

## PARISH MEMBERS REPORT ON PROGRESS OF CHURCH

### Congregationalists Outline Gains of Year and Future Outlook at Annual Dinner

An interpretation of the Winnetka Congregational church in its many fields of activities, social, building and educational, was undertaken at the annual dinner of the parish held Wednesday evening, January 18, in Matz hall at Community House. The meeting was presided over by Eugene A. Rummler. Reports were made by committee chairmen or their representatives, and in the background of every informal report and talk stood out the word, interpretation. Gains and losses, adverse criticism, successful balances, all were reported and explained and applied to the meaning of the church, or in other words, interpreted.

That the church building committee could report through its chairman, James A. White, that almost \$500,000 had actually been pledged toward the new church, was in itself easily interpreted, for it meant astonishing co-operation on behalf of not only the canvassers, but every member.

#### "Razz" Various Frictions

That a clever "take-off" of several members of the church who represent certain opinions regarding the building of a new church, could be read and result in almost hysterical laughter by the people being taken off as well as the other members, was but another method of illustrating the splendid attitude of the congregation. As A. Montague Ferry read this sketch, most broad and pointed in its humor, it became apparent that the introduction to his article was true. Mr. Ferry felt that friction brings a smooth surface, that just as a new automobile has to be driven but 25 miles an hour for the first 500 miles to grind the bearings by friction, so by friction within the church body, differences and difficulties are smoothed into a well-oiled whole.

From Mrs. Charles T. Moon came the interpreting of the social service activities of the church, through the Woman's society and the Sunday school, as well as other branches not under a definite organization. Mrs. Moon told of the definite ways the church had helped her in her type of social service work with the Associated Charities in Chicago. She emphasized the progressive, modern, social attitude found prevailing the life of the church, its ministers and members.

#### A Swedish Chinaman

"What church do you belong to?" asked the traveler in China, of the Christian Chinaman he met.

"Why I'm a Swedish Lutheran," replied the Chinaman.

This story preceded an address by Paul Hutchinson, managing editor of "The Christian Century," who followed this story by stating that there are more than 100 protestant denominational missionary groups working in China. Mr. Hutchinson felt that the eyes of the churches throughout the country are on the Winnetka Congregational church, that it is a "church on the top of a hill," because it is non-denominational, and has not only talked the union of protestant denominations, but has practiced it. He declared that this church had translated words into action.

Representing the committee on religious education, E. P. Farwell told of the need of a Religious Education curriculum expert to be employed one year. In ten years the church school has tripled its enrollment, jumping from 415 in 1918 to 1,133 today. Mr. Farwell explained that this large enrollment not only results in a problem

of class room space, and a staff of almost ninety volunteer teachers, but it means hours of labor on the proper curriculum by the director. To ask a part time director to labor alone with this problem, the committee feels is not fair.

#### Lauds Spirit of Workers

Carl J. Easterberg, representing the treasurer, Merritt Lum, read the financial report and told of the splendid spirit the canvassers had shown during the past year. He told of the remarkable returns that had been realized, and the promising financial outlook for the coming year.

Charles T. Thorne, for 37 years the custodian of the weather and number of people attending church, made his annual statistical report, but he failed to interpret the meaning of it after announcing that but 4,500 men attended during the past year, while 9,151 women were present!

Rev. James A. Richards closed the meeting by paying tribute to those who were silent but had worked during the year, by stating that he felt there was a larger feeling for the church in the community, and that at the end of the strenuous year, each member of the congregation had a better idea as to what religion really means.

#### INCREASE CAPITAL STOCK

At the recent annual meeting, the capital stock of the Winnetka Trust & Savings bank was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and the following officers re-elected: Max K. Meyer, president; Alfred D. Herrmann, vice-president, and Allen T. Weinstock, cashier.

#### JUNIOR LEAGUE MEETS

A meeting of the North Shore Junior league was held at the study, 1054 Gage street, last Sunday evening. Miss Roseide Mayer and Herbert Rosenthal of Sunset road are to be new members of the group.

Rabbi Louis L. Mann of the Sinai Congregation, Chicago, spoke to the North Shore Congregation Israel last Friday evening, January 20, on "What Ails Religion?" or "When Religion Fails—and Why?"



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