

Lathrup Church And Minister Oppose Merger

Though his election as an official delegate to a meet uniting Congregational Christian churches with the Evangelical and Reformed churches was announced last week, the Rev. John D. Rose, minister of Community Congregational church, is undecided on whether or not he will attend the meeting.

"At this time I have not yet said whether I shall be attending or not," Mr. Rose said. "I am in view of the fact that I, myself, and the members of Community Congregational church have not yet reacted in favor of the unification measure."

Mr. Rose's statement came on his return from the biennial meeting of the Congregational Christian churches held in Omaha during the week of June 18-23, at which steps were voted to effect unification of the two Protestant groups into the United Church of Christ.

HE DID NOT attend the convention's much publicized all-night session, Mr. Rose said, because he felt the decision to read the lengthy minutes into the record was "arbitrary." Feeling that the reading would take many hours, Mr. Rose said he avoided the session, which lasted until 7:30 a.m. the following morning.

In summing up his feelings and those of the majority of the members of the Lathrup congregation, Mr. Rose said, "We want to see the local churches kept free and the tradition of the Congregational church kept valid and alive. We feel that Congregationalism still has a lot to offer."

By attending the meeting scheduled next year in Cleveland to draw up a constitution for the united churches, Mr. Rose said, "I might commit myself and my church more than I want to."

"ON THE OTHER hand," he added, "I might be able to help preserve what we stand for."

His decision on attending will be made, he said, on the basis of the recommendations of the church's officers and a group of laymen who form the church's merger study committee.

Young People Plan Agenda for Summer

The senior high young people of the Congregational church of Birmingham will hold informal get-togethers at various homes during the summer.

The homes of Dave Mortimer, 1575 Shipman, Birmingham, on July 15; Ed and Barb Busch, 400 Cranbrook, Bloomfield Village, on July 22; and the Rev. Robert Huey, 1290 Pierce, Birmingham, on Aug. 12, are included on the agenda.

SUNDAY SERMON TOPICS

SUNDAY, JULY 8

Northminster Presbyterian—Rev. Mackay Taylor, "A Sermon on Prayer," 10:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian—Rev. Robert Graham, "Tempted," 9:45 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran—Rev. Theo Wuggazer, "What Are You Thinking About?," 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.

First Methodist—Dr. A. F. Rinckel, "This Is the Day," 10 a.m.

Christ Lutheran—Rev. G. M. Krach, "Shall We Accept Substitutes?," 8:45 and 11:15 a.m.

Christian Science—Lesson-sermon, "Sacrament," 9:45 and 11 a.m.

First Baptist—Rev. Richard Cummings, guest minister, 11 a.m.

Congregational—Rev. Robert D. Dewey, "Life Is an Opportunity," 9:30 a.m.

Cathie Crouch Hears Harold Stassen Talk At Youth Conference

Cathie Crouch, 778 E. Square Lake road, Bloomfield township, was among the 800 Baptist young people attending conferences at the American Baptist assembly, Green Lake, Wis., June 23-30.

Highlighting the conference was a speech by Harold E. Stassen, special assistant to the President. Preparation for Christian citizenship was emphasized at the older youth conference in Bible study presentations and in vesper messages.

Cathie, from the First Baptist church in Birmingham, will attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall.

Congregationalists Schedule Picnic, Outdoor Worship

The Birmingham Congregational church picnic is scheduled for July 15 at Blanchard Hayride lodge, near Rochester. Church services will be held outside the lodge in an orchard at 11 a.m., with the picnic following.

Included on the committee are Deacon William Coleman, 2807 Manchester, Birmingham, chairman; Tom Fairhurst, 18508 Devonshire, Southfield township; Fred Edwards, 15798 Kirkshire, Southfield township; Dave Mortimer, 1575 Shipman, Birmingham, and Mrs. Clair DeVall, 15970 Lauderdale, Southfield township.

First Service in New Church Set July 15

First services in the new home of the Franklin Community church will be held next Sunday, July 15, at 10 a.m. Church school sessions, however, will continue in the old church until Aug. 1.

The new colonial church is located on the center of Franklin Village Green, facing east toward Franklin road.

Opening services will be marked with a brief ceremony, according to the Rev. Robert J. Searls. Official ceremonies are scheduled for September when all sections of the new building will be finished.

A UNIQUE FEATURE of the July 15 opening service is the mailed request of all members and friends to donate the cost of at least one new hymnal as a "house-warming" gift for the new church. The requests were sent out by the music committee, with Mrs. Harry

F. Barr, 25620 Meadowlawn, Franklin, receiving the donations. Commemorative plates are being offered for sale by the women's society under the leadership of Mrs. Win Hinman, 27310 Wellington, and Mrs. Robert Yingling, 32365 Wing Lake, of Franklin.

One plate is etched with a sketch of the old church, with its history on the back. The other is a sketch and history of the new church.

The July 15 services climax a series of events beginning with the appointment of a committee in September of 1954, a fund raising drive in February of 1955, and the beginning of construction on Sept. 26, 1955.

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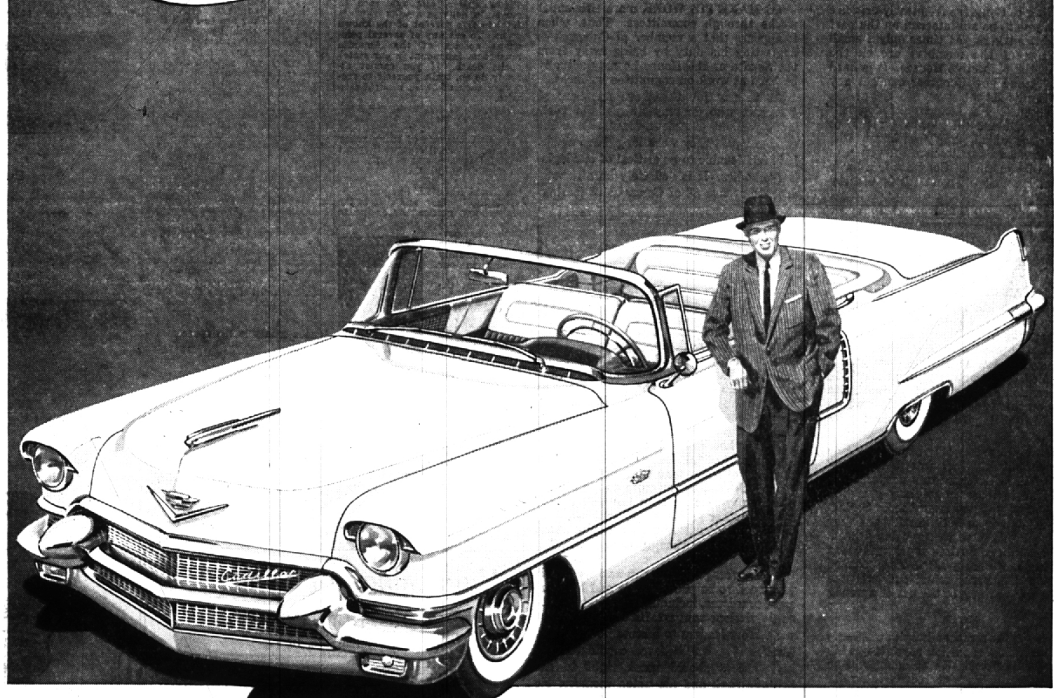
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