

Church Membership Here Rises 5.18% During Year

PEGGY ANN HUTCHINSON
Mail Tribune Church Editor

Church membership continues to rise in Medford, according to a recent survey of 43 of the 44 churches within the city conducted by the Mail Tribune. The churches report a total membership of 13,920 compared to 13,224 a year ago.

The gain of 696 is equal to 5.18 per cent for the year. The number of Protestants reported increased 5.46 per cent over the previous annual total with the number of Roman Catholics increasing 4.68 per cent.

Three churches with more than 1,000 members were reported. They were Sacred Heart Catholic, 3,200; First Presbyterian, 1,616; and First Methodist, 1,334. Churches with more than 500 members included Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 848; First Christian, 710; and First Baptist, 636.

St. Mark's Episcopal reported a 9.7 per cent increase in membership but gave no specific membership statistics. All churches reported a slight increase since this time last year although many churches held about even due to transfers and deaths.

Adventist Gain

An example of this is the Seventh-day Adventist church in Medford which reported 416 members in May, 1957. Current figures show a membership of 418 although the church had added 40 members during the year.

The listing of these data gives rise to the usual questions about definitions of membership. The Roman Catholics count all baptized persons, including infants. Most Protestant bodies count only the person who have attained full membership and all but a small minority of these are over 13 years of age.

Statistics Not Available

The Church of Christ, Scientist, did not furnish membership figures because of a regulation that that body forbids "the numbering of people and the reporting of such statistics for publication."

Of the total reporting slightly more than 100 are from Jehovah's Witnesses. That body designates all of its members as ministers.

One of the churches included in the statistics is the Unity Center of Medford which was started three years ago. It reports a membership of 85 with a regular attendance of approximately 100. Membership in Unity is unique in that there are no requirements other than a desire to know God and to understand, love, and obey His laws of being. It is not necessary for a person to discontinue membership in any other organization in order to become a Unity member.

New Groups Reporting

Of the total increase of 696 persons reported over the 1957 figure, 40 members are reported by two churches that were established here during the year. They are the Open Bible Standard church and the Aquarian Hall of Truth.

Two of the larger churches reported an increase of more than 10 per cent. They were First Baptist, 11 per cent, and First Christian, 10.9 per cent. Largest percentage increases, naturally, were found in the churches with less than 100 members.

Although the churches included in the survey are Med-

ford churches, membership in these bodies is not confined to Medford residents. Members attend churches from various points in the county, it was discovered, with some Medford residents attending the smaller churches outside of the city. Therefore, an accurate percentage of Medford's population who are church members is not available.

Attendance Larger

Many of the churches contacted reported that their

average church attendance exceeds that of their total membership.

The percentage increase in Medford for Roman Catholics is higher than the national church as reported by the official Catholic directory for 1958, published recently. There are 141,000 Roman Catholics reported in the Archdiocese of Portland, according to the Catholic Sentinel.

1957 Award of Merit Winner



CHURCH NEWS
National Religious Publicity Council

Former Assistant Pastor Sunday Speaker at Church

The Rev. Hadden Robinson will bring the messages at both worship services of the First Baptist church Sunday in the absence of the pastor, the Rev. James Neely, who is attending the National Conservative Baptist meetings in Denver, Col.

At the 11 a.m. worship hour, Mr. Robinson will speak on "Scandal in the Parsonage," based on the book of Hosea. "Get Up and Grow"

will be the sermon title for his message at the 7:45 p.m. service. The adult and youth choirs will provide special music for the two services.

Mr. Robinson, formerly assistant pastor at the Medford church, is now engaged in evangelistic and Bible conference work, while he and his family maintain their home in Medford.

On Saturday, June 28, the annual Sunday school picnic of the church will be held at TouVelle park. A bus will leave the church at 5 p.m., and a potluck picnic will be served at 6 p.m. Games, recreation, and a devotional program will complete the evening.

First Christian Tells of Events

For the Sunday morning worship service of the First Christian church, the Rev. W. C. Piper will preach on "The Voice of God." Mrs. Walter Larsen and Warren Fairbanks will sing, "Take Up Thy Cross." For the evening service, Mr. Piper will preach on "God and America."

Today the high school young people are leaving for Pierce's cabin on Squaw lake for their annual planning retreat. About 15 young people will be accompanied by their adult sponsors.

Vacation Bible school will be held from July 14 to 25 this year and will include four years-olds and those who have completed the sixth grade in public school. It will begin at 9 and end about 11:45 a.m. each day except Saturday and Sunday. The school is under the direction of Miss Eleanor Bower and will have the theme "Exploring God's Word."

Nazarene Pastor Going on Vacation

The Rev. Raymond W. Hurn, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, 520 North Holly st., will speak Sunday at 10:50 a.m. on "Drawing Nearer to God." Communion will be observed during this service.

Assistant pastor, the Rev. Walter C. Morris, will speak in the evening worship service.

The Hurn family will leave for a three weeks trip to Kansas Monday where they will visit Mrs. Hurn's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kirkpatrick in Hutchinson, and Mr. Hurn's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. W. H. Hurn in Jerome, Idaho where his father is the pastor of the Church of the Nazarene.

The Hurns will return to Medford for Sunday, July 20. Mr. Morris will fill the pulpit in the absence of the pastor.

Central Point Group Tells of Activities

Central Point — The Rev. Mr. Jean M. Shelley, minister of Church of Christ, Central Point, will speak on "Robes and Sackcloth" Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

Both the church school and church worship are held at the one time of 10 a.m. during the summer period. The Lord's supper will be celebrated at the church service. The sermon of the Rev. Thomas McCamant will be on "God's Covenant with Us." Mrs. Archie Pierce will sing.

The final session of the current membership class will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m.

CAMP WHITE SERVICES

Camp White—The Rev. J. J. Munshaw, pastor of Eagle Point Community Bible church, will conduct a 6 p.m. worship Sunday at the theater, Camp White. The general Protestant worship service will be held at 10:15 a.m. in the Veterans Administration chapel with the Rev. Perry M. Johnson, chaplain, in charge.

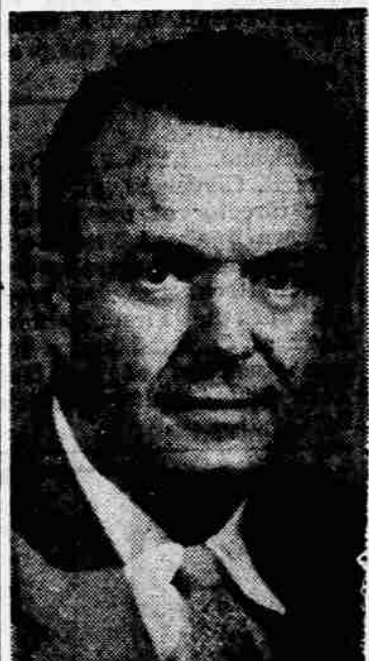
SERMON SUBJECT

"Christian Science" will be the subject of First Church of Christ, Scientist, sermon at 11 a.m. Sunday. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Presbyterians In Medford Tell of Coming Events

At both services, of the First Presbyterian church Sunday Richard E. Hanna, a recent graduate of San Francisco Theological Seminary, will speak on the subject "Bear the Evangel of Christ."

The sacrament of infant baptism will be administered at the 11 a.m. service. At the 9:30 service the Westminster choir will sing "O Lord Most"



SAM B. HARBISON
Keynote Speaker

Holy" and at 11 a.m. the chancel choir will sing "The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune." The soloist for both services will be John Frohnmayer who will sing "Repent Ye."

At 8 p.m. a service of ordination to the gospel ministry of Mr. Hanna will be conducted by the Presbytery of Southwest Oregon.

The current church membership class will meet Sunday with the session in the sanctuary at 5 p.m. Dr. West will give a brief message on the sacraments of the church.



LAWRENCE CLARK
Scheduled on Program

and those coming by confession of faith for the first time will be baptized.

On Sunday afternoon a group of men from the church will travel to Brookings to assist in the "junior version" of a Western Area Conference of Southwest Oregon Presbyterian Men.

Sam Harbison, local attorney and vice president of the National Council of Presbyterian Men, will deliver the keynote address Sunday afternoon in the new Presbyterian church there.

More than 75 men from Presbyterian churches will attend the meeting. Purpose of the meeting will be stated by Lawrence Clark, past president of the Presbyterian Men's group of First Presbyterian church, Medford, with the Rev. John O. Reynolds, assistant pastor of Medford First Presbyterian church, giving the closing address.

Fellowships

The junior high fellowship for seventh and eighth grade young people will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Miss Marjorie Garner, 619 1/2 E. Main st. The program emphasis will be reports from junior high campers who spent the week at Lake of the Woods. Freshmen fellowship for ninth grade students will meet at 1:30 p.m. for their annual picnic.

At 7 p.m. the Westminster fellowship will meet at the church to hear a talk by Dusan Pasic, the Yugoslavian student who is making his home with the Chandler Dews. The Geneva fellowship will meet at the church at 8 p.m. to attend the ordination of Mr. Hanna. Fireside will be held afterwards at the home of Miss Billie Wood, 112 South Keeneway drive.

Vacation church school will continue into its second week on Monday. Children four through eleven years of age, except five-year-olds who met last week only, may enroll and participate in the second week of school. Classes will be held each day Monday through Thursday beginning at 9 and dismissing at 11:30 a.m.

Scholar Says Not to Start Reading Bible With Old Testament

Editor's note: Dr. J. Carter Swaim, subject of this week's United Press International religious news column by Louis Cassels, was one of the principal speakers October, 1957, during the use and understanding of the Bible conference held in Medford. Dr. Swaim spoke at the Medford High school auditorium during a Bible hymn festival held the first evening of the conference and conducted a workshop on God and the Bible.

Now go on to the miscellaneous "writings" preserved in the Old Testament — the poetry of the Psalms, the mov-

dealt with in the New Testament.

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

One reason why many people have difficulty in reading the Bible is that they begin at the beginning.

That's the wrong place to start, according to Dr. J. Carter Swaim, a noted biblical scholar who heads the English Bible department of the National Council of Churches.

Swaim has composed a little handbook on Bible reading. His suggestions on understanding the scriptures include a sort of roadmap to enable the reader to get through the whole book without "boggling down in the begats."

"Since the Bible is supremely a book about Christ, it is important to begin with those sections which tell what he did when he was here among men," says Swaim.

That means beginning with the New Testament Gospels. But Swaim would not have you read them in order — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Read Mark First

"Mark, earliest and shortest of the Gospels, ought to be read first—and at a single sitting," he says. "Here we are confronted at once by 'The Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.'"

"Luke's account should be read next, noting Jesus' concern for all sort of people, and how, by teaching and example, he 'went about doing good.'"

Next, Swaim recommends, read John, the most "theological" of the Gospels. Then you are ready for Matthew, a book which contains the sermon on the mount and many familiar parables.

In Swaim's sequence, as in the Bible's, the Gospels are followed by the Book of Acts, which records the early history of the Christian Community, and by the letters, or "Epistles," which Paul and other Apostles wrote to the young churches that sprang up in Asia Minor during the first century A.D.

"We are ready now to explore the Old Testament which . . . looks forward to the Messiah's coming."

Don't Begin With Genesis

But Swaim says, it is best not to begin at the Book of Genesis and read straight through the Old Testament. Start with the Prophets whose writings are referred to in the New Testament: Isaiah, Micah, Hosea, Jeremiah, Malachi, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, Zachariah, Kings, Samuel.

After the Prophets, read the books in which the law of Moses is set forth — Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Consult Bible commentaries or the footnotes in a good edition of the Bible to see how these books are

related to the New Testament.

Campaign Closes At Free Methodist

Pictures of the missionary work in Haiti will be shown Sunday at 7 p.m. at Free Methodist church, 1294 South Peach st. At 7:30 p.m. the Rev. M. C. Bidwell will conclude his evangelistic campaign at the church.

Themes of the three remaining services will be "What Lacketh Thou" which is scheduled tonight, "What Are You Waiting For," Sunday morning; and the last sermon Sunday evening, "Missing God's visitation."

During the campaign Mr. Bidwell and his three children have been singing quartets and Mrs. Bidwell presenting her chalk drawings during congregational singing.

District Fellowship In Central Point

Central Point—A district fellowship meeting will be held at the Pentecostal Church of God, 513 Pine st., Central Point, Saturday. The services will start at 2:30 p.m., with junior church at 6 p.m. and the evening service at 7 p.m.

The Rev. John Sarrett from California will be the evening speaker and ministers from various church will be preaching in the afternoon.

A basket lunch will be served at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The Rev. W. H. Johnson is host pastor.

dealt with in the New Testament.



DR. J. CARTER SWAIM

ing stories of Job and Ruth, the wisdom of Proverbs.

Next to last in Swaim's list is the book which comes first in the Bible—Genesis.

The last book of the Bible, Revelations, also comes last in Swaim's list. The bewildering which this book of "apocalyptic vision" often produces can be avoided, Swaim says, by remembering that the writer of Revelations was using symbolic figures, "well-recognized" by men of his own era.

Eastwood Tells Topics-Events

What's In A Name" is the title of the sermon for the 11 a.m. worship service at the Eastwood Baptist church, North Keeneway dr. at Ridge-way ave. This is the third sermon in a series on the Lord's Prayer since begun by the pastor, the Rev. Richard M. Jones. Mr. Jones will also be singing the baritone solo "If With All Your Hearts" from the "Elijah" by Mendelssohn. This will be the pastor's last sermon before leaving for a two weeks vacation.

There will be Baptist Youth Fellowship meeting or evening service during the pastor's absence.

Eastwood Baptist church is located north of Hedrick Junior High school and is affiliated with the American Baptist convention. The public is invited to its services.

The final program of the vacation church school will be held at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Eastwood Baptist church. Children in the kindergarten, primary and junior age groups will participate and a display of the materials they have made and used will be presented. This program will conclude the two week school which has been under the direction of Mrs. John Yungen.

Members to Attend Annual Camp Meet

The Rev. Loyce C. Carver, pastor of The Apostolic Faith church, Third st. and Central ave., announces the opening of the annual camp meeting convention of the denomination in Portland Sunday. It will continue for three weeks concluding on July 20.

Delegations are expected from all parts of the United States, Canada, Hawaii and Japan, including 192 who have registered to attend at least part of the meeting from Medford.

The service schedule at the local church will be changed during the camp meeting period. Sunday school will be held at 9:30 a.m.; morning worship service at 11 a.m. and the midweek prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 7:30. The regular full schedule of meetings will be resumed July 27.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Eagle Point—Clifford Turvey will speak Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church. His topic will be "Religious Liberty." The prayer meeting Wednesday evening will be held at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Gander.

Amazing Return Told to Minute Meditation Plan

An "Amazing" response to the telephone ministry of First Presbyterian church, Medford, which started the week of March 14, is reported by church officials.

During the first several days of full operation the response was so great it was necessary to install an additional machine, according to Ross Gilkison, member of the deacon committee in charge of the "minute meditation" service.

A devotional message is heard as individuals dial the telephone number 3-SPRING 3-7331. This can be heard day and night. Each day a brief message, scripture, and prayer, by either Dr. D. Kirkland West, pastor; the Rev. John O. Reynolds, assistant pastor; or George Selleck, summer seminary student assistant, may be heard.

Throughout Valley

People from throughout the Rogue Valley have been calling, it was reported. During the day and evening two trunk lines and machines are now working to capacity.

Due to the tremendous number of calls, people who dial, often hear the busy signal. Pacific Telephone and Telegraph equipment recorded a high of 1,037 busy signals during one 24-hour period, it was reported. This has now dropped to around 132 busy signals.

With the response continuing at the rate when the service was first installed, the additional machine was installed so that it is possible for people to receive the message without having to dial a number of times, Gilkison said.

"A great number of people have expressed their gratefulness for this ministry and have advised that they are receiving a blessing. It is our hope and prayer that a great multitude may find help for their spiritual lives through this medium," Dr. West said.

Methodist Minister Arrives at Churches

Cave Junction — The Rev. Harold Mackey who is replacing the Rev. Robert Kingsbury at Cave Junction and Wilderville will preach his first sermon there June 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the Immanuel church at Cave Junction.

The appointment was made at the Oregon Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in Portland last week when Mr. Kingsbury was designated to serve in Eugene as the director of Wesley Foundation, the Methodist student program at the University of Oregon.

The Kingsburys moved north Wednesday and the Mackey family are expected to move into the parsonage at Kerby today or Saturday. Mr. Mackey has served in Molalla since 1953. He began his ministry in Michigan in 1943 and from there he came to the Northwest where he has served churches in Idaho before coming to Molalla. Mr. and Mrs. Mackey have two children, Margaret who will be in the eighth grade, and David, a fourth grader.

Mrs. John W. Smith is arranging a coffee hour following the morning worship service at Immanuel Methodist church to give the congregation an opportunity of meeting Mr. Mackey and his family.

Choir Scheduled By First Baptist Here

"The Biola Herald," of Biola Bible College, Los Angeles, will present an inspirational program in word and song at the First Baptist church, North Central ave. at Fifth st., Wednesday, July 2, at 7:45 p.m. The musical group is composed of four young men and three young women who are students of the college.

Biola is an interdenominational college which offers degrees in liberal arts, music, Bible, Christian education and missions. The college, currently observing its 50th anniversary, is constructing a new campus 22 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles to be ready for occupancy in 1959.

Church Music Topic Tonight of Group

The new rules on church music in the Roman Catholic church will be discussed tonight at 8 o'clock at the meeting of the Young Christian Workers of Medford at St. Mary's school annex.

A demonstration of a model meeting will be presented to the group. Members are reminded to take note books and magazines for Overseas Missions. Miss Delores Zeleznik is in charge of the project.

The group will attend a steak fry Saturday evening. For further information contact Miss Eileen M. Doherty. Last week end the group had a picnic at Brookings, Ore.

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.

William C. Piper

Minister

Events Told By Presbyterians

Ashland—"The Drama of God's Love" will be the sermon topic Sunday at both the 9:45 and 11 a.m. services at Ashland First Presbyterian by the Rev. B. J. Holland, minister. Communion will be observed.

Phoenix—"Where Liberty Was Born" will be the sermon topic at the First Presbyterian church, Phoenix, Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service, by the Rev. William A. Saladin.

The daily vacation Bible school, which has been in progress for the past week, will close tonight with a program at 7:30 o'clock. Topic for the school was "Bible Sea Adventures" and the children of the three departments, beginners, primary, and junior, will display their hand work and give memory work that they learned during the school.

The Sunday school officers and teachers will meet at the home of Mrs. Ray Claffin, superintendent, Tuesday, July 1, at 1 p.m.

Two members of the high school group attended the young people camp at Lake of the Woods last week. The students, Charles Swingle and Carol Morin, reported at the Sunday morning service of their experiences. This week Cynthia Owens, Jimmie Marris, Mike Gardner, and Stewart Vencell of the junior intermediate group will attend.

Ministers Attend Retreat July 1-3

The fourth annual retreat of the Methodist ministers and their families will be held July 1, 2 and 3 at the Methodist summer camp, District Superintendent Meredith Groves will be in charge of camp with Dr. George Roseberry, Medford, in charge of the program. The Rev. Clarence Forsburg of First Methodist church, Eugene, will be the featured evening speaker.

Dr. Dallas McNail of Klamath Falls will lead a group discussion on stewardship as expressed in the every member canvass and loyalty dinners. Louis Boeve of Coquille is in charge of the missions seminar. The Rev. James Jenkins, Roseburg; and the Rev. John Ginter, Sutherlin, will be in charge of workshops on education evangelism and visual education. Dr. Roseberry will be in charge of a discussion group on the art and technique of public worship.

There will be nearly 50 ministers and their families attending the Eugene District of the Oregon Conference annual meeting.

Mrs. Meredith Groves will lead the minister's wives in discussing the "Life of the Minister's Family" in the home and in the parish.

Local Group Plan To Attend Convention

Jehovah's Witnesses from the Medford and Central Point congregations today announced plans are underway to attend an international convention of Jehovah's Witnesses in New York City this summer.

T. R. Thompson, presiding minister of the local group, said the convention could be the largest in the history of Jehovah's Witnesses. It is scheduled for July 27 through Aug. 3 and will be held in Yankee Stadium and the Polo Grounds simultaneously.

Thompson stated that it is not yet known how many Witnesses from the area will attend, but, he added, arrangements are being made for travel by plane and train. He added it may be necessary to make limited meeting arrangements or cancel local meetings altogether during convention time.

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UNITY CENTER of MEDFORD

Affiliated

Unity School of Christianity, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Sun. Devotional Service 11 a.m.

Sunday School—Children

All ages 11:00 a.m.

at

PYTHIAN HALL

WEEKLY CLASSES

Thursday Mid-Week Service 7:30 p.m.

Friday Morning 11:00 a.m. in Center Room

Center Open Daily 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

HOLLY BUILDING

Katherine Bosworth, Minister

Residence TA 6-2098

Office SP 2-6902

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