

# The Birmingham Eccentric CHURCH PAGE

APRIL 2, 1959

PAGE 7



The Rev. Robert S. Graham, assistant minister at First Presbyterian church, studies a book of church management. Reading is one of several hobbies he has.

## He Decided to Repair Souls Instead of Teeth

By JIM CRELLIN  
Church Editor

The Rev. Robert S. Graham is a man who started out to learn how to fill cavities and ended up filling churches.

Mr. Graham, assistant minister at First Presbyterian church, had planned on becoming a dentist when he first started college.

He took pre-med training his first two years at Bucknell university, Lewisburg, Pa., but then decided to enter the ministry.

He attended the Princeton Theological Seminary and graduated in 1914.

"I think I could have been happy as a dentist, but I just felt I had to become a minister," Mr. Graham said.

His father, who died recently, was also a minister.

MR. GRAHAM met his wife when he was attending college, and they were married in 1915. They have four children, Robert, 15, Carol, 12, James, 7, and Janet, 5, and make their home at 17329 Buckingham, Beverly.

Following his graduation from theological school, he served at a church in New Jersey. He came here in 1950 from the First Presbyterian church of Long Branch, N. J., to serve as minister to youth.

He also did work in the Christian Education field, and is presently chairman of the Council on Theological Education of the Detroit Presbytery.

HIS WORK at the church now includes programming and administration. He coordinates all church affairs and is responsible for promotion activities.

At the present time he is preparing to launch a fund-raising drive for the new \$750,000 addition the church expects to build this year.

He is a member of the board of management of the Birmingham YMCA, a member of the Rotary club and is active in the State Christian Education field of the denomination.

HE HAS several hobbies, although he doesn't get much time to devote to them because of his church work.

All of the Grahams like the outdoors and such sports as hiking and water skiing. They travel up to each summer to the various lakes.

In addition, Mr. Graham likes to read and when he gets time he reads the books in the field of pastoral service and church management.

HIS SAID his main interest was in the mechanical line.

"I like to do mechanical work and tinker around," he said.

## Women's Group To Hear Speech By Mrs. Walmouth

Mrs. Raymond Walmouth will speak on "A Tapestry of Books and People" when the Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church of Birmingham meets April 7.

A luncheon will be served at 12:30 p.m. and a baby sitter will be available for children. Mrs. Walmouth, a member of the Fellowship, will talk following the luncheon.

MRS. WALMOUTH was associated with the Grosse Pointe Public Library in public relations. Starting by being featured in religious dramas at the age of four months, she became a drama and speech student.

She was president of the Women's Fellowship in Wyandotte, vice president of the Detroit association of Women's Fellowship, a member of the Citizens' Library Council and on the board of The Friends of the Library.

## First Methodist Chancel Players To Present Play

The Chancel Players of the First Methodist church, Birmingham will present the program for the next meeting of the Women's Society of Christian Service April 8.

The Players are adapting the "Into Life" which was written for the fifth assembly of the Women's Society of Christian Service in St. Louis Mo., last May.

The cast includes Kay Hillinger as narrator, Beulah Kikel, Joyce Stevens, Pete Kinker, Doris Mosher, Gertrude Fox, Harriet Cahow, Joyce Stanton, Mary Kay Zacharias, Marcia Boling, Shirley Steele, Daisy Janke, Esther Ruseo, Welthy Russell, Elsie Mae Ferentz and Dr. Harry Martin.

CHILDREN in the play will be Stacy Kinker, Margaret and Timmy Stanton, Kyle Fox, Steve, David and Christine Cahow.

Behind the scenes helping with production will be Helen Romaine, Naomi Gregory, Ruth Rake, Catherine Hershey, and Leona Coutlee. Evelyn Samanen is director. Pete Kinker and Shirley Steele, scene designers; and Betty Barstow, makeup.

The play will follow the 12:45 p.m. luncheon. There will be a crib nursery and the regular nursery.

## St. James Women To Open Resale Shop at Church

Birmingham's newest resale establishment, the Opportunity Shop, will be opened soon by members of St. James Women's auxiliary.

Located in a room adjacent to the church's undercroft, the shop will be open to the public on April 14 and 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and each Tuesday and Wednesday thereafter.

GOOD DISCARDED articles will be welcomed by the shop either as donations or on a consignment basis. Such items as seasonal clothing, household equipment, glassware, linens and furniture will be for sale.

Members of the board of directors who will guide the sale are: Mrs. Donald W. Upward, president; Mrs. Hugh C. Bailey, vice president; Mrs. George Schnell, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Charles Davison and Mrs. Philip Detwiler.

HE STILL likes to putter around the house, and until recently he had an old car to play with.

You never can tell. Maybe you'll see him in one of those cigarette ads on television someday.

A man will walk up to him and say: "I see you're fixing up an old car, sir. Are you an automobile mechanic?"

And Mr. Graham will say: "No, as a matter of fact I'm not. This is just a hobby of mine. Actually I'm an assistant minister at First Presbyterian church."

## N. Congregational Women to Hold Smorgasbord

The North Congregational church Women's association will hold its annual smorgasbord at the church, Northwestern at 10 1/2 Mile road, April 8 from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

There will be square dancing after the dinner and cards for those who do not care to dance. Mrs. Thomas Lawry and Mrs. Carl Steinger are co-chairmen for the affair.

On Tuesday, April 7, at 1:30 p.m., Dr. Robert M. Frishe, director of the Detroit Round Table of Christians and Jews, will address the Women's association.

## Minister Announces Change in Hours For Sun. Services

Dr. Harold C. DeWindt, minister of Kirk in the Hills church, announced recently that the regular Sunday morning worship services have been re-scheduled to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic between services.

The first service will be conducted 15 minutes earlier at 9:15 a.m. and the second service will be held at 11:30 a.m., fifteen minutes later than before.

Sunday school classes will be held concurrently with the new hours of worship, according to Dr. DeWindt.

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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## They'll Present a "Triple Treat"

Members of the First Methodist church Youth Fellowship group are doing a lot of practicing these days. They are going to present three one-act plays at the church, April 10 and 11, at 8 p.m. The theme for the evening is "Triple Treat." The Rev. Robert F. Falk, youth minister, is directing two

of the plays, "Overtones," and "The Vainest." Mrs. Rose Stokes is directing a comedy, "Country Slicker." Mr. Falk is discussing the script for "Overtones" with Barbra Byer (left to right), Susan Koenek and Ann Froberg.



Dr. Homer J. Armstrong polishes up the numbers at the First Baptist church parsonage at 501 Larchlea as his wife and son, Peter, look on. Dr. Armstrong took over as Pastor of First Baptist, April 1.

## New Paint, New Minister In 1st Baptist Parsonage

By DONALD S. EASTER

It was difficult for the tall, gray-haired man to make himself heard over the loud banging of the hammers.

He stepped over a tarpaulin, sniffed the smell of fresh paint, then poked his head around the corner.

"This Baptist parsonage?" he fairly shouted. The workmen halted temporarily, looked up and grinned. "Yeah, it sure is," said one.

That was the introduction of Dr. Homer J. Armstrong and his wife and their son, Peter, 11, to their new home at 501 Larchlea.

Dr. Armstrong, who will preach his initial sermon at the Birmingham First Baptist church April 5, moved his family into the completely redecorated parsonage last week.

"We think we will like living in Birmingham," said Dr. Armstrong, who resigned as pastor of the Jefferson Avenue Baptist church in Detroit to accept the new post.

"THE BIRCH TREES, the architectural texture of the homes . . . all beautiful. "And that stream that runs from Quanton Lake reminds us of Minnehaha Creek in Minneapolis. The Minnie, of course, stands for Minneapolis and the haha is for St. Paul. It's purely a local joke; you have to live up there to truly appreciate it."

The Armstrongs find the parsonage far different than when it was occupied by the Emil Kottz family who left the Birmingham church to accept the pastorate at St. Albans, W. Va.

An all-new sink and dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen, there is new carpeting on the floor, new drapes, a new furnace and the inside has been repainted.

MRS. ARMSTRONG, apparently satisfied with the decor, peered out the back window.

"It's such a nice yard," she said. "I'm anxious to see what it will grow."

After holding pastorates in big cities like Duluth, New York, Minneapolis and Detroit, Birmingham is "like home" to the Armstrongs.

They are the son of a minister, and he is a minister. Dr. Armstrong is a member of the Birmingham First Baptist church, and he is a member of the Birmingham First Baptist church.

**Navy Man to Speak To Couples' Club**

Cmdr. Walter Staigt, U. S. Navy, will discuss his participation in the Antarctic expedition, "Operation Deepfreeze" when the Married Couples' club of Redeemer Lutheran church meet tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Now stationed at the Naval air station at Grosse Ile, Cmdr. Staigt was a helicopter pilot in an advance International Geophysical Year team which set up an observation station at the South Pole in November of 1956.

The committee in charge of the evening's program includes Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kroeger, chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Hans Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whaley and Mr. and Mrs. Al Baumann.

**Kirk in the Hills**  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS - PRESBYTERIAN  
Dr. Harold C. DeWindt, MINISTER  
NEW SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY SERVICES  
9:15 and 11:30 A.M.

**NATIVITY**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
21250 West 14 Mile Road  
(Half way bet. Cranbrook & Lakeside)  
Sunday Services  
8:00 9:30 11:15  
Church School and Nursery  
9:30 and 11:15  
Minister: Rev. Louis C. Gillette  
MA 6-6666 MI 6-7627

**Christian Science Society**  
Franklin, Michigan  
26100 German Mill Road  
SUNDAY—11 A.M.  
WEDNESDAY EVENING  
TESTIMONY MEETING—8:15  
READING ROOM  
(In Church Edifice)  
Tuesdays & Saturdays 1-3 P.M.  
Thursdays 7-9 P.M.

**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. Searis, Minister  
Assistant to the Minister, Constance D. Koch

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
355 W. Maple—Birmingham, Mich.  
Sunday Services  
8:00 A.M.—Holy Communion  
9:15 A.M.—Morning Prayer and Sermon  
11:00 A.M.—Holy Communion and Sermon  
5:00 P.M.—Young People's Fellowship  
Church School and Nursery—9:15 and 11:00  
Midweek—Holy Communion—Wednesday 7:00-11:00 A.M.  
Clergy—K. H. Gass—W. E. Snoxell—T. G. Phillips  
Mus. Dir.—Kent McDonald

**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.  
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**NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
Northwestern Highway and Lahser Road  
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MINISTERS  
Rev. Ralph H. Read Rev. John W. Metler  
11:00 a.m. Church School (Nursery through Senior High)  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Northwestern Baptist Church**  
19421 West Ten Mile (Near Evergreen) EL 6-1711  
Minister: Dr. Walter R. Hand  
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.

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6:00 P.M. Sunday Evening Service  
7:30 P.M. Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
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