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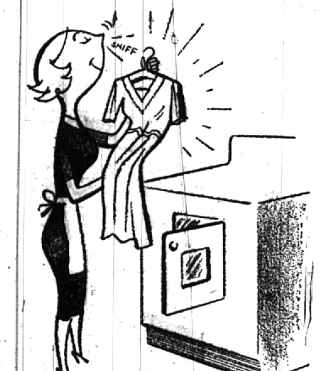
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The Birmingham Eccentric
CHURCH PAGE
PAGE 6 DECEMBER 11, 1958

**137th Anniversary for
First Methodist Church**

The First Methodist church will observe its 137th anniversary Sunday at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.
The first meetings of the congregation were held in Willett's Log Tavern in 1821. Since that time the congregation has steadily increased with its real period of growth beginning about 20 years ago.
In 1943 the membership of the church was approximately 550 and the average church school attendance was 150. At that time, under the direction of the Policy committee, the church launched upon a forward looking program.
The first Director of Christian Education was engaged in 1943. The present pastor, Dr. Arnold F. Runkel, began his pastorate here in 1944.
The church launched its first building fund campaign in 1945. In 1949 a five acre site was purchased at the corner of Maple and Pleasant and ground was broken for the new building on Dec. 24, 1950.
In 1954 the Holzinger property was acquired and the house converted into facilities for the Junior department of the church school. This brought the property of the church to 8.65 acres. On June 2nd, 1957 ground was broken for the final Educational and Chapel wings.
THE PRESENT facilities include a parking lot for 280 cars. The church school attendance is well over 1,000 and the membership totals 2,400.
Dr. Runkel is now in the 15th year of his ministry, and the church staff has grown to 12 full time and part time workers. Besides Dr. Runkel, the ministerial staff includes Dr. Harry O. Martin and Rev. Allen E. Wittrop, associate ministers, and Rev. Robert E. Falk, youth minister.
The church has also assumed the full support of a missionary couple in the Belgian Congo, Dr. and Mrs. Robert White.
Coy G. Eklund is chairman of the board, and Amos F. Gregory is president of the board of trustees.

**Church Organized
With 80 Members**

Organizational ceremonies were conducted for the United Presbyterian Church of Our Saviour, Dec. 7, in the Eagle elementary school, Middlebelt at Fourteen Mile road.
The church was organized with 80 members, by the Presbytery of Detroit. Dr. Harry Rhine DeYoung of Redford Avenue Presbyterian church, delivered the sermon.
The Rev. Edward D. Auchard of Orchard Lake Community church acted as moderator for the service. Dr. Harold Fredsell, director of Church Extension of the Presbytery of Detroit, and Mr. Herbert D. Hunter, an Elder at the First Presbyterian church of Birmingham, took part in the service.

THE CONGREGATION began meeting in Eagle school in January, 1957. Plans are to begin building a church on a site donated by the First Presbyterian church, on Middlebelt just south of W. Maple in about a year.
The Rev. Ralph Strike, who has been with the congregation since August, 1957, is the organizing pastor.

**Christmas Program
By Women's Ass'n**

The Women's association of North Congregational church, will have a special Christmas program, Dec. 16, at 12:30 p.m.
A Christmas luncheon will be served, with table decorations by the Eleanor Taylor group. At 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Leonard D. Hurst will give a devotional service, followed by a program of dramatic readings by Mrs. Oliver Grafmiller.

**Choir Will Present
Part of 'Messiah'**

The Christmas portion of the "Messiah" will be presented by the choir of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer at both morning services, 9:30 and 11, Dec. 14.
The choir will sing under the direction of L. Vincent Kochenderfer, with Nancy Lewis Kochenderfer as organist.
Soloists will be: Virginia Persson, soprano; Sandra Johnson, soprano; Ann Brandberry, contralto; and Carl Christensen, tenor.

Guest Speaker

The Rev. Loyl Weimer, camp director of the Detroit Baptist camp, Lapeer, will be the guest speaker at the First Baptist church, Willis at Bates, Birmingham, Dec. 14 at 11 a.m. Mr. Loyl is expected to speak on Universal Bible Sunday, which is the 14th.

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B'ham Women Volunteer Their Time

On Nov. 24, women volunteers from the First Methodist church of Birmingham pitched in to help mail 58,000 copies of the Lantern to 998 Methodist churches in Michigan. The magazine is the house organ of the Methodist Children's Home Society. The society provides adoption services for infants, casework services to unmarried mothers, supervised foster home care and group care and treatment of school-age children in the agency's own institution, Children's Village, 26645 W. Six Mile, Detroit. Some of the Birmingham women who participated in the mailing were (left to right) Mrs. Robert W. Gehm, Mrs. Edward W. Pfluke, Mrs. Joseph H. Shaffer, a member of the board of directors and chairman of the Social Service committee of the society, and Mrs. John Kalter.

St. Jude's Guild

home of Mrs. Robert Luke, Twelve Mile road. An election of officers will be held, and Christmas gifts church will meet Dec. 19 at the will be exchanged.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's club of the First Presbyterian church will have a Christmas breakfast for men, Dec. 18, at 7 a.m. Dr. W. Glen Harris will give a brief devotional message.

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