

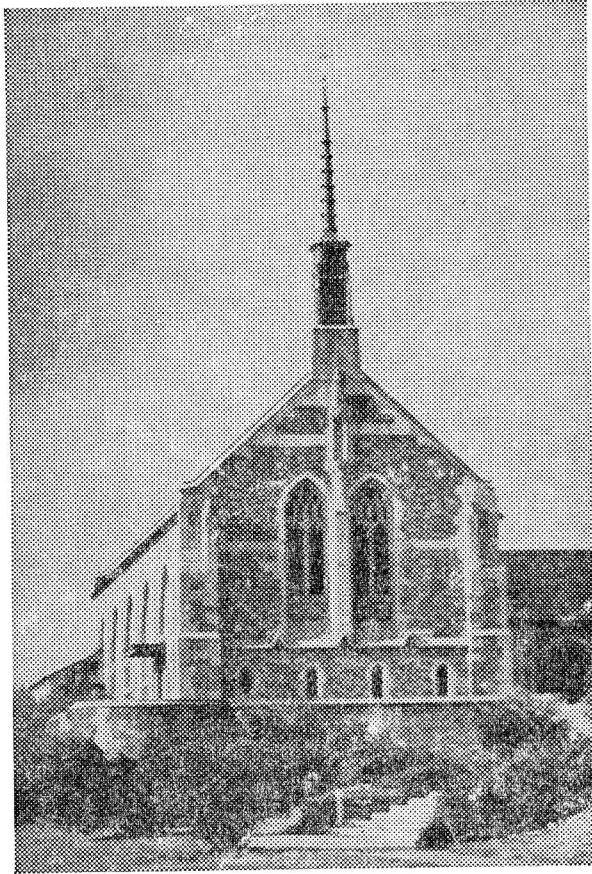
THE MESSENGER

First Baptist Church

1100 South Goodman Street, Rochester 20, New York

Affiliated with the Baptist Union of Rochester and Monroe County, New York Baptist Missionary Convention, American Baptist Convention, Federation of Churches of Rochester and Vicinity, New York State Council of Churches, National Council of Churches of Christ in America, and the World Council of Churches.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1953



Charles Everard Deems, Minister
248 Westminister Road, Phone MONroe 6179

Pastor's Assistant: Mrs. Paul G. Webster
Student Assistant: Nelson Basil

Minister of Music: Clarence P. Bilhorn
Organist: Mrs. Anna Walker Goss

Church Phone: Hillside 4060

Our Ministry Elsewhere
Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Crain
American Baptist Mission
Rangoon, Burma

MORNING WORSHIP

Eleven o'clock

Samuel Colgate Memorial Chapel

Organ Prelude

"Carrente"

Frescobaldi

Call to Worship**Invocation**

***Hymn No. 25**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Responsive Reading No. 620

Anthem

"O Divine Redeemer"

Gounod

Call to Prayer**Pastoral Prayer****Choral Amen****The Offering****Anthem**

"Immortal, Invisible God"

Thiman

Prayer of Dedication**The Doxology****Message to Boys and Girls*****Hymn No. 192**

"O Lord of life"

The Minister's Message

Dr. Deems

***Hymn No. 70**

"The God of Abraham praise"

Benediction**Sevenfold Amen****Chimes Meditation****Organ Postlude**

"Postlude Fugato"

Sergisson

*The Congregation stands

***Intervals for ushering

A Nursery is provided for the convenience of parents of small children.

If you are interested in singing in our choir, Mr. Bilhorn, our new Director of Music, will be glad to meet you in the narthex at the close of the service this morning.

Born—July 30, William Brooks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kendall Brooks Castle, Cambridge, Mass.

Born—August 8, Maia Eleanor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Genaux of College, Alaska.

Born—September 8, John Boller, son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Henderson of 169 Chelmsford Road.

ROCK EST EA

THE MINISTER'S WORD

Those fortunate enough to attend any of the sessions of "The Gymanfa Ganu"—the gathering of Welsh people—the Sunday before Labor Day in the Eastman Theater will never forget that thrilling experience. Here were folk from nearby villages and cities as well as from distant parts of our country, west, and south, and from Canada. They came for the single purpose of singing Welsh Hymns. To be in a congregation of from 2,500 to 3,000 people, many of whom sang a large proportion of the hymns from memory, to hear them sing in unison and in harmony, was to put it mildly, an unique and moving experience. And what hymn tunes! They were of high quality, of almost incomparable strength and richness. The evident enjoyment of the singers, their sincerity, made each meeting not only a "song service" but a Service of Worship in the highest meaning of that phrase.

We shall never match their ardor nor their proficiency in the singing of hymns in the First Baptist Church Worship Services. But it is certainly true that our congregational singing can be improved, and will be if we have the full participation of every member in the singing of God's praise. To sing with others not only enhances one's own spiritual experience, it enriches the experience of all. Occasionally, there may be a person who, as the saying goes, "cannot carry a tune." That person, however, can read the words of the hymn in a devotional mind and spirit as it is being sung by choir and congregation.

Our Director of Music, Mr. Bilhorn, wants to augment our choir. Folk who can help in this capacity are requested to speak to him about this as soon as they possibly can.

OUR BUILDING FUND. Mr. William Oliver, Treasurer, reports that we now have received \$264,233.37. Of this amount, \$104,845.18 represents money received from the sale of the property down town, plus interest; and \$159,388.19 has come in through contributions. Expenses thus far (our Financial Campaign, etc.) have amounted to \$2,377.44,—deductible, of course, from the \$264,233.37, thus leaving a remainder of \$261,855.93. Of this amount, \$80,000 is in Savings Banks; \$159,000 is in U. S. Bonds, and \$22,000 is in an "active account." A chart graphically illustrating these facts will be in the narthex soon.

The "Baptist New Yorker" always prints on a special page the contributions from the various churches, grouped in the different associations, to the missionary and educational work of the American Baptist Convention, from the first of the current fiscal year (in this case, it is May 1,) until some date, as for example in the last issue, the last day of July. Many people consult these reports to see how their own church and other churches are supporting the united work of our denomination. When the last issue of "The New Yorker" arrived, it was something of a shock to see that there was no contribution listed from the First Baptist Church. Actually, a check for \$2,100 went to our State Office in Syracuse very late in July, probably just too late to be in that issue. So, to set the record straight, we have paid a proportionate percentage of our pledge for the first four months of this fiscal year 1953-54 (May through August). This is encouraging. We have many problems and a big job ahead so far as our own Church is concerned, but we also want to do our part and bear our fair share of the work of our denomination as loyally and as faithfully as ever. This can be done when each member is conscientious and keeps his pledge to the church paid up-to-date.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th, will be RECOGNITION SUNDAY for the teachers of our Church School. At the Morning Worship Service special mention will be given those who have volunteered their time, energies and ability for the advancement of our Christian Education program. During the service Dr. Deems will deliver an important message related to this aspect of our church life. Be sure to be present for this very significant program.

YOU MAY BE INTERESTED in some statistics of giving. Information compiled late in 1952 revealed that 47 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox Churches (denominations) in the United States reported total contributions of \$1,286,633,160 for all purposes compared with a total of \$1,166,433,648 reported a year earlier,—an over-all gain of 10.3 per cent. . . Congregational expenses amounted to \$1,036,832,082 in the 45 religious bodies which reported this item, a gain of \$102,452,271 or 11 per cent, over the figure given a year earlier.

Total benevolences amounted to \$249,801,078 in 47 denominations, a gain of \$17,737,241 or 7.6 per cent over the previous annual figure compiled.

Total contributions were \$34.32 per capita, compared with \$32.33 a year before, a gain of \$1.99 per member per year, or 6.1 per cent over the previous year in the 45 denominations reporting. But alas! The per capita gain in benevolences for the 47 denominations reporting was, however, only from \$6.43 to \$6.66 or 23 cents per member per year.

Obviously, certain questions arise concerning the effect of deflation and inflation on giving. From studies that have been made, comparing trends in 15 denominations, which have reported every year since 1921 with the trend of church membership reported in these bodies, reveals that between 1926 and 1934 church membership increased slightly, while from 1930-1934 the total giving (this was the era of the "depression") decreased considerably. From 1934 to 1952 church membership gradually increased, while total gifts for all purposes went up much more rapidly than the membership.

Statistics about Money and Giving may be interesting, but even more interesting are the stories which lie behind the use of this money. Let us look at just one. Michail, a young farm boy in Lebanon, was running about his father's farm during the recent war years, when he picked up a strange, round object one day. He didn't know, of course, that it was a hand grenade, and when it exploded he was bereft of his eyesight and his right hand. But a Christian school for the blind has not only given Michail new hope and new skills, but has brought him to know the greatest Friend a young man can have, and has inspired him to dedicate his life to the service of his fellow-blind. A generous gift from the John Milton Society gives him teacher training in Beirut in preparation for his life work as a Christian teacher of the blind in his own land.