

SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS

Sunday, Feb. 24

Christian Science
"Mind," is the sermon topic for all Christian Science churches this Sunday. The text for the sermon, taken from Romans 1, "Be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

First Presbyterian

The Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D., will preach at the 8:30 and 11 o'clock services Sunday morning. His topic will be "God's Will Is Plain."

104 Nations Join For World Prayer

"Christ, Our Hope" is the theme of the 1962 World Day of Prayer. Local observances will be held in the First Baptist church on Feb. 20, with a service beginning at 3 p.m.
The regular observance of a special day set aside for special prayer began in 1947. The early response was so great that the first Friday in Lent was chosen for an annual observance which, by the nations participating. It is estimated that over 17,000 prayer programs are held in this country.

Special offerings are made at these services which is divided between home and foreign mission activities.
Home mission funds this year will be used for the benefits of American Indians, for sharecroppers in the poorer southern regions and for the agricultural migrant families in 25 states.
Foreign mission work will be spread among Asiatic countries, work among foreign students in this country and for Christian colleges in the Orient.

Birmingham Dramatics Teacher Named to Lead Bible Drama Workshop

Miss Lyla McCormick, dramatic director at Barman junior high school and Christ Church Cranbrook, has been named resource leader for the conference and workshop on dramatics in Christian education this weekend. The three-day session, which begins Friday, will be held in Central Woodward Christian church.

Miss McCormick, who is also on the staff of the Drama Workshop at Green Lake, Wisc., will be assisted by Mrs. Robert Shields.
The conference is under the sponsorship of the Detroit Council of Churches which is handling all reservations. The Rev. John B. Forsythe chairman of the leadership education committee, is in charge of the affair.

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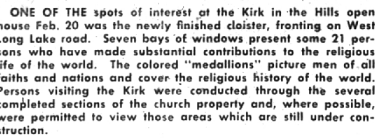
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ONE OF THE spots of interest at the Kirk in the Hills open house Feb. 20 was the newly finished cloister, fronting on West Lake road. Seven boys of windows present some 21 persons who have made substantial contributions to the religious life of the world.

The colored "medallions" picture men of all faiths and nations and cover the religious history of the world. Persons visiting the Kirk were conducted through the several completed sections of the church property and, where possible, were permitted to view those areas which are still under construction.

Sunday Sermonette
A Continuing Series by Local Religious Leaders

"Lord, That May Receive My Sight"

By The Rev. Paul Shippert
Minister, Lutheran Church of the Ascension

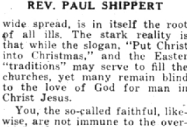
As the last of those elusive Christmas tree needles appear in some half-hidden crevice and all the remnants of Christmas decorations are finally stored in their place, the thought occurs to me, "What has happened to that Christ Who was to be found in Christmas?"

We had celebrated a climactic period in the cycle of our year and with the decline of festivities it most seems that the Christ of Christmas was swept out with the tinsel. Radio and television no longer frequently echo the familiar strains of hymns to the praise of God's Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Church reverts to a gathering place for the faithful few, who may themselves be following only a well established habit. I doubt that church attendance during January in any church would equal the total attendance for December. I hope these are unfair inclusions which you are mentally challenging.

I fear, however, that for many, their next church consciousness will arise about the first week in April, in time to model the spring wardrobe at Easter services.

IT IS NOT laxness in church attendance or inactivity in the church which is the malady to be treated. Such things are merely symptoms of a more serious disease. Neither can it be said that indifference, so obvious and



REV. PAUL SHIPPERT

wide spread, is in itself the root of all ills. The stark reality is that while the slogans "Put Christ into Christmas," and the Easter "traditions" may serve to fill the churches, yet many remain blind to the love of God for man in Christ Jesus.

You, the so-called faithful, likewise, are not immune to the overshadowing sickness. If all were immune to blindness toward our Lord, nothing could overshadow the Christian witness and zeal for the Savior of mankind. Not even such a strange, passing illness as the latest communist expose could Christ through His Christians upon the world.

It is well then, as we are near the mid-point between the two great festivals of Christmas and Easter, that we should remember the blind beggar on the road at Jericho who prayed, "Lord that I may receive my sight."

IN THE VALLEY of experience, so to speak, let us lead to the mountain tops of joy and peace, petitioning to see Jesus; to have our eyes opened to the guilt of our sin against God and man, and, looking to Jesus, find forgiveness. It is said that some years ago, a stranger, passing mines in Pennsylvania, asked a little boy why the field was so full of mules.

"These mules are worked in the mine during the week," replied the boy, "and are brought up into the light on Sunday to keep them from going blind."

The application is apparent. Do not allow your heart to go spiritually blind. Come into the light of God's love and see Jesus. Then and then alone shall we see Christmas, and not the lights; Easter and not the hats. Rather we shall see over all the shadow of the cross, proclaiming the peace of God which surpasses all understanding to all mankind—that's you!

Presbyterian Women Plan Annual Election Program

Election of officers will feature the morning session of the Presbyterian Women's association annual meeting which will get underway in the church at 10 o'clock Wednesday.

After the 12:30 luncheon the program will begin at 1:30. Mrs. Zoltan Irshay, director of Del Ray Neighborhood in Detroit will be the guest speaker.

What's Being Planned By BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES

Copy for the church page must be in The Eccentric office by 3:30 p.m., Thursday.

First Methodist

Feb. 27 meetings of the various WSCS groups will be held at 1 o'clock luncheons.

The Sarah Allen group will have Mrs. Howard Willett, 655 Pilgrim as hostess of the day with Mrs. G. G. Vetter, Mrs. Morgan Barstow and Mrs. E. O. Hascall assisting.

Mrs. Henry Dalquist, 854 Henrietta, will be hostess to the Kate Wagner unit. She will be aided by Mrs. Nancy Sommer, Mrs. Don Cummings and Mrs. Larry Rathbun.

Mrs. Edward Smith and Mrs. Joseph Harris will assist Mrs. Harold Havermale of 937 Pilgrim when she opens her home for the Anna Bird group.

The Carrie Murray unit will have Mrs. Robert Bouse, 532 Wallace as their hostess. She will be assisted by Mrs. C. A. Olin, Mrs. Charles Harness and Mrs. Olavi Koskinen.

Hostess to the Mary Utter group will be Mrs. Brayton McClelland, 550 Pierce, with Mrs. George Mack, Mrs. Ellen Burns and Mrs. Colin Grant-Walters, assisting.

Mrs. W. F. Anderson, 820 Safford, will be hostess to the Hattie Evans unit. Her assistants are Mrs. Robert Lynd, Mrs. Arnold Runkel and Mrs. Maurice Lowman.

Mrs. Wylie Groves, 542 Westchesterway, will be assisted by Mrs. A. N. Heiters and Mrs. Ross Scouler in entertaining the Cora Simpson group.

The Susanna Wesley group will meet with Mrs. Russell Riley, 32346 Arlington, who will be assisted by Mrs. E. S. Spring, Mrs. D. G. Manley and Mrs. George F. Ward, Jr.

All groups will sew on aprons for the church bazaar.

Kirk In The Hills

Mrs. Paul Bingley is chairman of the father-daughter dinner which will be served in the social hall at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 29. A program and social hour are being planned for the evening.

Queen of Martyrs

H. Homer Marsh is general chairman of the Get Acquainted dance which members of the parish are holding Saturday evening at the Community House.

St. Luciana guild will meet Feb. 27 at the home of Mrs. John Kelley, 4415 Seminole, at 8:30 p.m.

Presbyterian

Dr. Robert Young of the Highland Park Presbyterian church will be the speaker at the church club meeting Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. His topic will be "Innocents Abroad." Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morgan are hosts of the evening.

Bible School Attendance Contest Sponsored Here By United Brethren Unit

The Bible school of Birmingham's United Brethren in Christ Church is competing with some 50 church schools in the metropolitan Detroit area in an attendance increase campaign. This is the sixth year for the contest, sponsored by the Greater Detroit Sunday school association.

Planned to stimulate interest in the work of the competing groups, the contest aims to increase attendance at least 10 per cent during February and March over records of the previous year.

The contest opened Feb. 3 and will continue through March according to the Rev. Lee J. Grify and Stanley Currie, Bible school superintendent. The Pickard trophy will be awarded to the church school showing the greatest progress in attendance and study.

Church of the Ascension To Inaugurate Special Lenten Services Feb. 27

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 27, the Church of the Ascension will begin its special Lenten observances.

To relieve the crucifixion, death and resurrection series of mid-week services will be held each Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in the church. The theme for all Lenten services will be "God's gift to an Impoverished You!"

The series will culminate with special Holy Week observances and the final services of Easter Sunday.

club meeting Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. His topic will be "Innocents Abroad." Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morgan are hosts of the evening.

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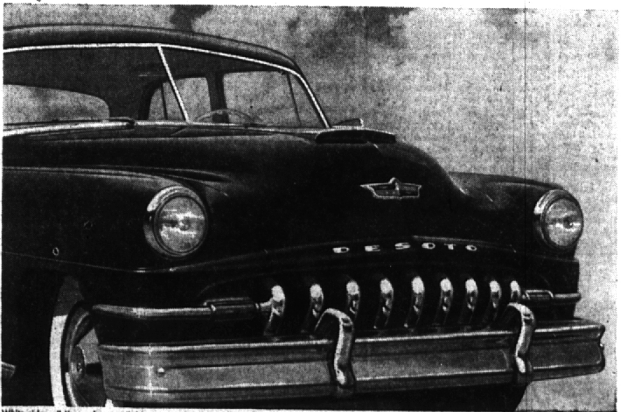
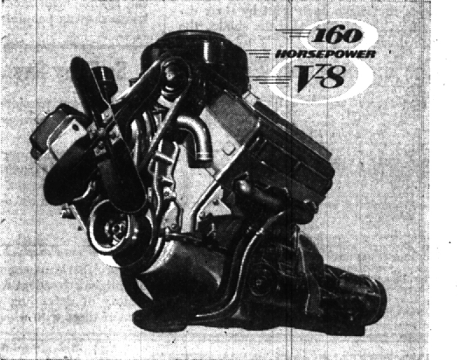
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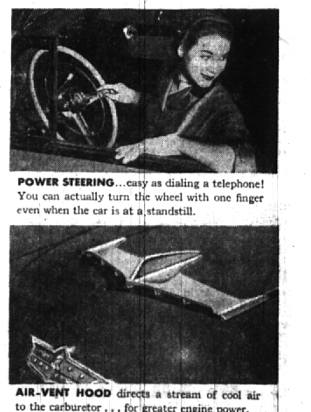
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