



### 70 Young People Are Enrolled In Membership

Palm Sunday was an auspicious occasion for the more than 70 young people who are members of this year's Easter Communicants, class at First Presbyterian church. In the afternoon they were examined by committees of the Session. At 6:15 they, together with their parents, were guests at a supper in their honor.

The Clerk of Session officially enrolled them in membership. At a special service in the sanctuary they sought to prepare themselves spiritually for the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Young people who had not been baptized received this sacrament in this service. On Maundy Thursday at 8 p.m. they will be publicly welcomed into the church and take their first Communion.

WHEN REV. MacKAY TAYLOR reads in his study at Northminster Presbyterian church, he likes to rest his long legs on his contemporary-style desk.

### How He Writes His Sermons:

## Rev. Taylor Considers The Sleepy Churchgoer

By JULIE CANDLER

If you ever got up early on a Sunday morning to go to church after getting to bed in the wee small hours Saturday, you're the kind of person Rev. MacKay Taylor considers when he writes his sermons.

"If a guy has been up until 3 a.m. and gets up to come to church, I feel an obligation to keep that guy awake," says the 29-year-old minister of Northminster Presbyterian church.

He lit a cigarette as we talked in the small, modern study of the new church on Big Beaver road near Adams.

LEADING UP TO his expression of sympathy for the sleepy-eyed churchgoer was his statement of what he thinks a sermon should be.

"I have very definite ideas of what a sermon should be," said the tall, dark-eyed minister with the youthful crew haircut.

"First of all," he explained, "a sermon should be a guide for Christian living. And it cannot be effective as such if it's not interesting to listen to."

That, he went on, is why he feels an obligation to keep sleepy people awake.

A SECOND CRITERION for a Taylor sermon is: "It should make its point and quit."

"Thirdly, he feels, it should have only one main point. He named a scriptural basis as another important sermon quality.

"That means not just using a text as a take-off point for something you want to say, but fitting the Scriptures into your subject matter," he added.

Half the battle, for him at least, is selecting a subject for a sermon. He has plenty of ideas for sermons, but the trouble is "finding a subject that is pertinent."

A MINISTER, he claims, has to be careful that he doesn't "ride a hobby horse," concentrating on one subject to the exclusion of others.

For instance, a minister might get fascinated with the miracles and preach on them too often.

"I have to watch that I don't get off on the subject of racial segregation too often," he said.

Once he decides his subject, he starts reading and studying it Tuesday morning. Wednesday he makes an outline (second half of the battle for him), and Thursday he begins writing, usually gets the introduction done.

On previous days he has spent two to three hours each morning on his sermon, but Fridays he devotes the entire day to it.

"IF IT'S NOT done by Friday, I finish it on Saturday," he said. "It usually runs into Saturday, more's the pity."

For the church's two services Sunday mornings, he keeps before him the manuscript he has typed himself.

As he preaches, he says, he can sense how his sermon is being received. He uses the word "empathy" to describe the feeling between himself and the congregation that tells him if they are interested in what he is saying.

"Sometimes when you're leading up to a point, you can hear

### Holy Name Altar Society Names New Officers

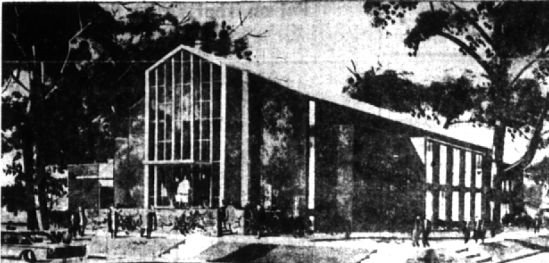
Newly elected officers of the Altar society of Holy Name church will officially preside for the first time at the society's annual May breakfast, at Devon Gables at 10 a.m. May 1.

They are Mrs. Harold W. Bickner, president; Mrs. Edwin Casenhiser, first vice president; Mrs. Alfred Dabiski, second vice president; Mrs. Myrtle Pratt, third vice president; and Mrs. Robert C. Duff, treasurer.

Recording secretary is Mrs. Daniel J. Henry and corresponding secretary is Mrs. Maurice M. Reardon.

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ABOVE, ARCHITECT'S drawing shows First Church of Christ, Scientist, Birmingham, as it will appear after tentatively planned remodeling. Plans submitted by architects O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach include a two-story 20-foot extension to the west of the present building at Chester and Willis. Besides providing for a new board room, clerk's office, quiet room, general committee room and added Sunday school space, remodeling will increase seating from 338 to 410. Starting date for work has not been set.

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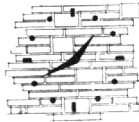
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### 1st Methodist Sets Rummage Sale

A spring rummage sale is scheduled for next Thursday at First Methodist church, Maple and Pleasant, Birmingham, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Women's Society of Christian Service will offer in the church's fellowship hall such items as dishes, bric-a-brac, clothes, linens, toys and furniture.

Mrs. T. J. Connel and Mrs. William Ettell are co-chairmen for the sale.

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