

Michigan Opera Holds Auditions

Singers in the Birmingham area who are interested in grand opera will have an opportunity to audition for membership in the Michigan Opera Company of Detroit.

Victor Dym, choral director will conduct auditions on Dec. 22 and on Jan. 2 at 8 p.m. at the International Institute, 111 E. Kirby at John E. Previous opera experience is not required.

Singers who are accepted will be eligible to participate in the company's musical activities for the remainder of this season.

THIS INCLUDES presentation

of concerts with chorus and soloists; and, in the spring, two chamber operas, Menotti's "The Old Maid and the Thief" and Puccini's "Tosca" which will be sung in English.

According to Joseph Guerra, general manager of the company, tentative plans are also under way for a full scale production of Puccini's "La Bohème" to open the 1950-51 season next Oct.

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The Rev. Allen E. Wittrup, associate minister at First Methodist church, enjoys teaching children's confirmation classes. He says teaching is three times as enjoyable

these days because he has 11-year-old triplets in his class. Left to right are Shirley, Nancy and Hugh Muellenhagen, of 355 Washington, Birmingham.

He Makes Religion Appeal to Children

"Religion should be presented so it arouses excitement in children. Unless a child understands that religion is something he or she can enjoy and live with, the whole point is lost."

Rev. Allen E. Wittrup, associate minister at the First Methodist church, firmly believes this.

MR. WITTRUP, who is in charge of membership and evangelism at the church, teaches the children's confirmation class.

But he doesn't use the standard "Membership Manual for Boys and Girls" which most Methodist churches use.

He uses a 120-page manual, "My Church." He wrote the manual as part of his graduate requirement at Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.

BASICALLY the manual contains the same information as the standard text.

But as Mr. Wittrup pointed out, the information is more "workable."

As a result, it interests the children.

He has used the manual for teaching children's confirmation classes for the past 18 years.

MOST OF THE children in his confirmation classes are sixth graders in Sunday school. The classes are held one hour each Saturday from the first Saturday in October through Palm Sunday, when the children are confirmed.

Mr. Wittrup teaches his pupils an understanding of the bible, the Protestant reformation and the beliefs of the Methodist church.

Approximately 100 children faithfully attend classes.

IN ADDITION TO the one hour each Saturday, the youngsters are required to attend church an hour each Sunday. Mr. Wittrup gets them to do both with a little trickery.

"During each Saturday class, I point my finger at several of the children and ask them if they were at church Sunday. If they were, I give them a candy bar, plus a candy bar for each member

of their family who attended church with them," he said.

HOW DID THIS devoted man who likes to interest children in religion become a minister?

"Believe it or not," he said, "when I was a boy the last thing in the world I wanted to do was become a minister."

Both his father and grandfather were both ministers. This had a strong influence on him.

"AFTER GROWING UP around a church and ministers I naturally rebelled and decided I would never be a minister," he said.

A few years later he changed his mind, but not until after his graduation from Dakota Wesleyan university, Mitchell, S. D., with a BA degree.

He taught sociology, history and coached at Mitchell high school. It was then he began thinking about the ministry.

"REALLY THE ministry was in the back of my mind all my life and I knew I had to give it a try," he said.

So, with a coaching contract worth \$300 a month in his pocket, he accepted a \$75 a month job as minister of two small churches at Rosseau and Badger, Minn.

He was only there a short time before he decided to devote his life to the ministry. In 1936 he enrolled at Garrett Biblical Institute. He graduated in 1940.

WHILE ATTENDING Garrett, he met Esther Marie Olson, a student at Northwestern university. They were married in 1938.

He had a student charge at Colton, Mich., while at Garrett, and after graduation, took a church at Park Rapids, Minn.

In 1946 he went to Calvary

Methodist church in Water Town, S. D.

HE CAME HERE in 1955 to accept a position of associate minister. He and Mrs. Wittrup and their three children, Larry, 17; Roger, 14, and Barbara, 10, live at 755 Madison, Birmingham.

Mr. Wittrup and his father, Rev. Richard Wittrup, aren't the only church people in the family. Mr. Wittrup's younger brother, Glenn, is a chaplain captain in the Air Force.

His father will be retiring from the ministry in June, 1959.

"I'LL NEVER regret being a minister's son," Mr. Wittrup said. "If I had it to do all over again, I would still want to be a minister's son and a minister."

"I don't know of anything I would rather do."

Devotional Center Is Dedicated at Y

The dedication of a devotional center in the Blue Room of the new Birmingham YMCA, 400 E. Lincoln, took place at the December meeting of the United Church Women of Birmingham.

The furnishings for this center, a gift from the United Church Women, were presented to the YMCA by Mrs. Fraser Pomeroy, YMCA Director, Owen Manchester accepted them.

Following a dedication service, led by Dr. Harry L. Martin, the group adjourned to the assembly room to hear a report on the UCW's national convention held recently in Denver. Mrs. Earl Triplett gave the report.

Choirs to Present Christmas Program

The choirs of the Cranbrook village unit of the Woodward Avenue Presbyterian church will present a Christmas program at Northbrook school, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m.

The senior choir under the direction of Mrs. Robert Haymans will sing several familiar carols. The program will also serve to introduce the newly formed 30-voice junior choir under the direction of Mrs. Stewart Barleigh and Mrs. Charles Balfour.

B'HAM ECCESTRIC Page
Thursday, December 18, 1958 7-C

Project Started

The eradication of malaria in many parts of the world is still not accomplished. The WHO of the United Nations conducted malaria eradication projects in 54 areas of the world in 1956, to help in ridding them of the dread disease.

Christian Science Society

Franklin, Michigan
25109 Geneva Mill Road
SUNDAY—11 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL—11 A.M.
WEDNESDAY EVENING
TESTIMONY MEETING—8:15
READING ROOM
(In Church Edifice)
Thursday—1-3 P.M.
7:30-9:30 P.M.

NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21220 West 14 Mile Road
(Half way between
Cranbrook and Lahar)
Sunday School and Service
9:30 and 11:15 a.m.
Minister: Rev. Louis C. Gillette
MI 4-5210

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Northwestern Highway and Lahar Road
11:00 a.m. Morning Service of Worship
MINISTERS
Rev. Ralph H. Read Rev. John W. Metter
11:00 a.m. Church School (Nursery through Senior High)
ALL ARE WELCOME

Northwestern Baptist Church

19421 West Ten Mile (Near Evergreen) EL 6-1717
Minister: Rev. Nelson C. Munson
Sunday Worship Services... 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Church School... 11:15 a.m.
Youth Groups... 5:30 p.m.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1152 Bennaville Birmingham, Michigan
G. Wheeler Utley, Minister... U 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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UNITY

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UNITY SERVICES
Sunday 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School 11:00 A.M.
1128 West Maple, Birmingham

St. James Episcopal Church

355 W. Maple—Birmingham, Mich.
Sunday Services
8:00 A.M. 9:15 A.M. 11:00 A.M.
Church School and Nursery
9:15 and 11:00
Young Peoples Fellowship 5-7 P.M.
Midweek—Holy Communion—Wednesday 11:00 A.M.
Clergy—K. H. Gass—W. E. Shoxell—T. G. Phillips
Mus. Dir.—Kent McDonald

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lincoln at Edgewood
(2 Blocks West of Woodward)
Sunday School 10:00 A.M.
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Evening Worship 7:00 P.M.
Thurs. Bible Study 7:30 P.M.
MI 6-2002 Ch.
MI 6-4197
Charles J. Whitfield, Pastor

Franklin Community Church

On Franklin's Village Green
1 block west of Franklin Rd.,
at Wellington and Normandy.
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE—10:00 A.M.
CHURCH SCHOOL—2 Year Olds thru 3rd Grade 10 A.M.
4th Grade thru Junior High 11:15
Robert J. Searls, Minister
Assistant to the Minister, Constance D. Koch

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Christian Science Services
191 N. Casscoe — Birmingham, Michigan
Sunday Morning Services 9:30 and 11:30
Sunday School 9:30 and 11:30
Infants' Room (in Reading Room) 9:15 and 10:15
Wednesday Evening Meeting 8:15
READING ROOM, 355 East Maple Ave.
Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Except Sundays and Holidays
Evenings 7:00 to 9:00 Except Wednesdays and Saturdays.

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