

Methodist Church Called "Representative" Group

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

Theodore Roosevelt once described the Methodist church as the "most representative" of America's religious bodies.

The description is still valid. The nation's largest Protestant denomination has nearly 10 million members in 40,000 congregations from coast to coast. It is typically American both in its strength and its weaknesses.

The strengths include a genius for organization that has produced one of the most efficient administrative structures in the realm of religion; a driving determination to get things done that has built the largest Sunday school system, the biggest foreign missionary force, and the most far-flung religious publishing operation in Protestantism; and an acute social conscience that has put Methodists in the forefront of virtually every

major reform movement in U.S. history.

The weaknesses were bluntly summarized by Methodist Bishop F. Gerald Enslay of Des Moines, Iowa, in a recent series of addresses on "Methodist characteristics." This denomination of doers has been so preoccupied with "practical" matters that it has tended to neglect the doctrinal roots of its social ethic.

Originated in England. It would be difficult to compile even a brief list of distinguished Methodist theologians; it would be still more difficult to formulate a detailed statement of beliefs on which Methodist ministers could agree. So said the bishop.

The Methodist movement, which now has some 25 million adherents around the world, originated at England's Oxford university in 1729. A group of students, led by John and Charles Wesley,

banded together to read the Bible, discuss theology, and pray. Other students, deriding their methodical habits, gave them the nickname "Methodists."

John Wesley was an ordained priest of the Church of England, and remained one until his death. He did not intend to start a new denomination. He wanted to launch a reform movement within his own church. For 50 years he traveled throughout England and once to the far-away British colony of Georgia in the new world preaching the Gospel.

He emphasized—as Methodism does to this day—the importance of a personal religious experience of conversion, simple trust in Jesus Christ as sole source of man's salvation, and high moral standards.

The "Methodist societies" founded by the Wesleys spread to America. After the Revolutionary War, they formally broke with the Church of England. The Methodist Episcopal church was organized at Baltimore, Md., in 1784.

Denomination Grew
The denomination grew with young America. Its famous "circuit-riding" ministers, among the most heroic missionaries of all time, followed the pioneers as the frontier moved westward. By the time of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln described the Methodists as the largest and "most important" religious body in America.

Agitation by northern Methodists for abolition of slavery split the church in 1844. The breach was not healed until 1893, when the principal northern and southern branches merged to form the present Methodist church.

Methodism once claimed to be the "church of the poor." Its churches now are predominantly middle-class in membership—so much so that a national conference was summoned last year to study ways of reviving a Methodist ministry to working people.

The Methodist church no longer casts an official frown on dancing and card playing. But it still teaches total abstinence for alcoholic beverages. Its board of temperance seeks to further, in local option elections, the cause of prohibition which Methodists like Carrie Nation and Bishop James Cannon Jr. once succeeded in writing into the national Constitution.

In Thick of Controversy
Methodists are, naturally, in the thick of the currently controversial over racial segregation. Machinery was set in motion at the 1956 general conference to eliminate the "central jurisdiction" in which most Negro members of the Methodist church have previously been grouped.

The list of Methodists-known is long. It includes 105 members of the present Congress—more than any other denomination can claim. It also includes four presidents of the past—Polk, Grant, Hayes and McKinley; two present cabinet officers, Treasury Secretary Robert B. Anderson and Welfare Secretary Arthur S. Flemming; Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Whitaker; chain store magnate S. S. Kresge; and baseball's Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson.

SERMON SUBJECT
"Christ Jesus" will be the sermon subject Sunday at the First Church of Christ, Scientist, at 11 a.m. at the church, 100 Windsor ave. Everyone is welcome to attend.

They will also relate some of their experiences on the Navajo reservation to the boys and girls at the opening service of the Sunday school which begins at 9:45 a.m.

The Misses Pearson and White travel to the Navajo reservation each week to carry on their missionary work among the Indians. In addition to their outstanding work they have built a church at Winslow and minister to the Indians there.

The public is invited to attend the service.

UNITY CENTER
of MEDFORD
995 S. Oakdale
Affiliated
Unity School of Christianity,
Lee's Summit, Mo.

Regular Sunday
Devotional Services 11:00 a.m.
As usual
PYTHIAN HALL
5th and Grape Sts.

All weekly classes and Study Groups will be held at the Center, 995 S. Oakdale.

Center Rm. Open Daily
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Unity Radio Program, 2:25 to 3:30 a.m. on KDOV—1300 on Your Dial. Tune in for Daily Word.

For Further Information—Call Katherine Bosworth, Minister
Office SF 2-8992

Tonight at 6:30 o'clock Cub Pack 35, which is sponsored by the church, will hold its annual Blue and Gold banquet in the Odd Fellows hall. All Cub and their parents are invited to attend.

Sermon Topics Told by Church Through Easter

The Rev. Thomas McCamant has announced the sermon topics at the Congregational church for the month of March, concluding with Palm Sunday and Easter.

The topics deal with fundamentals of Christian faith and hope. They are "Peace in the World," "Peace in the Heart," "Knowing God," "Suffering with Christ," and "Joy in Christ."

Services will continue at 10 a.m. unless otherwise announced. Church school meets at the same hour and there is also nursery care for younger children. The time of the two services on Easter will be announced later.

The Pilgrim Fellowship meets Sunday at 7 p.m. The prayer study group continues to meet Wednesday at 8 p.m.

A new membership class is being organized and will meet for the first time Friday at 8 p.m. Six sessions are held and any person is welcome to enroll whether or not he has decided to join the church.

The discussion method is followed. Topics deal with basic issues of Christian faith and practice.

St. Peter's Tells Sunday Subject

"Christ the True Refuge for All Sinners" is the sermon topic chosen for Sunday's services by the Rev. John E. Simon, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran church, 1020 East Main st. The service begins at 11 a.m.

Church school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. Christ's fourth saying from the Cross, "My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" is the text and topic for the fourth special Lenten service Wednesday at St. Peter's at 7:30 p.m.

The adult instruction class continues with its audio-visual lessons in the fundamental teachings of the Bible at 4 p.m. Sunday in the church parlors. The junior confirmation classes meet on Saturday morning.

The Lutheran Hour is heard every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. on radio station KWIN. Dr. Oswald Hoffman is the regular speaker.

Sermon Series Ends At First Christian

"I Am the True Vine" will be the title of the sermon by the Rev. Richard M. Jones, at the 11 a.m. service Sunday at the Eastwood Baptist church, North Keene Way dr. at Ridgeway ave.

This is the fifth sermon in a pre-Easter series under the general theme "An Autobiography of Jesus." The church choir, under the direction of Mrs. Jones, will sing "O Bread of Life." The Lord's Supper will be observed.

The young people will meet at 6 p.m. for Dine-A-Mite, a snack supper, before dividing into junior high and senior high groups for planning and program.

A history of the church in a slide and script presentation will be part of the churchmanship class which begins at 7:30 p.m. The class is for all new members, inquirers and others who might be interested. Robert Balk, moderator, and Dean S. Anderson will lead the class.

Eastwood Baptist church is located north of Hedrick Junior High school and is affiliated with the American Baptist convention. Visitors are welcome to any of its services.

Adventists Schedule Service Tonight; Academy Schedules Events Saturday

The Breese Evangelistic company will hold its regular Friday night service in the Esquire theater tonight. It will begin with the song service at 7:30 o'clock and followed by Pastor Breese's Bible study. There will be one more meeting in this series.

Seventh-day Adventists will discuss one of the nation's top public health problems Saturday at the 11 a.m. worship hour.

The problem is alcoholism, currently America's number four health menace.

Alcoholics Study
"With 5,000,000 alcoholics

in the United States, according to the Yale School of Alcoholism Studies, and some 3,000,000 'on the way,' the church must do something unusual and effective to curb this growing blight on our nation," Pastor John Trude said in announcing the services.

The Saturday service, according to Pastor Trude, is designated as Temperance Commitment day, and all members of the church will be asked to pledge themselves to a program of enlightened education of others in relation to the public health problem of alcoholism.

"One out of every four mentally disturbed persons is an alcoholic," Pastor Trude said, "and one out of every seven persons who take their first drink becomes an alcoholic. The church cannot stand idly by and watch."

Literature Distributed
The minister said members of the churches will be asked to participate actively in the future in distribution campaigns of educational magazines and pamphlets aimed at the prevention of alcoholism in addition to giving financial support to educational campaigns for schools, clubs, churches and governmental organizations.

Missionary Volunteer meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Friends Church Starts Campaign
"God's Road Blocks" will be the theme of pastor Clynton Crisman's messages at the Friends church Sunday in the two worship services at 9:45 and 11 a.m. The choir will sing an arrangement of the familiar gospel song, "In the Garden." Nursery will be conducted by Mrs. Milo Hardin and junior church by Miss Rita Miller.

"March to Sunday School in March" is the theme of the attendance campaign which begins Sunday, leading up to Easter. Guest speaker for the opening assemblies of Sunday school in Harmony hall at 9:45 and 11 a.m. will be the Rev. Lewis Collins, Central Point, who recently made an evangelistic tour of Japan. The monthly missionary offering will be taken for the work of Miss Irene Webster Smith, an Irish friend, who has served many years in Japan as missionary.

At 6:30 p.m. Junior, Intermediate and Senior Christian Endeavor groups will meet. Subject for the pastor's message at the 7:30 p.m. praise and worship service will be, "Compromising with Evil."

Salvationism Day Set at Local Corps
The film "The Life of William Booth" will be shown Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Salvation Army, 326 North Bartlett st. The film will show the history of the Corps.

The day will be a day of Salvationism, it was reported, in connection with the Salvation Army's Evangelistic Crusade which is being conducted throughout the western United States.

Other activities Saturday will include a young people's dinner at 12 noon, a united open air service at 2:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. Another open air service at 7 p.m. will precede the film showing.

Topics Announced By Unity Center
Sermon subjects at Unity Center of Medford during the next four Sundays will be on subjects taken from the Charles F. Moore book "Keep a True Lent." The subject Sunday will be "Conservation and Youth." The service is held at 11 a.m. at the Pythian hall, Fifth and Grape sts. The Unity Center is open daily Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 995 South Oakdale ave.

Zion Lutheran Plans Burning of Mortgage

A mortgage burning ceremony will be held Sunday at Zion Lutheran church. The mortgage, which originally dates back to 1927 with refinancing in 1943, was on the church building in the amount of \$30,000.

Taking part in the ceremony will be the pastor, the Rev. H. C. Covert, Chris Wolff, Hugo Guenther, Paul Rynning, and Otto Ewaldsen.

The sermon will be based on the eighth commandment, "thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor." It will be entitled "Judgment Is Out of Our Hands."

The Junior Luther League snow party will be held Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Monday at 6:30 p.m. a potluck supper will be held at the church followed by a talk by the Rev. Melvin Langland, missionary from Africa.

Former Resident To Speak Here
The Rev. William O. Walker, former resident and member of First Methodist church who is now pastor at the Drain church, will speak here Sunday night. He will preach on "Conquering Inner Space." Mr. Walker was graduated from Willamette university and Boston School of Theology.

Dr. George Roseberry, local pastor, will preach his second pre-Easter sermon on the theme "True Judgement." A solo "If With All Your Hearts," will be sung by Otis Swisher. The youth choir will sing "None Other Lamb" at the 9:30 a.m. service while the chancel choir will sing "Let All Things Now Living."

The Commission on Christian Education will hold their monthly meeting at the church on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:45 p.m. The choir rehearsals will be at the church Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Schedules Events
"The Almighty Jesus" will be the sermon subject Sunday at the 11 a.m. worship service at Ascension Lutheran church, 2501 Barnett rd. The Rev. Elvin S. Tollefson, pastor, will speak.

Mrs. L. Phillips will be soloist for the service. The Deacons will meet Monday at 8 p.m. and the Sunday school teachers meeting is scheduled Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The Lenten service will be held Wednesday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m. with the sermon subject "Jesus On Trial Before the High Priest."

Thursday Ernest Johnson, teacher from South Africa, will show motion pictures and slides of his work in the industrial school, medical and church work. The public is invited to the 7:30 p.m. program.

District Fellowship Meeting Scheduled
Central Point—There will be a district fellowship meeting at the Pentecostal Church of God 513 Pine st., Saturday, Feb. 28, with services at 2:30 and 7 p.m.

A junior church will be held at 6 p.m. Churches will be represented from as far north as Canyonville, it was reported.

The women of the churches will serve a basket lunch at 5 p.m. in the American Legion hall.

Speakers will be included at the services and the public is invited to attend.

Nazarenes to Hear Pre-Easter Sermon

The Rev. Raymond W. Hurn, pastor of First Church of the Nazarene, will continue the series of pre-Easter sermons on "Crosses of Calvary" in the worship service Sunday at 11 a.m. The service is broadcast on radio KDOV.

The sanctuary choir under the direction of Mrs. Joe Johnson will sing "O, What a Wonderful Saviour." Also featured during the service will be the male quartet.

Pastor Returns From Convention
The Rev. R. H. Mathewson, pastor of the Foursquare church, East Jackson st. and Biddle rd., returned this week from the 36th annual convention of the denomination held at its Los Angeles headquarters. The convention lasted eight days.

Among the reports presented during the convention Mr. Mathewson reported that during the last year there were 82,511 converts and that the average Sunday school attendance for the denomination is 69,774.

According to the local pastor there are 723 Foursquare churches in the United States and Canada and 806 mission stations and meeting places in 28 foreign countries.

The denomination also has three Bible training centers. The denomination also conducts 28 youth camps.

Youth Choir Plans Camp White Service
The youth choir of the First Southern Baptist church will present a song service Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at Camp White. The choir includes young people between the ages of 13 and 21 and is under the direction of Maynard Hadley and John Mitchell.

The monthly meeting of the Siskiyou Association of Southern Baptist churches will be held at the First Baptist church in Grants Pass Friday, March 6. Emphasis will be on training union work.

The Rev. J. M. McCraw is pastor of the local church.

First Christian Church
"The Friendly Church" Welcomes You TO ALL SERVICES
Two Morning Services
8:30 a.m. and 10:55 a.m.
Bible School—9:45 a.m.
Christian Youth Fellowship—6:30 p.m.
No evening service
9th and Oakdale • Medford, Ore.

"THE QUEST"
Newest Feature Film
By Moody Bible Institute
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
N. Central at Fifth
Sunday, March 1
7:45 p.m.
Public invited

Lessons for Today
From Ancient Civilizations

WELCOME TO BIG YOUTH RALLY
with
Word of Life Fellowship, New York City
At McLoughlin Junior High School
320 West 2nd Street, Medford
TONIGHT—FEBRUARY 27—AT 7:30 P.M.

Former Bandleader, Jack Wyrzten, International Youth Leader (well known in the east and middle west and many foreign countries, with crowds over 40,000 in Yankee Stadium, and over-flow crowds at Times Square and Madison Square Garden, and as many as 1,000 Decisions, Word of Life broadcasts over 265 radio stations from coast to coast every week-end. Over 8 million listen to this Word of Life Hour from Times Square, New York City, also supports 65 foreign missionaries.

Norman Clayton, organist, a familiar name to all hymn lovers, he has had over 25 sacred hymn books published. He began playing the organ at age 12, and continues organist in many of the New York churches.

Ken Nanfelt, tenor soloist while attending Wheaton Academy, Wheaton, Illinois, traveled as soloist with the academy in many foreign countries, since joining the Word of Life he is soloist on the coast to coast week-end broadcasts and now is traveling with Evangelist Wyrzten in United States and Canada.

PURUCKER MUSIC HOUSE
111 North Central Ave., Medford, Oregon
has donated the use of a Hammond Organ, requested by Word of Life and favored by Norman Clayton.

CHRIST

HEAR DALE ROLLINS
Nationally Known
(Voice of Healing Assoc.)
BEGINNING:
7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1st, continuing every night at 7:30 through March 15th.

FAITH TABERNACLE
Highway 99 So.—Ashland

See God's Miraculous Power in Action Nightly—The Blind Eyes Opened! Sick are Healed! Deaf Ears Unstopped! Bus runs from Medford EVERY SERVICE. For transportation Call MU 2-3401. Listen to KWIN Every Sunday at 4:30.

Leo C. Wine — Pastor

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