

Southern Illinoisan Church News

Profile Of A Religion

Disciples Of Christ Indigenous To America

By Marilou Stuebe
Of The Southern Illinoisan
(One of a Series)

The largest indigenous American religious body is the Disciples of Christ, an attempt to bring Christians together in a church organized according to the principles of primitive Christianity.

The group as it presently exists had a dual beginning. At the time when the great western migration in the United States began, many of the pioneers were placed in churchless situations.

In 1803, Barton W. Stone of Kentucky conceived a plan to gather in these people by retreating to a form of church organization which he claimed was the New Testament plan for the Christian churches.

He called his group the Christian Church. About the same time, Thomas Campbell, his son, Alexander and Walter Scott conceived essentially the same plan in their territory of West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

In 1832, the two groups merged. The names "Disciples of Christ" and "Christian Church" are now used interchangeably for churches of the same communion.

No Creeds
Members of the Disciples of Christ Churches hold to no creeds. They have as doctrines, only those things which are found in the New Testament, or can be reasonably inferred therefrom.

They believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God, although interpretation is reserved to each believer. The group contains both liberal and fundamentalists members and churches.

Each congregation is autonomous, and is usually served by an ordained minister. However, in an emergency an elder or layman can conduct the worship service, and elders usually are responsible for the communion service.

The church is administered in a democratic fashion, with the pastor, board of elders and deacons serving as leaders. Each has its own area of responsibility, but matters of importance must be acted on by the congregation as a whole.

Advisory Body
The Disciples of Christ churches cooperate in the International Convention in matters of missions, charities and administration. Membership in the group is voluntary. The convention is an advisory, rather than legislative body.

Just as the Disciples are left free to interpret the Scripture for themselves, they are free to worship in their own manners. There are no pre-set rituals.

Certain characteristics do mark the Disciples' services, however. The Lord's Supper, not regarded as a sacrament, is offered every Sunday. Also, at the close of each Sunday service, those who wished to unite with the faith are given the opportunity to do so.

A person seeking admission into the faith is required to make public confession of his faith, his acceptance of Christ as savior, and be baptized by immersion.

Immersion is regarded as the only form of Baptism authorized by the New Testament. Only persons who are old enough to know what they are doing are baptized.

Although, the Disciples baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the nature of the Trinity has never been defined by them.

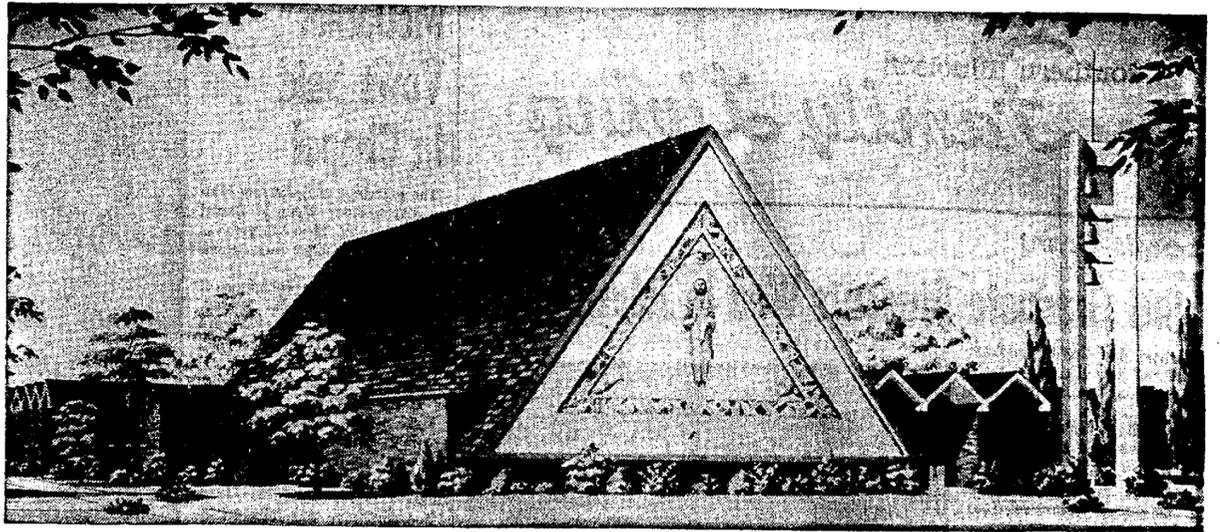
Most Disciples reject the doctrine of original sin, and so attach no washing away of original sin to Baptism. They see the ordinance as an act of surrender and obedience to Christ's will.

They do believe that men are sinful until they are saved by Christ, however. Walter Scott, suggested that this salvation was accomplished according to a five-fold plan: faith, repentance, baptism, newness of life and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Disciple belief in life after death varies. Some members believe in a literal heaven and literal hell.

Others see eternal life as a time of peace and complete communion with God. Others profess no delineated beliefs on the subject. Almost all do believe in the immortality of the soul, however.

The over 8,000 Disciples of Christ Churches in the United States have nearly 2 million members, all adult communicants.



TO BE BUILT

Work will begin soon on the new St. Joseph Church and rectory in Marion. A. M. Norman,

Marion, is general contractor. The church which will seat 500, will be on a 31-acre tract at

the end of White Street between Main Street and new Rt. 13. The facade will have a ceramic

tile mural depicting St. Joseph and the Trinity. Both church and rectory will be air-conditioned.

The exterior will be brick with St. Meinard sandstone. A free-standing bell tower will be constructed.

Ecumenical Council

American Bishops Take Background To Conference

By Jules Loh
AP Staff Writer

America's Catholic bishops will take with them to the Second Vatican Council next October a background of lively participation in this rarely used form of church government.

At the last council, a century ago, 46 prelates from the United States participated. Some — notably Bishop Augustin Verot of Savannah, Ga., and Bishop Edward Fitzgerald of Little Rock Ark. — treated the staid assembly to some forthright examples of Yankee determination.

Bishop Fitzgerald was one of only two participants who said "non placet" I am not pleased on the final vote to adopt a definition of papal infallibility. The other was an Italian, Bishop Aloisio Riccio of Cajazzo.

Bishop Verot also was opposed, but he made his reputation mainly through fiery speeches on lesser issues.

He thought it was a "disgraceful spectacle" for priests to hunt with guns and felt there should be a church law against it. He wanted the council to take a strong stand on racial justice and pro-labor issues.

Convention Plans Made

Registration for the District 10 convention of Christian Churches will begin Sunday at the First Christian, Carbondale, host church for the conference.

Mrs. Ray Eddings is general chairman of the Sept. 16 convention. Mary Jo Stroup will serve as registrar for First Christian members.

Representatives of nine area churches will attend the convention with special sessions for all ages. The Rev. Howard Short, editor of "The Christian," national weekly publication of the Disciples of Christ, will be the main speaker. The first family night of the church year will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the fellowship hall of the church.

posed a canon "anathematizing any who dare to assert that blacks are not of the human family."

The biggest issue of the First Vatican Council—whether to define papal infallibility—was not even on the proposed agenda when the assembly convened in 1869.

The main point of controversy wasn't whether the Pope was infallible when speaking on matters of faith and morals only 15 of the 601 bishops present were opposed to the doctrine but whether it was advisable to define the doctrine at that time.

Most of the Americans felt it was not.

Archbishops Peter Kenrick of St. Louis and John Purcell of Cincinnati and Bishop Michael Domenec of Pittsburgh led U. S. opposition. They claimed, one observer reported, "that the definition would be an insurmountable obstacle to the conversion of Protestants in the United States."

According to this writer, Domenec felt that "if here be no setback, in 30 or 40 years the number of Catholics will be greater in North America than in Italy; and they will be not merely nominal, but real practicing Catholics. The only calamity that can destroy so fair a hope would be the doctrine of papal infallibility."

Present count: Italy 49 million Catholics, practicing and nominal; North America 50 million.

Weekly Messages Begin

Seven messages on the seven churches of Asia described in the Book of Revelations will be presented as a weekly series at the Lone Oak Baptist Church near Energy.

The first message will be given at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 5. The church is one mile south of Energy on Rt. 148. The Rev. Claude Childers is pastor.

Visit Relatives

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Williams, Jr., and family of Warren, Mich., are spending their vacation in Johnston City with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Williams, Sr.



MASONS OFFICIATE

Grand officers of the Prince Hall Masonic Order of Illinois conducted the ceremony for the

cornerstone laying of the new parsonage of the Olivet Free Will Baptist Church in Carbondale.

O. E. Vandenburg, of Chicago, Grand Master, leads the ritual.

Remodeling Nearly Finished

Remodeling of the Marion First Pentecostal Church of God is near completion.

The building was formerly the First Presbyterian Church building on North Market Street. It was moved to 301 W. DeYoung St., and placed over the basement church of the First Pentecostal Church of God in June.

The Rev. C. S. McGinnis said a double foundation was installed to fit the building, the interior was redecorated and 24 pews, a Bible stand, altar and communion table have been installed.

The basement was converted to Sunday School rooms and kitchen facilities.

Members began holding services in their new building immediately after it was moved.

Homecoming Planned

Jerusalem Christian Church plans a homecoming celebration Sunday, Sept. 2.

Celebration will begin with the regular morning service followed by a dinner and afternoon service. The Hawkins Quartet will sing during the afternoon.

Walther League

Convention To Begin

The annual district convention of the Walther League, youth organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Sept. 1 to 3, will have Hoffman and Centralia members as hosts.

Nearly 500 teenage members from Southern Illinois are expected to attend the convention. Seven hundred are expected for the Sunday evening banquet at Trinity Lutheran Church, Centralia.

Registration will be at Hoffman

at 11 a.m. Saturday. Playoffs of the district volleyball and softball tournaments will be conducted Saturday afternoon. There will be a hayride Saturday evening.

Sunday meetings will begin with a communion worship service in the Centralia High School Auditorium.

Business meetings and workshops will follow. A rodeo is scheduled for Monday at Cowton, followed by installation of officers and a closing worship service.

HOLY LAND FILMS TO BE SHOWN AT CHURCH

The Rev. Harry Grimes, former pastor of the Church of God of Prophecy in Johnston City, will show films of the Holy Land at 7:30 p. m. Saturday at the church.

The Rev. Mr. Grimes and his wife took the films on a recent tour of Israel. He left the Johnston City Church four years ago and now has a pastorate in Wisconsin.

DeSoto Church

Revival Leader Named



The Rev. Elvis Marcum

The Rev. Elvis Marcum, Greensburg, Ky., will lead two week revival of the First Baptist Church in DeSoto.

Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening beginning Sunday, with pre-service prayer meeting at 7 p.m. There will also be a 9:30 a.m. service Sunday.

John Davis of the Anna Heights Baptist Church is music director for the revival. The Rev. Terrell Johnson is pastor of the church.

Missionary To Speak

Mrs. Marguerite Shaw, Tuba City, Ariz., missionary to the American Indians, will be guest speaker at the Assembly of God Church, 15th and South Streets, Murphysboro at 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Mrs. Shaw has worked with the Indians for several years and is working among the western Navahos.

Student Guest Speaker

Max Sullivan, student at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary, will be guest speaker 8:30 a. m. service of the First Lutheran Church, Murphysboro, Sunday.

He is a member of the First Lutheran Church.

Marion Pastor

Announces Resignation

The Rev. Norris L. Hamlin has resigned as pastor of the Warner Street Baptist Church in Marion effective Oct. 1.

He will become pastor of the East St. Louis First Baptist Church.

The Rev. Mr. Hamlin came to the Marion church in November, 1954. He has served as president and secretary of the Marion Ministerial Alliance.

He is president of the Southern Illinois University Student Christian Foundation and member of the Illinois Baptist State Convention board of managers, Judson Baptist Association executive board, ordination examining board, chairman of evangelism and chairman of the social action committee.

The Hamlin family will move to East St. Louis the first week of October. The parsonage is at 1606 N. 46th St.

Revival In Progress

A tent revival is in progress one mile east of Murphysboro on Route 13 under the leadership of the Rev. John McDowell, evangelist from Metropolis. Services begin at 7:30 p. m.

In Herrin

Addition Cornerstone Placed

A cornerstone was laid Wednesday for an addition to the Bryan Street Baptist Church in Herrin. The addition includes a 300-seat auditorium, soundproof nursery, pastor's study, and baptistry. The old church building has been remodeled for nine Sunday School classrooms.

The outer walls of the old stucco building have been redone to match the brick on the addition.

The church has also purchased a new organ and a new piano.

The Rev. Ray Rhyme of West Frankfort spoke at the Wednesday ceremonies. Bill Woodhouse of Herrin laid the cornerstone. Members of the building committee are Gilbert Robinson, chairman, and Bob Sadler, Art Freyberger and Junior Ward.

The construction for the new addition was financed by sale of bonds.



Gilbert Robinson, Bill Woodhouse and the Rev. Jewel Johnston, lay cornerstone at Bryan Street Baptist Church, Herrin.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SERVICES
SUBJECT SUNDAY
"CHRIST JESUS"
Branches of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

CARBONDALE So. University at Elm Sunday, 11 a. m. Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.—Wed. Eve. meeting, 8:00 p. m.—Reading Room, Wed. Sat. 8-4. Room, Sat. 8-4.	CARTERSVILLE 307 E. Illinois Ave. Sunday, 10:45 a. m. Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.—Wed. Eve. meeting, 7:45 p. m.—Reading Room, Sat. 8-4.	MURPHYSBORO 1819 Walnut Street Sunday, 11 a. m. Sunday School 8:45 a. m.—Wed. Eve. meeting, 8 p. m.—Reading Room 11:30-4:30 (ex. Sun.-holidays)
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The Bible speaks to you—Radio WGGH—Sun. 10:15 a.m.

REVIVAL MEETING

EVANGELIST
DON GALEHR
BEECH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
GOSPEL SINGING

September 2 thru September 9
8:00 p. m. EACH EVENING

EVERYONE WELCOME

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

220 South Park Ave.
HERRIN, ILLINOIS

Here is the church you have been looking for. A CHURCH to meet your spiritual needs.

A place where every member of the family can worship in reverent holiness.

WHY NOT ATTEND SUNDAY?

9:25 a. m.—"Continue in God's Grace"
10:00 a. m.—Broadcast Over WJPF
10:45 a. m.—Bible School Hour
7:00 p. m.—A Message from Revelation 19

NURSERY OPEN
Dial-a-Devotion Daily
Wilson 2-5238