

Unitarian Pastor Compares New Congregation With Old

By RED LOCKWOOD

It is quite an experience for a pastor to leave a church which was organized in 1635 and worships in a building that was completed in 1681 to come to a new congregation in Torrance which as yet has no permanent home.

"It was quite a change," agrees Rev. Richard Seebode, of the Pacific Unitarian Church, which now owns land at W. 235th St. and Eshelman Ave., in Torrance. "But it also has been an exciting five years here."

The Pacific Unitarian Church was organized in the spring of 1957 and Rev. Seebode arrived here in 1958. In the spring of 1959, a campaign was conducted to raise the money to buy a site for the church which was then holding services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Torrance.

Now, the congregation meets each Sunday in Miraleste School, on Palos Verdes Drive East, between Picardy and Via Canada, in Palos Verdes. Ground will be broken for the new building sometime during this summer or fall.

That is quite an achievement and perhaps it is explained by Rev. Seebode when he says, "I have always found a greater satisfaction in working with people than with things."

The son of a Cincinnati (O.) machinist, Rev. Seebode "grew up in church" under a minister whom he admired. He taught Sunday School and took part in young people's work, which he found very satisfactory.

Those activities, "plus intellectual proings to try to determine what the true values of life really are, as all teen-agers do," led Rev. Seebode to the ministry.

"I found acceptance and companionship in the church," he adds, "and many of us found our wives and our husbands there."

Rev. Seebode describes those experiences of his youth as taking place "before people were mobile," and points to the change which has taken place bringing the rootlessness of our people which is present to some extent everywhere today but, of course, is accentuated in such California cities as Torrance where the rate of growth is so tremendous.

"One of the real problems of the churches here," said Rev. Seebode, "is the small core of 'permanent' residents. Our congregations are segregated by age. Ours is a young congregation in need of grandparents."

He commented that the technological advances made during his lifetime have been "fantastic," but that corresponding advances in human understanding of life and its values have not kept pace.

Many of the people in California do not attend church, Rev. Seebode believes, because our cities and towns lack the expectations which exist in older communities that people should go to church.

"The pressures toward church that are exerted upon people in their home towns are not exerted here," says Rev. Seebode.

"Many people come here to escape those community pressures," he added. "They are like the freshman in college who, for the first time, doesn't have mom and pop looking over his shoulder."

During the years, Rev. Seebode said that he "turned more and more to working with the inter-relationships of people, and the concepts of personality and growth."

Perhaps it is this fascination with the realm of the mind, and the creation of ideas, and early childhood conditioning, which has led Rev. Seebode more and more into the one-to-one, or person-to-person, relationship of the ministry.

In the future, he plans to concentrate more upon marriage and family relations work, and to continue those activities in his retirement.

Those fields seem to be a natural for a man who finds greater satisfaction working with people than with things.

Rev. Seebode finds it difficult to adjust to retirement at this time, during which he is gradually retiring from a full-time ministry to a congregation into a full-time ministry to individuals.

One of the reasons for this difficulty is that Rev. Seebode is still very much interested in, and involved in, the building of a home for the people of the Pacific Unitarian Church.

It is to be a permanent church building to house the congregation of today, from whose roots descendants may still be identified three hundred years from now when Torrance is a stable, settled community filled with a solid core of old and established residents.

As an example, he cited the Old Ship Church which was built in 1681 in Hingham, Massachusetts, where Rev. Seebode was pastor for eight years before coming to Torrance.

It is a city which he describes as a "bedroom" of Boston.

"About one-third of Hingham are old residents," he said, "a good, solid core of people who are stable. The community expectations are high. However, there was a contest between the old guard and the 'invaders,' just as there is here, although to a lesser degree."

Rev. Seebode smiled as he added, "Yes, it was quite a change coming here to Torrance. For instance, before I left Hingham, I dedicated a child of a family who had been attending the church for twelve generations."

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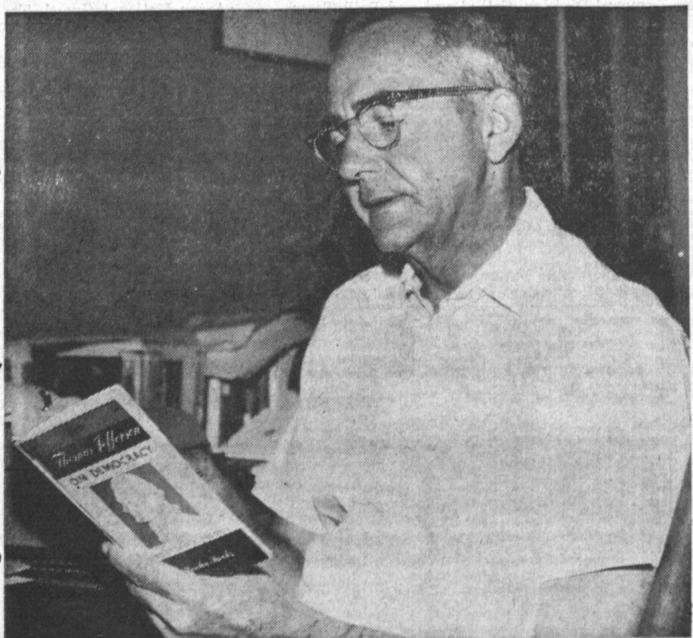
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AT HOME IN HIS STUDY in his Torrance residence is Rev. Richard Seebode, pastor of the Pacific Unitarian Church which plans to break ground shortly at Eshelman Ave. and W. 235th St. The congregation presently meets in Miraleste School in Palos Verdes. Before coming to Torrance, Rev. Seebode was minister of a church which had been established for almost 300 years. —PRESS photo

Temple Confirmation To Highlight Shovuos

The giving of the 10 commandments on Mt. Sinai will be recreated Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Temple Menorah, 1101 Camino Real, Redondo Beach when 22 confirmands will conduct the Shovuos service.

This Jewish holiday, coming seven weeks after Passover, is the Culmination of the spring holy season from which the Christian concept of Lent was derived.

According to Jewish tradition it was on Shovuos that Moses ascended the mountain and received the two tablets of stone from the hands of God. The children of Israel vowed to receive the laws and to follow them and comprehend them.

In keeping with this vow, the tenth grade of the religious school will confirm its faith in God and its determination to live according to the Jewish religion by its accepting the law during the service.

The young people to be confirmed are: Diane Bloom and Nancy Stotland of Manhattan Beach; Steven Cole, Marlene Mayer and Judith Wasserman of Palos Verdes Estates; Bruce Cole of Gardena; Robert Cole, Henry Haskell, Gary Johnson, Terry Liblick, Sally Morrison and Deborah Weil of Redondo Beach; Peter Coleman, Bob Platt and Jane Toben of Rolling Hills; Karen Brown, David Cutler, Patricia Deikel, Rosemary Gajland, Allen Luger, Amy

Rodney and Leonard Rothstein of Torrance.

The two part service begins on Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. with recitation of the cantata "What is Torah?" written by Ira and Judith Eisenstein. Director will be Fay Newman, organist and choir director of Temple Menorah. Highlighting Wednesday morning will be the reading of the Ten Commandments from the Torah, the traditional scroll form in which the Bible was written by our Hebrew ancestors.

Semonettes will be delivered by Sally Morrison, Cutler and Gary Johnson, the top students of the class.

Glendale Pastor To Speak Here

Rev. Milford Sholund, director of biblical and educational research for Gospel Light Press, Glendale, will be speaker at the seven o'clock service at the Rolling Hills Covenant Church this evening. Mr. Sholund has been a pastor of several churches prior to assuming his present position, which he has held for eight years.

Also participating in the service will be Mel Nygren, Sunday school superintendent at the local church.

At the morning service the pastor of the church, Robert A. Honnette, will deliver the sermon, "Our Lord's Ascension, A Reality."

Rabbi Henri Front will bless each of the confirmands and certificates of confirmation will be presented by Myer Alpert, president of the congregation. Bibles and Prayer Books will be presented by Lin (Mrs. Philip) Weinstein and Mark Frisman, presidents respectively of the Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

A reception will follow both the evening and morning services. The public is invited.

Adventists To Baptize Each Month

The sacred rite of baptism is to become a monthly service of the Torrance Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1610 Acacia Ave., according to an announcement made by Manson Metcalf, minister of the church.

The minister explained that the new plan results from an unprecedented emphasis on evangelism.

Pastor Metcalf said members and the church's ministerial staff have been engaged in the past few months in an information program about Seventh-day Adventists which has resulted in the new baptismal plans.

The pastor noted that baptism in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is by immersion "in a Biblical figure of the burial of the 'old man of sin' and a resurrection of the new man reborn in Christ."

'Ego' To Be Topic Of Sermon Today

The nature of man's ego will be explored this Sunday at First Church of Christ, Scientist, in a Bible Lesson entitled "Soul and Body."

Responsive Reading by the congregation will open with this verse: "My soul shall make her boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad" (Ps. 34:2).

Included in the related readings will be these lines: "The one Ego, the one Mind or Spirit called God, is infinite individuality, which supplies all form and comeliness and which reflects reality and divinity in individual spiritual man and things" ("Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" by Mary Baker Eddy p. 281).

Use The Press Classified Ads, Phone DA 5-1515.

Three Thousand Attend Conclave

More than 2000 Jehovah's witnesses met in the Hermosa Biltmore ballroom for a three-day assembly of California Circuit No. 16, last weekend.

Sessions opened Friday evening with a talk on the theme: "Right Kind of Ministers," followed by a model ministry school, during which there was discussion of the two Bible books First and Second Peter, and a talk on the subject: "Taking out a people for His Name."

The school was followed by a model of the weekly service meeting emphasizing the theme: "Becoming Jehovah's Friend." Talks demonstrated how to properly and effectively perform the ministry.

Saturday and Sunday mornings were devoted to visiting the people in their homes. Saturday evening's program treated such subjects as proper associations for youth, visiting and encouraging the infirm, aiding the spiritually sick, maintaining proper decorum at meetings, aiding those with marital problems, and applying Matthew 18:15.

On Sunday afternoon, Theodore Jaracz, district supervisor, addressed the gathering on the subject "Who Will Win the Struggle for World Supremacy?"



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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH—Corner of Manuel, Rev. Robert Dehn, Church phone, FA 8-5030; 9:15 and 10:45, morning worship; 9:15, nursery through 5th grade; 10:45 Jr. High through Adult Sunday School; 6:30 p.m. Training Unites; 7:00 p.m. Evangelistic services; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., mid-week service. Nursery care for MARBONNE AVENUE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH—34730 Marbonne Ave., Lomita, DA 6-0229, Church 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School 9:45 a.m. every service.
- CATHOLIC**
ST. CATHERINE LABOURE CHURCH—3846 Redondo Beach Blvd., Torrance, DA 5-3700, Sunday Masses: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. Weekday Masses: 6:30 and 8:15. Confession Saturday: 4:00 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9:00.
ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH—1900 Tullita Ave., Redondo Beach, Mon. pastor Daniel P. Collins, Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15, FR 5-0373.
- CHURCH OF GOD**
SOUTH BAY CHURCH OF GOD—17661 Yukon Ave. Phone 323-3976, Rev. C. L. Tierney, 17615 Yukon, Torrance. First morning service 8:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:40 a.m.; second morning service, 11:10 a.m.; Sunday night service, 7:30 p.m. Mid-week services, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
- FOURSQUARE CHURCH**
FOURSQUARE CHURCH—Corner of Arlington and Sepulveda, Telephone, DA 6-2072, Rev. and Mrs. James P. Lowen, pastors, Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; morning worship, 10:45 a.m.; group services, 6:00 p.m.; Y.P. Cadets (Defenders), Evangelistic, 7:15 p.m. Mid-week, Wednesday Bible study at 7:15 p.m. Public invited.
- LUTHERAN**
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH—Located on Carson St. and Flower Ave. in Torrance. Rev. J. Riederer, pastor. Residence, 1625 Flower Ave. Phone FA 8-3269. Church office, 1725 Flower Ave., FA 0-8181. First Church worship 8 a.m.; Sunday School 8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Second morning worship 10:45 a.m.

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