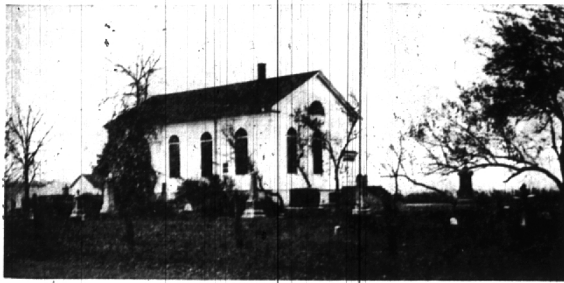


Churches Celebrate Yule In Song and Pageant

Calendars of a number of Birmingham churches list special services for this Sunday, putting emphasis on programs of Christmas music and services for young people presenting the story of Christ's birth.

The Birmingham Eccentric CHURCH PAGE

DECEMBER 15, 1955



THE FIRST REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN church of Southfield, commonly called the Covenanter church, was organized in 1834. The church building, recently moved back from Evergreen road, was built in 1862.

One of Southfield's Oldest Churches Is Renovated

By RUTH ANNE SILBAR

One of Southfield township's oldest churches has undergone a beauty treatment. Originally situated close to Evergreen road, the Covenanter church, just south of 11 Mile road, has been moved back about 70 feet to a new location on the church property and for the first time since it was built in 1862, it has a basement.

A new all-barren furnace has been installed and a new kitchen, complete with modern facilities of an electric stove and garbage disposal, has been added. Yet to be done is the interior decorating to take up and enter the church resulting from the moving operation. In a comprehensive church history found in the "Evergreen" files of February 1945, written by Mary E. Thompson, a descendant of the church founder, a description of the Covenanter church is given as it stood many years ago.

"STANDING BEYOND the brow of a hill with level farms stretching away beyond, is a large, unadorned, white chancel with green shutters and two giant spruce trees," Miss Thompson wrote. "To the north of the church is the lot of the old-fashioned graveyard, God's half acre. The giant spruce trees are now gone, but the old church building retains its original outside colors, white with green shutters and a graveyard of God's half acre, which kept neat and tidy.

Since 1945, the Rev. Harold E. Thompson, to father of the Mary Thompson family, has been minister of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southfield, commonly called the Covenanter church.

INDIVIDUAL membership in the church numbers 105 and attendance at the Sabbath school is between 70-80 each Sunday. The Covenanter church got its name, Miss Thompson explained, because it embraces in its teaching the principles of the second reformation or covenant of Scotland, in its purest day, she maintained.

With its simple and direct form of worship, the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Southfield is one of the two original churches in America and the first of its kind in the state of Michigan, being organized in 1834 by Southfield township pioneers.

IN 1831 when Michigan was still very much a wilderness, David Stewart, a man over 60 years old and a Covenanter, came from White Lake, Orange county, N. Y., and settled on government land at 1 1/2 acres near the city of the

country show custom they explain. A special youth choir dressed as English carolers will sing. The program will close with a low manner scene during which the choir will sing "What Child This?"

White gifts, which will be given to the Salvation Army in Pontiac, will be delivered at this time. The youth choir, made up of Junior and Senior High School members, will sing "What Child This?"

CHRIST CHURCH Cranbrook children will have their Festival of Gifts at 9:30 and 11:15 services. Each child will wear an unwrapped gift of a new toy or new clothing which he will leave by the crèche in St. Paul's chapel.

FIRST METHODIST church will present "A Pageant of the Holy Nativity" at 8 p.m. in the church nave. Four choirs of young people six to 18 years old will sing. The cast of 40 to 50 members of the youth choirs and adult choirs of the church.

AT BIRMINGHAM CONGREGATIONAL church, a vesper service will be held at 4:30 p.m. with children of the church school participating. "Christmas from Many Lands" will be the theme of the service with various youngsters wearing symbols and costumes of the

every through second graders will be held at 3 p.m. The Christmas story will be told in pageant and song. Children will bring gifts for the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf.

UNITED BROTHERS church will hold a vesper of hymns and Bible readings at 11:05 a.m. with a Christmas program to be given at 7:30 p.m. in the church school children at 7:30 p.m.

BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN church will observe their usual morning services with a special program at 5 p.m. Sunday school children will present a program portraying the birth of Confucius, Buddha, and Christ.

EMERY METHODIST church will hold a special program for Sunday schoolers from nursery through third grade at 1 p.m. At 7 p.m. a program for older children will include a Christmas pageant called "The Story and the Tree."

Youth Groups Schedule Parties At Christmastime

Young people groups in six Birmingham churches are holding special parties during the Christmas season.

The annual church high school party for the youth people of the First Methodist church was held Monday evening. The program included Paul Dutoit, as speaker, and a visit from Santa Claus, portrayed by William Younger, supervised by William Younger, superintendent of the Sunday school. Musical soloists were led by Gerald Dams.

THE SENIOR high group of Birmingham Congregational church will have a party at the church from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 18.

The group has invited high school young people from the Oakland County Children's Home to be their guests for the evening.

Church Club Calendar

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Missionary "A": Will meet at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the church. Mrs. Edgar Parks will give devotionals, and Mrs. A. L. Walker will have a program on "A Christmas Message."

CONGREGATIONAL Women's Fellowship, Circle 4: Meets at the home of Mrs. Basil Sturman, 2330 Windermere, at 8 p.m. on Dec. 21.

EMERY METHODIST Women's Friendship Circle: Meet Wed. 12 at 8 p.m. at home of Mrs. Robert Boushager, 1978 Sheffield. Mrs. Walter McMILL will give devotionals and there will be a program "Christmas Customs."

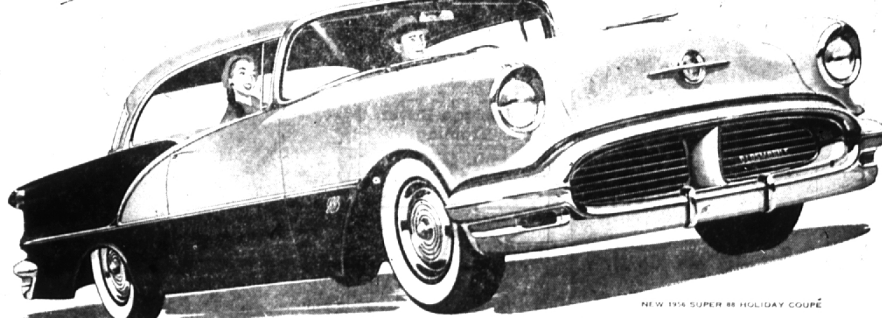
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Northminster Presbyterian Church
Temporary Location - Poppleton School
Located on Big Beaver rd. at Crooks rd.
MACKAY TAYLOR - MINISTER
WORSHIP SERVICES & CHURCH SCHOOL, 10:30 a.m.
Sermon Topic for Sunday, December 18th:
"THE MOTH AND THE MUST"
Commandment 19 Ex. 20:17

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1152 Bannoville
C. Wheeler Utley, Minister
Birmingham, Michigan LI 2-0855
10:00 A.M. Sunday Bible Class
11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship
6:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study
"THE HERALD OF TRUTH"
WXYZ—Each Sunday 1:00-1:30 P.M.

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