

at the CHURCH DOOR

By JULIE CANDLER

No dues. No officers. No constitution. No by-laws. That's the kind of an organization we like.

On the invitation of the Rev. Robert J. Searls, of Franklin Community church we were lucky enough to sit in on one of the most delightful luncheon gatherings we ever attended last Friday.

It was the third get-together of the Birmingham Community's Luncheon Fellowship.

"It's the BCLF," says the Rev. Dr. Robert Macoskey of First Baptist church, "pronounced 'You should hear him try to say it!'"

BCLF STARTED one day when Dr. Macoskey, assistant pastor of First Baptist church, and the Rev. Kenneth Gass, rector of St. James Episcopal church, had lunch together.

Then Dr. Macoskey suggested carrying the idea one step further—to include laymen and clergy of all the denominations.

"We feel there is a great need to discuss Christianity in everyday life on an informal basis," Dr. Macoskey explained to us at lunch.

SO NOW THEY gather—informally, without dues, etc., every other Friday at Birmingham Community House at 12-15. Each week one of the churches is responsible for the brief, informal talk.

Rev. Tom Phillips talked last week, about how they're observing Lent at St. James church.

As Mr. Phillips began his talk, he saw the luncheon money being collected, and that reminded him of a story.

It was about the elderly lady passenger on an airplane who was extremely religious.

She and all the other passengers were informed that the plane was in trouble, would undoubtedly crash.

THE DEVOUT LITTLE lady took it upon herself to persuade all the doomed passengers to pray, read the Bible or do something religious.

All complied, with the exception of one man who told her, "I don't know any prayers, and I don't have a Bible to read."

Well, you've got to do something religious, she told him. So the desperate man grabbed a hat and walked around taking up a collection!

Getting back to Mr. Phillips, he told how the Lenten family dinner programs at St. James church were hugely successful, well attended affairs.

AND SINCE THEY came on Wednesday night, the children could go upstairs and watch Disneyland while their parents watched a religious film after dinner.

To which a voice in the audience said, "Which one do you watch, Tom?"

When Mr. Phillips finished, Rev. Dr. Harry O. Martin stood up, said he wanted to know how they observed Lent at First Methodist church.

Last week they had a \$25 movie at their family Lenten supper, he explained.

"THEY HAD ME on the program, too," he said, "but they couldn't pay me \$25, so they gave me this vest instead. With that he unbuttoned the sporty plaid jacket he was wearing, to reveal a loud crimson sweater vest, trimmed in grey and blue.

He brought the house down. He says now they can hear him coming into a room.

Next Friday, March 28, Rev. Dr. Emil Kontz and Dr. Macoskey of First Baptist church will take over the program. They're planning a discussion based on recent articles in Harvard Business Review, titled "Christian Ethics in Business."

The gatherings are open to any churchmen who want to join them, the BCLF says.

1st Methodist Church To Move into New Wing

For the third time within six years, First Methodist church will mark the opening of new facilities Sunday, when classes meet in the new education wing under construction since June 2, 1957.

A crib nursery, toddler's room, and ten classrooms, which double the church's educational space, will move adequately meet the needs of the church school's enrollment of 1700 children.

Miss Virginia Seeger, director of Christian education, reports the expanded church school program will be served by a staff of 150 volunteer workers.

IN ADDITION TO the colorful classrooms, a choir room with riser seating arrangement for 75 chorists will provide more adequate facilities for the 820 chorists in the church's eight choirs. The church's two previous moves in recent years were to the new structure on W. Maple at Pleasant, and later occupancy of the large home adjacent to the church in the east.

A WEST WING, still under construction, is scheduled for completion in about two months. It will house a new chapel seating 125 plus rooms for the adult Bible class, youth and office equipment.

Rev. Dr. Arnold F. Rankel, who became pastor of the church in 1954, has given leadership to the entire building program. Drawing

Choir to Give Lenten Cantata

"On the Passion of Christ," a Lenten cantata by David H. Williams will be presented by the First Baptist church March 21 at 7 p.m. Choir soloists will be Mrs. J. C. Phillips, Benjamin E. Stora, Benjamin E. Stora, Jr., Benjamin E. Stora, Jr., and Benjamin E. Stora, Jr. The choir will be under the leadership of Charles L. Holtz.

THE FINLANDIA choir from Detroit gave a concert after dinner while children viewed a Western update.

RECENTLY THE Rev. John D. Rose, the church minister, announced a gift from an enthusiastic supporter of Community church, Fred A. Wilson, 2700 Lathrup boulevard, Wilson remembered the church with gifts totaling \$8,000, "to be used for capital improvements."

Reports are that the money will probably be finance acquisition of a parsonage near the church's associate minister.

Mr. Rose announced the gifts in the church bulletin, adding that Wilson is a "charter member of the church and has rendered service through membership on the board of trustees and in other ways. His generosity through the years has been a most significant factor in the growth and splendid facilities we now enjoy."

IT WAS ENTHUSIASM, again, that spurred women of Community church to be hostesses to a meeting of about 250 women from all over the state at the church last week.

Women interested in the "Fostering Congregationalism" movement gathered there to discuss their churches' position in the proposed union of the Evangelical and Reformed churches with congregational churches.

Rev. Lorenzo Todd, associate minister of the Lathrup church, said last week, "We definitely are opposed to the whole idea. We're going to stay where we are, operating, but to organized union, where everything is swallowed up in one big church."

The Miriam circle of First Baptist church will meet at the home of Mrs. Samuel H. Knowlton, 1515 Birmingham boulevard, at 11 a.m. today for a study book, "Christ, the Church and Race."

The Nellie Clizbe guild of First Presbyterian church will serve a smorgasbord dinner in the church social hall next Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Reservations and tickets may be secured through the church office.

Notices of church group meetings and special services must be submitted in writing by 3 p.m. on Thursday before publication date.

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First Drama Group

Another "first" in Birmingham area churches is the Chancel Players of First Methodist church. Recently they presented "Barabas," in which Joyce (Mrs. Harold Stanton) (right) portrayed Mary, Harriet (Mrs. Ted) Cahow (left) was Anna, and Doris (Mrs. George) Mosher was Deborah. The play was presented at a church Lenten supper. There is the first continuing adult drama group in a Birmingham church, marking its first full year of activity. A member of the Protestant Players of Detroit, Chancel Players will present "Barabas" Tuesday night at a meeting of representatives of Detroit area church theatrical groups.

The Birmingham Eccentric CHURCH PAGE

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Supper Club Opens Meeting and Talk

Dr. W. Glen Harris will show slides and discuss the Holy Land at the next meeting of the First Presbyterian church Supper club Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. in the church.

The group has extended an invitation to the public to attend the dinner and talk following. Reservations may be made by phoning the church office.

Lenten Breakfast

Leading the devotional services for the Congregational church of Birmingham's Men's Fellowship Lenten breakfast will be the Rev. Robert Macoskey, associate minister of Birmingham's First Baptist church. The breakfast is scheduled for March 20 at 6:30 a.m.

Named to Board

Carolyn G. Hantson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hantson, 650 Williamburg, Birmingham, has been named to the planning board for the 1958 Campus Conference on Religion at Cornell University.

Christian Science Society

Franklin, Michigan 28109 Graham 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.

ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH United Lutheran Church of America, 6255 Telegraph, 1/10th of a Mile North of Maple

Worship Service 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Parsonage 2247 W. Lincoln Ave. Phone: MI 6-6119

Rev. John A. Root, Pastor A National Lutheran Council Church

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 6-2092 Ch. MI 6-8167

Charles J. Whitfield, Pastor

Lutheran CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION (Synodical Conference)

Corner 14 Mile and Pierce Avenue Rev. D. Orner, Pastor

Services—11:00 a.m. Family Service and Sunday School 9:30 A.M.

PREBYTERIAN
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Dr. Harold C. DeWandt, Minister

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH Formerly North Adams Episcopal Mission
Easter Service Westview Road and North Adams Road
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 A.M.
Church School and Nursery School 10:00 A.M.
Minister—Rev. Barton Lloyd

NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 21220 West 11 Mile Road (Half way between Cranbrook and Labser)
Sunday Worship Service 11:15 A.M.
Minister—Rev. Lester Dobyns MI 4-5210

SOUTHFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST
Brooks School Labser & 11 Mile Rd.
Sunday Services: 10 a.m. Bible School 11 a.m. Morning Worship 7 p.m. Evening Worship
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WELCOME TO BEAUTIFUL SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
North Adams Road at Whitmore Road (1/2 mile south of East Lake Road)
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:45 A.M.
Tribune: MI 6-5124 H.J. KULMANN, Pastor

Northwestern Baptist Church 19421 West Ten Mile (Near Evergreen)
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.
Rev. James Macgregor, Minister EL 6-1717

UNITED UNITY SERVICES
Sunday 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 11:00 A.M.
Reading Room Open 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M. Tuesdays and Fridays
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. Snodell—T. G. Phillips
Mus. Dir.—Kent McDonald

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 12 Mile Road at Southfield Road EL 6-5452
Rev. Cyril J. Keating, Pastor
SUNDAY MASSES 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 12:15 P.M.
Daily Masses—6:30 and 8:30
Holy Day of Obligation Masses 7:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 7:30 P.M.
Confessions—Saturday 3:30 P.M., 7:30 P.M.
Lenten Devotions Wednesday and Friday Evenings at 7:30 P.M.

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 Assistant to the Minister, Constance D. Kuch

CHURCH OF CHRIST 1152 Bennaville Birmingham, Michigan
G. Wheeler Utley, Minister LI 2-0855
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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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NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Northwestern at Labser
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Ministers: Rev. Ralph H. Read
Rev. John W. Metler
11:00 a.m.—CHURCH SCHOOL (Nursery through Senior High)
7:00 p.m. PILGRIM FELLOWSHIPS (Junior and Senior High Young People
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