

# at the CHURCH DOOR

By JULIE CANDLER

You might think that writing a sermon is easy when you first glance at the picture of Rev. Robert J. Searls at work on this week's church page. That's how we found him when we walked into his study one afternoon.

Actually, Mr. Searls and every minister we've talked to spends many hours preparing the sermon you hear on Sunday. Combining the time spent on reading, study, and the actual writing, a probable average of 25 hours goes into each sermon.

In fact, Rev. Dr. W. Glen Harris, of First Presbyterian church, amazed us the other day with some information on the subject.

"When I was in the seminary, I was taught that for every minute I spoke from the pulpit, I should spend one hour in preparation," said Dr. Harris.

"I find that it comes out to just about that," said Dr. Harris. "You've got to put a lot into it to have it mean anything."

Think of all the added hours of administrative and other duties that our ministers handle—and appreciate your minister even more.

Three Episcopal ministers-to-be from the Birmingham area are among 21 Michigan men studying in seminaries according to the current Episcopal Record. Colin Campbell, Jr., of 655 Lakeview, Birmingham is now a senior. John K. Hooper, son of the W. D. Hoopers, of 1619 E. Maple, is a "midler", or second year man. David B. Van Dusen, son of the C. Theron Van Dusens, of Bennington Road, Bloomfield Hills, is another senior.

All three are studying at Virginia Theological seminary in Alexandria. Colin's parish is St. James, John is a member of Christ Church Cranbrook, and David's parish is listed as Grace Church, Lapeer.

Being an Episcopal minister runs in the family of the Rev. Barton Lloyd, now of Christ Church Cranbrook. He has a brother who is an Episcopal missionary in Japan, another who ministers to two small Episcopal parishes in Mineral, Va., and a third who was ordained in Cincinnati just three weeks ago.

He has a sister, Katherine, who is married to—what else?—an Episcopal minister, the Rev. William H. Mead, who is the subject of another church page story this week.

To top things off, the Lloyd family's father was an Episcopal minister, and his father before him was an Episcopal arch-deacon in the Blue Ridge mountain area of Virginia.

**1st Presbyterian Guilds Slate Meets**  
Susan and Elizabeth Trowbridge, Missionary "A" will meet at 2 guilds of the First Presbyterian p.m. Wednesday in the 3900 room church will hold their first meeting of the church. Mrs. James Cobb of the New Year new Tuesday is in charge of the program. They will meet for luncheon at "Missionary 'B'" will meet for 12:30 in the social hall of the hotpotluck luncheon in the social hall church at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1152 Benvenille, 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  
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**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES**  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
191 N. Chester Street — Birmingham, Michigan  
Sunday Morning Service 9:15 and 11:30  
Sunday School 9:15 and 11:30  
Infants' Room (in Reading Room) 9:30 and 11:15  
Wednesday Evening Meeting 8:15  
READING ROOM, 355 East Maple Ave.  
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IT MAY LOOK like he's taking it easy, but the Rev. Robert J. Searls is actually working on a sermon here, stretched out in his favorite reading chair as he looks up some references. Picture was taken in the minister's study at Franklin Community church.

## How He Writes His Sermons:

### 'Cooking Drawer' Holds Rev. Searls' Sermons

Ask the Rev. Robert J. Searls "What's cooking?" and the chances are he'll open a desk drawer and name some sermon topics for you.

Because the Franklin Community church minister maintains what he calls his "cooking drawer", where files on all the sermons he plans to prepare within the next few months are kept.

Last week he sat at the desk in the new paneled study of the new colonial church, noting down the subjects for his Sunday sermons from now through August.

"I LIKE TO WORK out the topics well in advance," said the tender, slightly balding minister. "That way the music and other departments can coordinate their plans with what I am going to do. He keeps the church calendar before him as he plans, selecting appropriate subjects for each special Sunday of the church year. For each subject, a file goes in the reading material which applies to that topic. He continues on a long sheet in the file. If he finds an applicable item in a newspaper or magazine, he clips it, adds it to the file."

THE MANY HOURS of reading and research behind every sermon are devoted to what he terms "varied" material. It includes novels, the theological "trade journals", and much unrelated reading matter.

"I like to use good illustrations to get across the points I want to make," says Mr. Searls. "And I find the best ones in unusual publications. For instance, when I was in the seminary and working part-time as an A & P manager, I got good illustrations from the union magazine."

A recently published book of illustrations for speakers lists several examples taken from Mr. Searls' sermons.

WHEN ILLUSTRATIONS, notes, and references are complete, the Franklin minister begins outlining his sermon. When he was "young and foolish," says the Methodist minister, he made himself complete his entire sermon on Thursday. "I wouldn't go to bed Thursday nights until I had it finished," he said.

NOW HE FINDS he works better under pressure, and purposely puts off starting the sermon until Friday morning. Finishing touches are added Saturday. "That way it's fresh in my mind on Sunday morning," says he. "I have a very bad memory." Though he used to type his sermons.

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
Donald J. McCallum, Atty., 316 Pierce St., Birmingham, Mich. 45245.  
STATE OF MICHIGAN: In the Probate Court for the County of Oakland. In the Matter of the Estate of JOSEPH E. McGAFFEY, Deceased. At a session of the said Court held at the Court House in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 26th day of December, A. D. 1952.  
Present: Honorable Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.  
Daniel J. Peterson, Special Administrator and Administrator of said estate having filed in said Court his account, and petition praying for the examination and allowance thereof, for the determination of the legal heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate and for the discharge of said Special Administrator and Administrator.  
It is Ordered, that the 21st day of January, A. D. 1953, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Court in the Court House in the City of Pontiac, Michigan, be and is hereby appointed as the time and place for hearing said petition.  
It is further Ordered that notice be given to all interested parties as shown by the records in this case by mailing a copy of this order to each of them personally, or by mailing a copy to each of them by registered mail with return receipt demanded addressed to their respective last known addresses as shown by the file and records in this case.  
And it is further Ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order once each week for three successive weeks, commencing on the day of bearing in the Birmingham Eccentric, newspaper printed and circulated in said county.  
ARTHUR E. MOORE, Judge of Probate. (114-41-45)

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association, Birmingham, Michigan, will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 1957, at the office of the Association, 18 West Maple, at seven o'clock p.m.  
This meeting is called pursuant to the By-Laws of the Association for the following purposes:  
1. TO ELECT DIRECTORS.  
2. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT MAY PROPERLY BE BROUGHT BEFORE SAID MEETING.  
Proxies now available at the office of the Association for the convenience of those members who will be unable to attend the meeting.  
WALTER L. MORELAND, President. (44) (43)

# The Birmingham Eccentric

## CHURCH PAGE

PAGE 6 JANUARY 10, 1957

### Former Associate At Christ Church Returns to State

A new task begins this week for the Rev. William H. Mead, former assistant rector at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Mr. Mead will join the Parish-field community near Brighton as a participating staff clergyman. It was announced by the Rev. Francis Ayres, Parish-field director.

He has been rector of St. Paul's, Episcopal Church, Alexandria, Va., for the past four years.

An Episcopal clergyman since 1950, Mr. Mead will work with Mr. Ayres in a continuing program of developing "The eight-year-old Parish-field community into a center for the renewal of the Church. Their work, though under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, is with any layman, clergyman or parish, regardless of denomination, in this country or

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Alexandria to become rector of St. Paul's.  
Mr. Mead married Katherine Baldwin Lloyd in 1950. The couple have two children: William Lloyd, 13, and Katherine Barton, three.  
He is the brother-in-law of the Rev. Barton Lloyd, now associated with Christ Church Cranbrook in developing missions.

**APTITUDE TESTS**  
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**Franklin Community Church**  
On Franklin's Village Green 1 block west of Franklin Rd., at Wellington and Normandy.  
**MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHURCH SCHOOL**  
10 A.M.  
Robert J. Searls, Minister

**NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
21600 West 101st Mile Road  
11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE  
Minister: Reverend H. Boyd  
11:00 A.M. CHURCH SCHOOL  
Pilgrim Fellowship Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.  
Pilgrim Fellowship Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
(Junior and Senior High School Young People)  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
3625 W. Big Beaver Rd. (East of Adams)  
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