

Sunday Sermonette A Continuing Series by Local Religious Leaders

"Lord, That I May Receive My Sight"

By Elaine Helmer Parnic
Religious Ed. Chm., Unitarian Church

Confucius said that the most supreme happiness is to watch a child go down the road, and to hear him singing after he has asked you the way.

No child asks you the way unless he trusts you. You cannot go with him, but must stand aside and let him go down the road alone. If you hear him singing you know you have given him good philosophy.

To aid in providing experiences for children as shall help them to grow and develop intellectual and emotional maturity involves our helping them to find security, to appreciate their own powers, to be in life as possible, to understand the resources at their command, to have a wide intelligence about the universe and their relation to it, and to appreciate deeply the needs and likes of others.

Little children need above all, a sense of security and of personal worth. We teach them that this is a kindly and trustworthy world, that it is an orderly and predictable place. Learning kindness and affection toward people and toward other living things, they are laying the foundation for a sense of universal brotherhood.

"The child who is secure and serene, has in his heart most of the meaning of the twenty-third psalm."

We try to awaken, through direct experience, a sense of wonder, thoughtfulness and curiosity. Reverence is the wonder and deep joy children feel in recognizing and contemplating the good and beautiful.

A GROUP of preschool children came to the Sunday school room and saw a bowl of particularly large and varied tulips. A little girl lifted the bowl from the table and put it on the floor. Immediately the entire cowering group knelt around it, momentarily silent. Then they began delicately to touch. That first few seconds was true worship, as nearly as a very young child can understand worship, not by verbal definition, but by experiencing it.

We need to cultivate the attitude of looking for mystery in the Now—anywhere.

Wm. Williams wrote, "There is no object so soft but it makes a hub for the wheeled universe. And I say to any man or woman: Let your soul stand cool and composed before a million universes."

We should share with the child our own feelings of being near to mystery, and leave the child wondering more deeply than in the beginning.

WE BELIEVE that religion cannot be taught; it must be discovered. It is the object of the liberal religious schools to help the child to discover a religion which grows as he grows; answering his present needs and understanding, which will develop with his increasing maturity until it flowers into a way of life that gives fellowship with all living beings, strength to bear the heat and burden of the day, and the serenity of being at one with the Universe. This means that the curriculum must be child-centered; attuned to his interests, needs, powers of comprehension and adjusted to the world in which he lives. As his horizons expand, the content of the subject matter and method of approach must advance.

Religion is basically something which integrates the whole personality, something which unifies us feel focused or unified and at one with ourselves. Religion is found in our personal experiences through which emotional (and also intellectual) relationship to the universe and human beings is developed. No vital or dynamic religion can be achieved except through one's own approach.

THE EDUCATION of our children cannot depend on book knowledge alone. Our children must learn by expressing themselves in art, media, drama, and become creative with mind, heart and hand. The teaching material in the Unitarian church is not only rich in thought-provoking content but in suggestions for life-giving creativity. The lump of clay is as meaningful to the child as to Prometheus; the paint brush helps him reveal both the heavens and his own soul. The association with his fellows in the classroom helps him discover the cosmic need for understanding relationships. Little children learn more from experience than from listening. It is a slow process, but a thrilling one.

"You cannot hurry human growth. It is quiet and slow like the growth of a tree."

Methodist Club to Hear Latin American Students Discuss Status of Women

A panel of Latin-American students from Wayne university, moderated by Hedley Stacey, will present the program at the WMS general meeting on March 5. Their topic will be "The Status of Women in Latin America."

The meeting at the First Methodist church will open with a 1 o'clock luncheon with the Cora Simpson group as hostesses of the day. A special table will feature March birthday anniversaries of members.

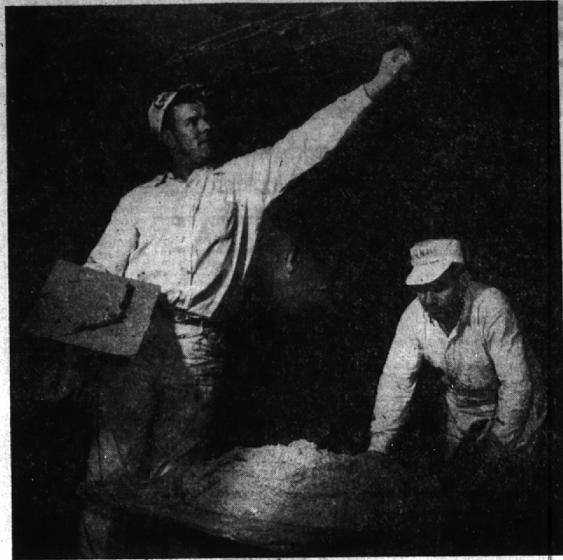
Mrs. Richard Mangle will have charge of devotions.

Church Women Meet Tomorrow for Prayers

Several women, representatives of the various churches in Birmingham, will speak at the World Day of Prayer observance here Friday. The program will be at the First Baptist church at 11 p.m., under the sponsorship of the Council of Church Women.

Following the program, the Rev. Emil Kuntz, pastor of the hostess church, will administer communion.

The offering will, among other things, be used to make larger quantities of Christian literature available for women and children in foreign countries.



INTERIOR FINISHING is progressing at the educational building of Redeemer Lutheran church on West Maple. Here Henry O'Toole (left) and Benson Kerfoot apply plaster in one of the rooms as the opening date for the new addition draws near. Women of the church congregation are already preparing curtains and drapes for the windows and planning work-bags to supply the other homey touches which will be featured in several of the rooms. (Joe Wheeler Photo)

Three Lenten Programs Scheduled for Baptists

"The Deep Longings of Life," will be the central theme of a Lenten sermon series at the First Baptist church beginning at the 11 o'clock service Mar. 2. The Rev. Emil Kuntz will speak on "The Longing for Forgiveness."

Fireside vesper services, held 7:30 each Sunday evening, will be based on "The Journeys of Jesus," with "The Journey to Jerusalem" opening the series.

The Lenten theme will also be carried out in the midweek services at 8 p.m. Wednesday evenings. "About the Might of Right" opened the series with "About True Religion" as the second topic.

SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS

Sunday, Mar. 2
First Presbyterian
"The Gospel Is Amazing," will be the sermon topic of the Rev. W. Glen Harris, Ph.D., at both morning services.

A vesper service at 6 p.m., will be followed by a preaching service at 7 p.m., when Dr. Harris will open a series on the general theme of "Studies in St. Paul's Epistles." His topic will be "The Establishment of the Church."

Christian Science
Using Isaiah 11:1, "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots," as the text, Christian Science congregations will hear a sermon on the place of Christ Jesus as the revealer of God to man.



FRANK C. GLABACH of Ferndale is the leader of the Birmingham Unity Center which meets for service at 11 a.m. Sunday, 203 Theater building. The services will extend over a three month period with "The Unity Viewpoint—Jesus Christ" as the lesson topic for Mar. 2.

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What's Being Planned By BIRMINGHAM CHURCHES

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

United Brethren

The Rev. G. D. Fleming, Huntington, Ind., will speak here Sunday morning, Mar. 2 at the 11 o'clock service. He has served as a missionary in Africa and has recently returned from Honduras. Films based on missionary work in that country will be shown Sunday.

St. James Episcopal

Feb. 28 marks the opening of the Lenten lecture series under the sponsorship of the women of St. James church. Meeting each Friday during Lent at 10:30 a.m., the series will be open to all Birmingham women.

Bishop Russell Hubbard of Detroit will present the first lecture. On March 7, the speaker will be Mrs. David Thornberry, whose topic will be "The Unity and Power of God's Message in the Holy Scriptures."

The speaker for the Mar. 14 meeting has not yet been selected, but at the Mar. 21 lecture, Miss Ruth Graf, director of religious education at St. James, will speak on the church's new emphasis on Christian living.

This meeting will also feature a book review by Mrs. Ijawon Taber and Mrs. George Weinhold on "Real Life is Meeting."

At the final lecture, Mar. 29, Mrs. Reyford Holmes of St. Johns Episcopal church, Saginaw, will

speaking on "The New Emphasis on Guild Work."

First Presbyterian

The Sarah Hunter guild will meet this evening, Feb. 28, for an 8 o'clock meeting at the home of Mrs. Thomas Stolberg, 816 Pierce.

First Baptist

Monthly meeting of the Baptist Women's Mission Union, March 6 will begin at the church at 10:30 with white cross work. Following

the luncheon a program will feature a speaker from the Detroit Baptist Foreign mission board. Chairman of the day will be Mrs. W. B. Steele with Mrs. Stuart Smith in charge of music.

Redeemer Lenten Series
Beginning Mar. 5, the Rev. Theodore Wiggarter, pastor of the Redeemer Lutheran church, will conduct a series of midweek services, taking for his topics the intimate associates of Christ. The series will view Him in the light of human experiences today. His opening topic will be "Peter, the Vacillating."

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