

Just a Chat Tells Story Of Pastor's Background

By JULIE CANDLER
Church Editor

You need only hear a man talk, and you know a lot about him. Talk to the Rev. Walter B. Pedersen, minister of the Birmingham Unitarian church, for instance. It won't take long for you to deduce: 1) that he's from New England; 2) that he's well-educated; 3) that he has an easy fluency with and command of the language he speaks with that regional accent.

Actually, says Mr. Pedersen, "It's not a New Englander's speech. I was born in Brooklyn, raised on Long Island, went to school in New England. My speech is a series of super-impositions."

As the blue-eyed minister gestures with his pipe during a conversation, he even looks New Englandish—like a college professor in some Eastern school.

BEFORE HE arrived here last week to begin his new duties with the local church, his New England-type voice had been heard by every type of audience from a Japanese labor meeting to a New Hampshire village Unitarian congregation.

Speaking to Japanese labor, women's, and other group meetings occupied five years of Mr. Pedersen's life. It all started during World War II, when he sought to become an armed forces chaplain. Though he can tell the green light from the red on a traffic signal, he couldn't convince the examiners, "Color blind," they told him, ineligible for a commission as chaplain.

SO HE left the Cohasset, Mass.

Unitarian church where he had been minister for several years to become a Red Cross field director. When the war ended in 1945, the Red Cross sent him to Japan.

In 1946 he was getting ready to leave for home, when he heard about jobs opening up with General MacArthur's American military government there. He was intrigued.

That was when he became a pre-fectural education officer. His job was to help the American government's project to democratize the Japanese.

The American teacher was that Pearl Harbor could never have happened if the decision had rested with the people," he explained.

"WE TRIED to encourage grass roots thinking, to get people to participate in their government, to change their teaching methods based on memory and obedience to a system that would stultify thinking," he said.

For most of his five years with the military government in Japan, Mr. Pedersen's wife, Rebecca, and 17-year-old daughter, Carol, then

a six-year-old) joined him there. In 1951 the family came back to America, settled in Cleveland, where Mr. Pedersen was minister for the Cleveland Ethical society, a liberal religious group similar to Unitarianism.

IN CLEVELAND Mrs. Pedersen, who holds a PhD in psychology from the University of Vienna, headed the elementary school division of the remedial improvement center of the Western Reserve university.

Mr. Pedersen led a group studying the world politics program, one similar to the Great Books in which the reading is current material on world politics. He also led discussion groups among mental patients at the Cleveland state hospital, applying the therapy of "getting patients to listen to one another."

Now that they've moved here, the Pedersens have one more move ahead of them this month.

FROM THE furnished apartment in Ferndale where they are temporarily quartered to the new parsonage at 26 Elm Park, Pleasant Ridge.

Three daughter Carol, who will be attending Ferndale high school, may bring some of her friends home from school and entertain them with a stunt she enjoys. Always delighted with her father's regional accent, Carol often asks him for the benefit of friends, "Daddy, say Harvard!"

Bill Glass, rookie center for the Detroit Lions, will be the guest speaker for First Presbyterian church's annual youth kick-off dinner at 6 p.m. Sunday.

After starring as an All-American guard at Baylor university in 1956, Bill went on to play in the Canadian league at Calgary in 1957. He is a contender for the post of Detroit's first string center, and may well be the only rookie to break into the Lions' starting line-up. In the off-season, Bill is currently studying at Southwestern theological seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

After completing his seminary training he hopes to be ordained to the ministry and work especially with young people. The kick-off dinner marks the beginning of the fall youth program at First Presbyterian church. Three junior high groups will meet at 6 on Sunday afternoons. Alpha Omega is for seventh graders, Iota Sigma is for eighth graders, and Chi Rho is for the ninth grade.

SOMETHING NEW has been added to Westminster fellowship for high school young people. On alternate weeks young people will meet in small groups in the homes to discuss such topics as "God, Genesis and Goliath," "The Facts of Life and Death." On the intervening Sundays they will meet at the church for their own chapel service with special music by the high school choir and for a forum period with outstanding speakers and films.

Junior high student council members will be going to Arrowhead lodge Friday and Saturday to plan for coming events while senior high members of the youth session and youth trustees will be gone over Saturday and Sunday as they work out plans and arrangements for the first semester program of Westminster fellowship.

Congregationalists Schedule Pot-Luck The Congregational church of Birmingham will have its first family night pot-luck supper the evening of 6:30 p.m., Sept. 18. The event will be an informal welcoming reception for the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Grey, the church's interim minister and his wife. Reservations may be made by telephoning the church office.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY KRESGE'S BIG BUY SPECIAL Save 16 lb. OH-Fashioned Spanish PEANUTS

3 DAYS ONLY This Sale Only 33¢ per lb. Crunchy Fresh... Extra Goodness! Enjoy pounds of nutty-fresh peanut from a great wooden barrel (like grandma did). All delicately roasted... so good!

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THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC CHURCH PAGE 7 SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1958



BILL GLASS

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at the CHURCH DOOR By JULIE CANDLER

(EDITOR'S NOTE: While Julie Candler vacations, D. Peter Walters will be guest author of "at the church door.")

A nursery school for parents?

Sure. Actually, the "family life nursery," just beginning its first year at North Congregational church on west 10 1/2 Mile is nowhere near as basic or preposterous as it might sound at first blush. It's dubbed a "simultaneous growth" program, wherein children from three to five years old learn and play at a child's pace and their parents—enrolled with them in the "school"—broaden their own knowledge in regular meetings with parents of other youngsters.

Certainly not the only group of its sort—there are an estimated 60 in the Detroit area—the family life nursery is, however, one of the few church sponsored ones, according to Mrs. Robert Salisbury, president of the nursery.

Nursery school got underway last week, along with most of the area's public and parochial schools, and will run through May. Youngsters (20 of them from 19 families) attend two morning sessions of two and a half hours each week.

THEY ENGAGE in play, music, stories and simple crafts, under the guidance of school director Mrs. Clara Ramsey. Mothers of the tots, trained in nursery techniques by Mrs. Chris Hunt, take turns assisting the operation.

That's where the parents begin to get into the act, but there's more. Six parents' meetings are spaced throughout the school year, designed to inspire joint planning for living in home, nursery and church.

According to the nursery's information sheet, "We are not telling parents how to run their homes; only they and their children can determine that. But we might collaborate and thus strengthen each unit."

AS PART of this effort to strengthen family and family-church ties, the nursery requires both husband and wife to attend parents meetings and suggests that husbands take part in nursery assistance if possible.

"Observation of the nursery in action and conversation with the director are two of the most helpful activities for parents who want to change their behavior toward their own child (as compared with hearing lectures and reading books)," is the nursery's philosophy.

Even if Mom and Dad are both Ph. D.'s, there's a strong movement which says they could learn a lot in nursery school. Doesn't sound right, but chances are it's true in 99 cases out of 100.

NOTICE in THE Franklin community church bulletin "classified" section: HELP WANTED—30 intelligent ladies and gentlemen to create and produce harmony—by an old and well-established organization. Excellent working conditions, congenial associates, free uniforms, music while you work, anticipated

Wages—a flat rate, highest ever paid by this organization. Open shop, no deductions for social security or income taxes, short hours, no Saturday work, retirement when old enough. General manager—high class, hard-working gentleman (speaking respectfully).

Those interested please report to the choir room Wednesday at 8 p.m., prepared to go to work. Those who can sing will have preference.

Franklin Names New Chief Trustee D. James Crawford has been elected chairman of the board of trustees at Franklin Community church, it was announced recently. He is the third man to hold the post in the last four months.

Initial chairman was Robert Yingling, who was transferred to Coldwater by his company. Following him was Charles McGinn, who was transferred to Grafton by his business.

Crawford is serving his second term on the board and was chairman of the first building fund drive in 1955. He is director of Excello corporation's Pure Pak division laboratory.

Replacing Yingling and Merwin on the board are Clark Maddock and Wendell Brown.

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH United Lutheran Church of America 6255 Telegraph, 1710th of a Mile North of Maple Church School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Parsonage: 2247 W. Lincoln Ave. Phone: MI 6-6119 Rev. John A. Root, Pastor A National Lutheran Council Church

SOUTHFIELD CHURCH OF CHRIST Brooks School Lahner & 11 Mile Rd. Sunday: 10 a.m. Bible School 11 a.m. Morning Worship 7 p.m. Evening Worship Wednesday 7:45 P.M. Bible Study and Prayer Service A Cordial Welcome Awaits You For Information Call EL 6-4688

NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 21225 West 14 Mile Road (Half way between Cranbrook and Lakewood) Sunday Worship Service Sunday School and Nursery 10:00 A.M. Minister: Rev. Louis C. Gillette MI 4-5219

Christian Science Society Franklin, Michigan 26100 German Mill Road SUNDAY—11 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL—11 A.M. WEDNESDAY EVENING TESTIMONY MEETING—8:15 READING ROOM (In Church Edifice) Thursday—1:30 P.M. 7:30-9:30 P.M.

Good Reading for the Whole Family • News • Facts • Family Features

PRESBYTERIAN Kirk in the Hills SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 O'CLOCK BLOOMFIELD HILLS HIGH SCHOOL Dr. Harold C. DeWitt Minister

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Northwestern Baptist Church 19421 West Ten Mile (Near Evergreen) Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Sunday Church School 11:15 a.m. Youth Groups 6:30 p.m. EL 6-1717

UNITED with The Unity School of Christianity UNITY SERVICES Sunday 11:00 A.M. Sunday School 11:00 A.M. 1128 West Maple, Birmingham

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 4-2062 Ch. MI 6-8167 Charles J. Whitfield, Pastor

THE BIRMINGHAM UNITARIAN CHURCH A Religion without Dogma The Rev. Walter B. Pedersen, Minister Service and Church School, 10:30 Sermon:—The Place of Reason in Religion The Alfred E. Upton School, Royal Oak Near Fourteen Mile and Coolidge

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST Christian Science Services 191 N. Chester — Birmingham, Michigan Sunday Morning Services 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday School 9:30 and 11:00 Infants' Room (in Reading Room) 9:15 and 10:45 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.

CHURCH OF CHRIST 1152 Bennaville Birmingham, Michigan G. Wheeler Utley, Minister 10:00 A.M. Sunday Bible Class 11:00 A.M. Sunday Worship 5:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service 7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study "THE HERALD OF TRUTH" WXYZ—Each Sunday 5:00-5:30 P.M.

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Northwestern Highway at Lahner Road 11:00 a.m.—Morning Service of Worship MINISTERS Rev. Ralph H. Read Rev. John W. Metler 11:00 a.m.—Church School (Nursery through Senior High) All Are Welcome

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. Koch

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. Stowell, T. G. Phillips Mrs. Dir.—Kent McDonald

"CHURCH GOING FAMILIES ARE HAPPIER FAMILIES" Lutheran Church of the Ascension (Missouri Synod) 16935 W. 14 Mile Rd. at Pierce Ave. (1/2 mile West of Woodward) The Rev. Elbert W. Nuelken, Pastor Sunday Worship Hour—11:00 A.M. Family Worship and Sunday School—9:30 A.M.

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 12 Mile Road at Southfield Road Rev. Cyril J. Keatinge, Pastor SUNDAY MASSES 7:00 A.M., 8:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 12:15 P.M. Daily Mass—7:00 A.M. Holy Day of Obligation Masses 7:00 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 7:30 P.M. Confessions—Saturday 2:00 P.M., 7:30 P.M.