Here," will be the sermon subject by Mr. Arnold Sunday morning.

The Phoenix church decided in a congregational meeting, to make the first Sunday of each month "Missionary Sunday." The money will go to the Southern Oregon, Northern Californian fellowship, to help establish new churches.

A fellowship is planned Sunday following the evening service, at the church building. This get-acquainted-night will be held the last Sunday evening of every month. Fun, fellowship, and refreshments are planned.

Mr. Arnold has been "morning visitor" on KMED radio this week, bringing the morning devotions at 8:55 a.m.

**Young People Conduct Meeting**  
Butte Falls — Young people's group at the Butte Falls Community Bible church held their weekly meeting at the Elga Abbott home Wednesday night. For the first time, they conducted their own meeting. Dolores Brown led the devotions and Larry Cavin led the activity period. Phillip Cramer is the song leader for January.

Next Wednesday night the meeting will be at the home of the Rev. Howard Simmonds. James Irwin will have charge of the devotional period and Donna Berck will direct the recreation.

"Donald Ellis, a former member of the group, left Sunday for service in the Navy. Sprout, he planned to visit Berkeley, Calif., for a stop with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. William Glasscock and their daughter. Monday at 7:30 p.m., Village Light circle will hold their regular devotional meeting. Place of meeting will be announced Sunday morning.

**Training Classes Held By Assembly of God Churches in Valley**  
A Sunday school workers' training class sponsored by the Assembly of God churches of the Medford area was conducted from Jan. 13 through 17 in the First Assembly of God, 1108 West Main st. The Gold, R. H. Buck of Boise, Rev. R. H. Buck of Boise, Idaho, conducted the class. The text book studied was "Operation Sunday School." It is an up-to-date guide for local Sunday school administration and serves as an orientation course for all Sunday school workers.

## Divinity School Students To Speak at St. Mark's

Philip A. Getchell, student at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific at Berkeley, Calif., will be guest preacher Sunday at St. Mark's Episcopal church, in observance of Theological Education Sunday by the Protestant Episcopal church throughout the country.

The speaker, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bayard M. Getchell, 28 Ashland ave., is well known in Southern Oregon sporting circles, having won the Inter-Varsity Pacific Coast Golf title in 1955 and the Southern Oregon Amateur Championship in 1957.

Mr. Getchell's visit marks the occasion when the eleven seminaries of the Episcopal church in the United States make an appeal for the support of the whole church in the training of young men for the priesthood. Following his studies at Stanford university and several terms at Fuller Theological seminary, Mr. Getchell entered the Berkeley Seminary last fall from his home parish here.

Mr. Getchell will preach at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services on Sunday and will address the young people's fellowship that evening. He will also speak to the St. Catherine's guild Monday at 8 p.m. Sunday he will be assisted at 11 a.m. by Leon R. McDougall, lay reader of St. Mark's who is also a postulant for the ministry, and will enter Church Divinity School later this year.

**Pastor To Be Guest Evangelist**  
The Rev. Kenneth Korby, pastor of St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran church, 1020 East Main st., will leave tomorrow for Pomona, Calif., to participate as a guest evangelist in a Preaching, Teaching, Reaching mission of the greater Los Angeles area.

Services will be held at the local church Sunday morning, celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The sermon will be read by Joe Jarvis, lay reader. Sunday school sessions, for adults and children, will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday at 7 p.m. the Waltham Leaguers will meet for discussion and group activity.

**Representative To Speak Here Sunday**  
Ed Dewees, field representative of the Turner Memorial home, at Turner, Ore., will be guest speaker at Central Church of Christ, 608 North Central ave., for the Sunday morning worship service. Turner Memorial Home is located nine miles southwest of Salem, and is dedicated to the purpose of assisting aged Christians, especially ministers and their wives or widows of the Christian Church or Church of Christ.

The Rev. Elmore Gilstrap, former pastor of Central Church of Christ, and Mrs. Gilstrap are making their home at the Turner home.

The youth of Central Church of Christ will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Johnson home, 2717 Howard ave., for an evening of recreation, including games and a taffy pull. Mike and Carol Johnston will act as host and hostess.

**Valley View Camera Club Plans Program**  
The Valley View Camera club is sponsoring a program Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Lincoln school gymnasium. The proceeds will go to the Worthy Student fund of the Valley View Seventh-day Adventist church.

The program will be in two sections. The first part will consist of home talent, with the second part pictures that club members have taken.

Phoenix — The midweek Bible studies and prayer meetings of the Phoenix First Baptist church will be held in the homes of the parishioners following action of the church. Announcements of place of meeting will be made each Sunday morning. Sermon themes for Sundays services are "My debt; Now!" at the morning hour of worship, with the evening sermon "Separation unto Him." Pastor Perry M. Johnson will speak at both services.

## Nazarene Youth Announce Plans Of Coming Events

Youth week will be observed at the First Church of the Nazarene, 520 North Holly st., beginning Wednesday, Jan. 29, when young people of the church will be in charge of the mid-week service.

A smorgasbord will be given in the annex of the church beginning at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Jerry Johnson, Eugene pastor, and recently appointed superintendent of Nazarene work in West Germany, as speaker. Mr. Johnson, a 29-year-old minister in the Church of the Nazarene, is a member of the International Youth Council, and district president of the young people for Oregon Pacific District. He will leave for his assignment in Germany March 1.

Friday evening a youth rally will be held in the church sanctuary with Mr. Johnson speaking to southern Oregon young people.

Youth are to participate in both public worship services on Sunday, Feb. 2.

Young people of the junior high department of the Sunday school of the First Church of the Nazarene plan a snow party. As soon as attendance in the department reaches 50 the young people will go by bus for their snow party.

Adult members of the Sunday school will launch an eight week series honoring a "supervisor of the day" to begin Sunday. Al Larson, adult departmental supervisor will present Arnold Kornstad as honorary "supervisor of the day" for that day. Mr. Kornstad will lead the fifteen minute devotional service prior to the class session and will be assisted by members of his Sunday school class. Mrs. Lena Marrs is the teacher.

**Pilgrim Youth Week To Be Observed; Meetings Continue**  
National Pilgrim Youth week will begin Sunday with a scripture-memorizing contest on the subject of soul winning and other activities.

In 1956 Pilgrim youth sponsored and financed a new church in Orlando, Fla., and a new mission field in the Union of South Africa. In 1957 the project was "Operation Mission," in which gospel teams were sent to Mexico, South America, and the British West Indies. The youth project for 1958 is the sponsoring and financing of an international radio broadcast under the title "The More Abundant Life."

The ministry of song evangelists the Rev. and Mrs. Jim Sheets, of Salem, and the Rev. J. H. Philpot, of Fredonia, Kans., the revival meetings will continue at the local Pilgrim Holiness church until Feb. 2. There will be services each evening at 7:30 except Saturday.

**Mission Meetings Continue in Gold Hill**  
Gold Hill — The fourth in a series of four mission meetings on Japan will be held Sunday beginning with a pot-luck at 6:30 p.m. in the dining room of the Community Methodist church.

Japanese food will be featured at the dinner. Mrs. Roy Eskew will prepare the hot dish and Mrs. E. C. Hoffman will make the dessert.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Robert Peterson from Grants Pass. Mrs. Ogden Kellogg will lead the discussion.

## YMCA Sunday To Be Observed Here

"YMCA Sunday will be observed in many Medford area churches Sunday as "National YMCA Week" comes to a close.

A total of 15 churches in the area have been provided upon request with 4,000 "YMCA Sunday" church bulletins for distribution to members at services.

Other church recognition activities vary, including relating sermons to youth, having "Y" members participate in services, club attendance at services and YMCA speakers at youth meetings.

Robert Jones, general secretary of the Medford YMCA said that for 107 years the YMCA has successfully dedicated itself to the task of training youth for leadership based on principles of Christianity. He added that the YMCA is one of the top agencies devoted to the development of Christian citizenship among youth. In celebrating YMCA Week, the close partnership of the "Y" and churches in preparing youth to become strong in mind, spirit and body many be seen.

**Sermons-Meetings Told by Methodists**  
"I Make All Things New" is the title of the sermon by Dr. George C. Roseberry, minister, First Methodist church, for both services of worship at 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Music by the youth choir will be "Ancient of Days" and the chancel choir anthem will be, "Send Out Thy Light." Mrs. Jack Harris will be soloist at both services. She will sing "Just Keep on Praying."

The School of Christian Living, held at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. will continue with the interest groups, "Lands of Witness and Decision," "Vocations and You," and "Inquirer's Forum." Interest groups on Japan will be held for the kindergarten, primary, and junior children.

The builder's class will provide the snack supper at 6:30 p.m. with Inspiration Time, at 7 p.m., when the movie, "Younger Brother," will be shown.

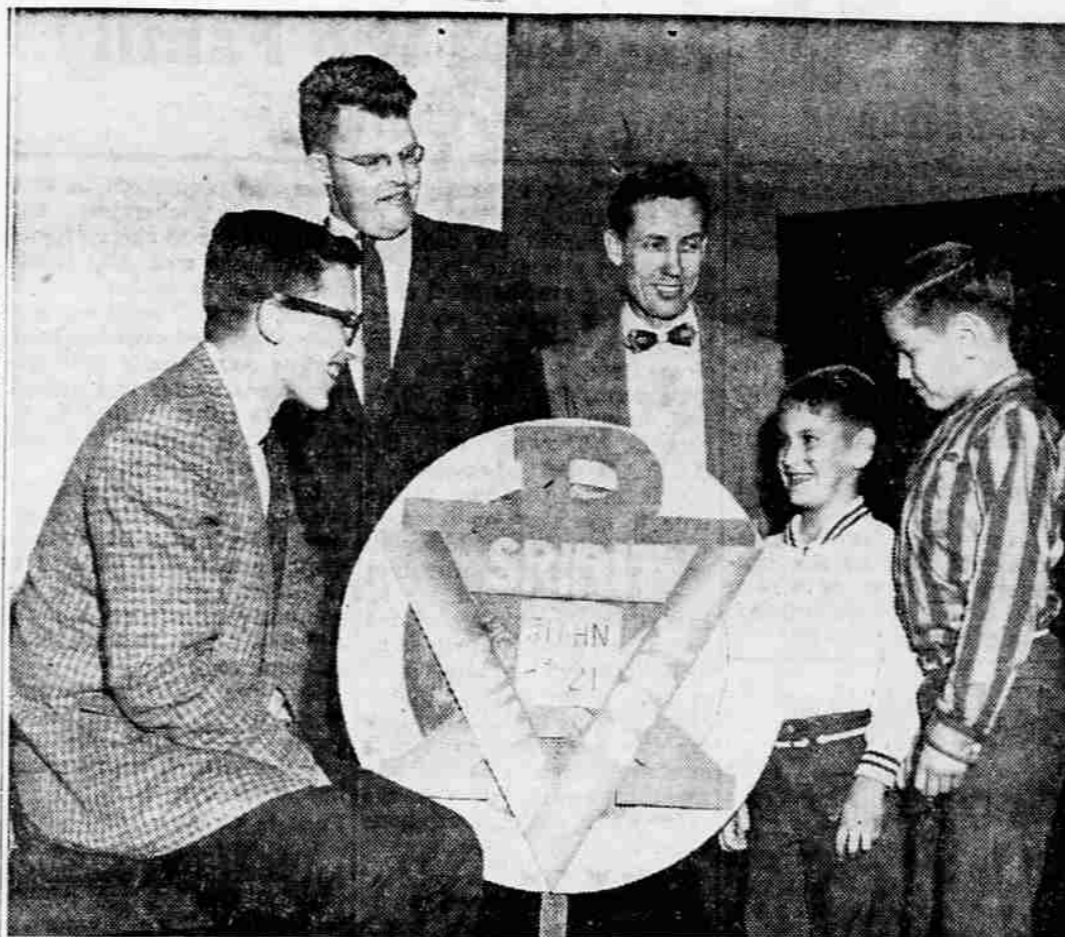
**Congregational Service by Youth**  
In honor of Christian Youth Week members of the Pilgrim Fellowship will take part in the two morning services at the Congregational church Sunday. Clarence Comstock and Nancy Miller will read the scripture. Two others will usher.

The sermon by the Rev. Thomas McCamant will be on "Jesus and His Band of Friends," continuing the series on the Life of Christ.

The Couples club is having a chicken goulash supper at Pilgrim House beginning at 6:30 on Sunday evening.

**Guest Preacher At St. Mark's Sunday**  
Philip Getchell will be guest preacher at both the 9:30 a.m. church school family service Sunday and 11 a.m. morning prayer with sermon service at St. Mark's Episcopal church.

Holy baptism will be held at 12:45 p.m. Sunday at the church.



YMCA SUNDAY — Herb Patridge (left) youth work secretary for YMCA here, explains the YMCA symbol to two Medford ministers and two young members of the local Y. The symbol, which includes letters of the Greek alphabet and the triangle signifying the three aspects of life, will be used by some of the local churches during their services Sunday in recognition of YMCA Sunday. Above are the Rev. Haddon Robinson (second from left) assistant to the pastor, First Baptist church, and the Rev. W. Lee Mansveld, assistant pastor at the First Church of the Nazarene. The boys are John, 8, and Gary Fitchner, 12, both of 227 North Oakdale ave.

Church Officers To Be Installed Sunday  
"Restored Harmony" will be the sermon subject Sunday at the 11 a.m. divine worship service at Ascension Lutheran church, 2501 Barnett rd. The Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson will speak. Church officers will be installed and holy communion observed.

The church council will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

**Assistant Pastor To Preach Sunday**  
The Rev. James W. Neely, pastor of the First Baptist church, traveled to Salem this week to attend the funeral of Dr. Kenneth Tobias, director of the Conservative Baptist Association of Oregon.

Pastor Neely is a member of the C.B.A. of Oregon board of trustees and their representative to the commission for the new church program for 1958. Mr. Neely will preach Sunday in the South Tacoma Baptist church, and Monday he will meet with Conservative Baptist leaders in Washington as they plan for their new church program for 1958.

In the absence of the pastor, the Rev. Haddon Robinson, assistant pastor, will preach at both services of the church on Sunday. In the morning his message will be taken from Ephesians and entitled, "God's Part and Yours." Music will be featured in the 7:45 p.m. service, and the sermon will be on the subject, "The Christian's Use of Music."

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday the combined Baptist Training Union will meet to see "The Hidden Heart," a 30 minute sound film.

**Film To Be Shown During Adventure In Missions Session**  
"Crossroad at Cedarport," a film trip, will be used as the basis for discussion for the third session of the Adventure in Missions, 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Eastwood Baptist church, North Keene Way drive at Ridgeway.

The films trip begins with a narrative about the opposition encountered by a Negro family who try to move into a community of whites. It was produced to be used by churches following the home mission theme: "Christ, the Church, and Race."

The worship service begins at 11 a.m. with the pastor, the Rev. Richard M. Jones, speaking on "Are You Comfortable?" The chancel choir, under the direction of Mrs. Jones, will sing "Take My Life." Nursery care is provided and an extended session for four and five year olds is conducted.

Eastwood Baptist church is located north of Hedrick Junior High school and is affiliated with the American Baptist convention.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
Central Point — Missionary Baptist Sunday school will be held at the Townsend club in Central Point Sunday from 10 until 11:30 a.m.

**MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS**  
The Missionary Volunteers program at 4 p.m. Saturday in the Medford Seventh-day Adventist church will be under the direction of Miss Sharon Koch and will simulate a press conference regarding the Faith for Today television program.

**Protestant Youth To Hold Service**  
"Youth Week observed by Protestant churches throughout the United States will be observed in Medford, Feb. 2. The service will start at 5 p.m. at the First Methodist church, Medford.

David Frohmayer will be worship leader, Elizabeth Praman will read the scriptures, and Kathy Barr will lead the young people in singing. Young people from the various churches will speak and the Medford High school choir will sing under the direction of Lynn Sjolund.

After the service at 6 p.m. the group of young people will go to the YMCA for refreshments and fellowship. Games and singing will follow dinner. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the cost of the food.

The participating churches are First Presbyterian, First Methodist, Zion Lutheran, Friends, First Baptist, St. Mark's Episcopal, First Christian, Eastwood Baptist, all Medford and Phoenix Presbyterians. All youth groups are invited to attend the youth rally.

Joan Laurila is committee chairman in charge of the rally, with Rita Miller secretary, and Mrs. George Flanagan, advisor.

The committee chairmen are Susan Cartwright food; Jeanine James, worship; Phil Morgan radio and TV; Dewey Gail and Rita Miller; registration; and Janet Barker, publicity.

**Methodists To Be At Conference Meeting**  
The mid-year meetings of the boards and commissions and committees of the Oregon conference of the Methodist church will meet in Portland on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Ministers and laymen who are members of the groups include Dr. George G. Roseberry, minister of First Methodist church, Medford, and Ross Youngblood, Medford layman, commission on world service and finance; the Rev. Melvin Dixon, minister of St. Luke's Methodist church, board of temperance; and the Rev. G. A. Trobaugh, associate minister First Methodist church, chairman of board of social and economic relations, radio and film commission, and chairman of the subcommittee on broadcasting.

The Rev. Robert Kingsbury, Cave Junction; the Rev. Louis Miles, Ashland, and the Rev. G. Wesley Turner, Grants Pass, will also attend the meetings.

**Over 180 Delegates Attend Convention**  
More than 180 delegates from the Medford and Central Point congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses are attending the first ministerial convention of the witnesses to be held in five years in Grants Pass today through Sunday.

T. R. Thompson, presiding minister here, has announced that more than 1,000 delegates from northern California and southern Oregon will attend the convention sessions.

Theme for the conference is "Qualified To Teach."

**SERMON TOPIC**  
"Truth" will be the subject of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, sermon at 11 a.m. Sunday. The public is invited to attend all services.

## Westminster Fellowship Sunday to be Observed By Valley Presbyterians

Westminster Fellowship church will share in the morning worship services, and the assistant pastor, the Rev. John Reynolds, will preach on the theme "Lord...Help our Unbelief."

The Westminster choir will sing "Lead me, Lord" at both services, and James Baker will sing the solo "The Lord is My Light."

Sunday afternoon Dr. D. K. West will conduct the second class in the present church membership course at 5 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This course is open to all who are interested in the basic doctrines of Christian faith.

Westminster fellowship for high school students will meet at 7 p.m. in the fireproof room for a joint meeting with the youth groups of the Central Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, and Ashland churches. John Flanagan will be in charge of the meeting which will consist of presenting several skits on well-known Biblical incidents.

Refreshments and devotions will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Flanagan on north Pacific Highway.

**Central Point** — In observance of youth week at First Presbyterian church, Central Point, the young people of the church will conduct the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday. Fellowship hour will be held immediately following the service.

Phoenix — The Rev. Harold Roberts will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service Sunday at Phoenix First Presbyterian church. The newly elected elder-trustees and deacons will be ordained and installed at the service.

The following Sunday the Rev. E. J. Clark will speak and Saturday, Feb. 1, a work day will be held at the manse. All persons who wish to help paint the interior of the building are asked to present that day.

Ashland — "Getting Along With Youth" will be the sermon topic by the Rev. B. J. Holland at Ashland First Presbyterian church Sunday at both the 9:45 and 11 a.m. worship services.

**Sextet To Sing At First Christian**  
"He is Able to Lead You," is the sermon topic at the First Christian church Sunday. A girls sextet will sing, "My Lord and I." Included in the group are Miss Oveta Walden, Miss Sara Hinkle, Miss Lynn Latham, Miss Priscilla Shafer, Miss Donna Demmer and Miss Marilyn Coner. The choir will sing, "Praise the Lord," directed by Mrs. W. C. Piper.

The Men's fellowship are sponsoring a breakfast Sunday between 7 and 9:30 a.m. In observance of Youth Week, an all youth banquet is being held Wednesday at 6 p.m. Both the Christian Youth Fellowship and the Chi Rho Fellowship have an active part in the planning and preparation of the banquet. Joe Lewis will be master of ceremonies during the entertainment.

Saturday the high school youth will finish painting the Sunday school room. Those not needed with the painting will plan details for the youth banquet.

**Missionary To Speak At Trail Community**  
Trail — The Rev. Jack Schisler, missionary from Borneo, will hold evangelistic meetings at the Trail Community church, Jan. 26 through Feb. 2. The opening service will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. with the evening services at 7:30 p.m. Services will not be held Saturday, Feb. 1.

The public is invited to attend.

**BIBLE SERVICES**  
at  
**BIGHAM HALL**  
Jackson County Fairgrounds  
SUNDAYS — 3:00 p.m.  
Wed. and Fridays — 7:45 p.m.  
These services are being held to bring about a deeper understanding of Christ and His teachings for our lives.  
ALL ARE WELCOME  
D. Brist E. Blair

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
United Church of Christ  
Groveland Ave. and Oakwood Drive  
Church Worship at 9:45 and 11 a.m.  
Church School at 9:45 and 11 a.m.  
"Jesus and His Band of Friends"

**First Christian Church**  
"The Friendly Church"  
Welcomes You  
TO ALL SERVICES  
Bible School — 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Service — 10:50 a.m.  
Youth Meeting — 6:30 p.m.  
Evening Service — 7:30 p.m.  
9th and Oakdale • Medford, Ore.