
Barrington Methodist Church

311 SOUTH HOUGH STREET
BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

CARL G. METTLING
Minister
135 W. Russell Street

HARLYN C. HAGMANN
Assistant Minister
417 June Terrace

15 June 1960

Dear Friends and Members of the Church,

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you who have given of yourselves so devotedly to make this an outstanding year of achievement in our church. It is deserving of the Master's praise, "Well done good and faithful servants."

At the same time I want to wish you a pleasant and happy summer holiday, whether at home or traveling to far distant places. As we find relaxation from the yearly routine, may I suggest that we remember our opportunities and responsibility to worship God wherever we are. As a people we have been richly blessed and worship becomes us.

The summer schedule at our church will be in effect Sunday, June 19, through Sunday, September 4. It is the same as last year. We will have only the 9:30 service with the Sunday School, nursery through sixth grade, meeting at the same hour. I hope the summer months will be a good time for your family to worship together in the sanctuary.

Of special interest to all of us is the near arrival of our third displaced family, Mr. and Mrs. Henri Blume, and their six months old daughter, Joyce. They are Dutch Indonesian refugees whom we will all want to meet and help. Especially are we in need of furniture: a bed, refrigerator, baby crib and carriage, tables, chairs, sofa, etc. Any suitable articles you may have available will be deeply appreciated. Please phone Mr. John Iverson, DU 1-2552, or Mrs. Alfred Raae, DU 1-1996.

Again, my best wishes for a happy summer.

Faithfully yours

Carl G. Mettling
Carl G. Mettling

Barrington Methodist Church

311 SOUTH HOUGH STREET
BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS



September 6, 1960

CARL G. METTLING
MINISTER
135 WEST RUSSELL STREET

HARLYN C. HAGMANN
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
417 JUNE TERRACE

Dear Members and Friends:

It is with both appreciation and anticipation that I send this message to you thanking you for your fine support of the church program throughout the summer months, and reminding you of the beginning of the new church schedule which comes with the arrival of fall. The many participants in the summer church program indicates a deepening awareness on the part of the people of our church that their church is an important part of their lives the year round, and for this Reverend Mettling and I are truly grateful.

Having passed through the summer we now see close upon us the beginning of the full fall schedule which will start September 11th. On that date we will resume the regular schedule of worship and church school at 9:30 and 11 o'clock on Sunday mornings. On that date also we anticipate the return to our pulpit of Mr. Mettling who will be completing his around-the-world trip the preceeding week-end.

With our new building equipped and ready for use, the church school will offer a complete program for all ages at each of the morning hours, except the high school youth who will meet at the 9:30 hour only. On September 18th, one week later than the rest, the high school young people will inaugurate their new "College of Christian Life" replacing their Sunday School of past years. Mrs. Hagmann, our interim Director of Christian Education, would appreciate hearing from anyone willing and able to help in the church school.

The choirs begin their rehearsal schedules this week: Wednesday, September 7th, the Children's Choir at 3:30 p. m.; Thursday, September 8th, the Intermediate Choir at 3:30 p. m.; the High School Choir at 7:15 p. m.; and the Senior Choir at 8 p. m. Mr. Stebbins will be glad to meet new singers at the appropriate rehearsal times.

The many other organizations of our church, the youth, the W. S. C. S., the Men's Brotherhood, the various committees and commissions are all planning and working toward a year of spiritually enriching activities. Each of us will surely want to take his place in the life and work of our church. Mr. Mettling and I share the hope and prayer that the months ahead will hold many spiritually uplifting moments for our church and for each of you personally. It is our greatest desire that the coming year be a time of spiritual growth, deepening of commitment, and greater understanding of God and his ways.

To me personally, serving as one of your ministers is itself spiritually uplifting. It is a satisfying experience to work with Mr. Mettling and all of the people of this church in the greatest task on earth, the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord, and the spread of God's Kingdom in the hearts and minds of his children. I ask God's guidance and strength for us all in the fulfillment of this ministry. I look forward to meeting you all often during the coming months as we work together in this common venture.

Sincerely yours,

Harlyn C. Hagmann

Barrington Methodist Church

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BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

CARL G. METTLING
Minister
135 W. Russell Street

HARLYN C. HAGMANN
Assistant Minister
417 June Terrace

January 11, 1961

Dear Friends and Fellow Members of the Church:

I want to use this medium to enter your homes and discuss with you a matter of deep concern to me as pastor of our church.

I have been privileged to be your minister for almost ten years, during which time I have happily and thankfully watched our congregation grow in size, numbers, and influence. But we have paid a price for our growth, the price of knowing one another in an intimate, personal way as members of a Christian fellowship should. The problem is this: How can we maintain the small church atmosphere of friendship and concern in a large church setting of size and numbers.

Surely the answer is not to mechanically stop the growth of the church. To do this is to cease to evangelize, to be true to the gospel of our Lord which is to seek and to save whomsoever we can. It seems to me that the solution lies in another direction, in more adequately organizing ourselves as a congregation, making use of laymen who will commit themselves to be lay ministers of the church in the New Testament tradition.

Briefly, the plan is this. The congregation would be divided into neighborhood groups of approximately ten families each, with a couple commissioned as lay ministers, whose responsibility it would be to know these people, to be aware of their needs, problems, dissatisfactions, sickness, to help them in any way they could, being an intermediary minister between them and the pastor. (Recently I called in one home where sickness had been the constant companion for three months -- and I knew nothing about it!) Also, it would be their responsibility to encourage regular worship at church and participation in all aspects of the church's life and work, as well as to be aware of new people moving into the area.

Inspired by our Lay Leader, Mr. Everett Sproul, the Official Board, at its last meeting, unanimously endorsed such a plan which should be exceedingly fruitful in making our church the fellowship of the concerned which it ought to be; a fellowship where we know each other, bear one another's burdens, act together to witness, to build in our midst that outpost of the kingdom of heaven, the Church of Jesus Christ. Frankly, I know of no other way to meet the challenge of growth in our church, and I feel sure that this effort will meet with your active approval and cooperation.

I am currently endeavoring to prepare sermons pertinent to this subject. They will be presented under the titles: "The Church in Our Town," "Religious Depth: The Lost Dimension," and "Lay Ministers: 1961."

Best wishes for a joyful New Year.

Faithfully yours,

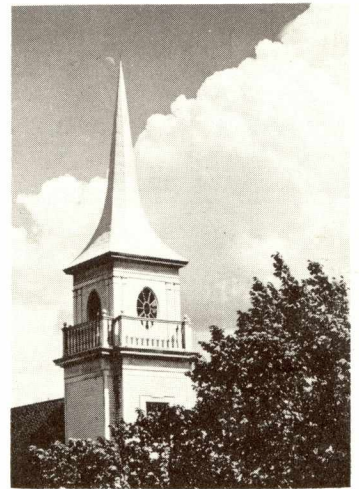
Carl G. Mettling

Barrington Methodist Church

311 SOUTH HOUGH STREET
BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

CARL G. METTLING
MINISTER
135 WEST RUSSELL STREET

HARLYN C. HAGMANN
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
417 JUNE TERRACE



May 4, 1961

Dear Friends:

I thought it might be of interest to you to know the sermon topics for the month of May and the first Sunday in June. They are as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| May 7 | "Christianity and Mental Health " |
| May 14 | "Our Children's Legacy " |
| May 21 | "This Revolutionary Faith"
(Eleven o'clock service only. Children's Day
program at 9:30) |
| May 28 | "Our Westminster Abbeys" (Memorial Sunday) |
| June 4 | "God, Man, and the Space Age"
(Baccalaureate Sunday) |
| June 11 | Reverend William Kirk, our new Associate Pastor will preach
his first sermon, and be introduced to the congregation,
along with his wife and children. This Sunday will initiate
our summer schedule when we have only the 9:30 Worship
Service and Sunday School. |

I look forward to greeting you at the church each Sunday -- especially during these beautiful golf and gardening temptation days.

Sometime ago the following prayer, used in a sermon, elicited such interest that many requests were made for it. Here it is:

"Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will some day be old. Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details -- give me wings to get to the point. I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others' pains. Help me to endure them with patience. But seal my lips on my own aches and pains -- they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint -- some of them are so hard to live with -- but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all -- but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. (By a Mother Superior who wishes to be anonymous.)

Most sincerely yours,

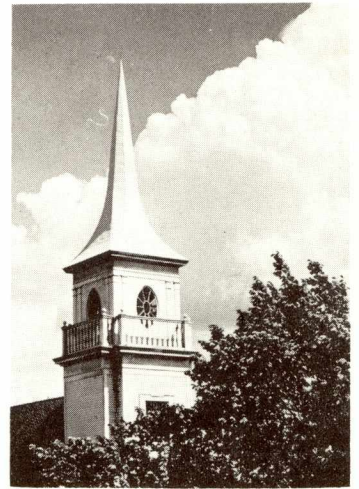
Carl G. Mettling

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER
417 JUNE TERRACE



July 5, 1961

Mr. & Mrs. Fred E. Welsh
212 Beachview, Biltmore
Barrington, Illinois

Dear Friends,

I am writing to a small number of our church members seeking their help in planning the sermons to be delivered this coming year. Are there any particular areas of need that you feel a sermon might be helpful personally or to another? If so, would you please communicate such ideas, topics, or texts to me?

I am most anxious that the words from the pulpit be as helpful as possible to our congregation, and that we avoid the effort to answer questions no one is asking.

Most sincerely yours,

Carl G. Mettling
Carl G. Mettling

CM:bs

Barrington Methodist Church

311 SOUTH HOUGH STREET
BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS



September 14, 1961

CARL G. METTLING
MINISTER
135 WEST RUSSELL STREET

WILLIAM G. KIRK
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
559 DIVISION STREET

Dear Friends:

By the time you receive this letter you will have undoubtedly heard of our leaving the Methodist Church in Barrington, and being assigned to the Gary Memorial Church in Wheaton, effective October 1st.

Just a week ago Bishop Brashares called inviting me to this post. After much thought and prayer I reluctantly accepted, although it was one of the most difficult experiences of my life. I was not pressured nor forced to do it; it was my decision.

It is a move which represents widening circles of challenge and opportunity. I feel "inside" that this is what I should do. Please try to understand and accept it in this way.

Needless to say, our hearts will always be in the Methodist Church of Barrington with its lovely colonial architecture, where we labored together to make a dream come true. They have been ten wonderful years, a decade of deepening friendship, work, worship, service, Christian love, joy. Together we have tasted the thrill of laboring in Christ's vineyard and for his kingdom.

My successor is being chosen by the Bishop, District Superintendent and the Pastoral Relations Committee. Please give him the same cooperation, love, and affection you have given me. Remember, this is your church home and it needs your loyalty and support. We have a great task in the world, and Christ is counting upon us. Let us be about our Heavenly Father's business.

Fran joins me in every good wish and prayer for you and yours. "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee."

Most sincerely and affectionately yours,

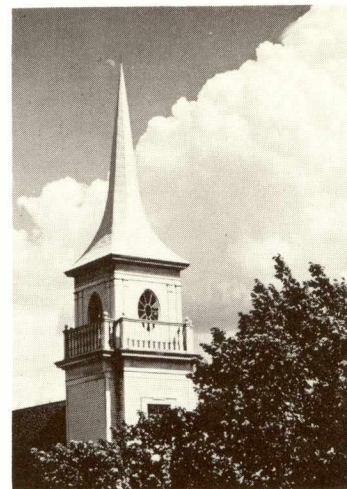
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WILLIAM G. KIRK
ASSOCIATE MINISTER
559 DIVISION STREET



September 18, 1961

Dear Friends:

We are planning a farewell reception for Carl and Frances Mettling at the Church this coming Sunday afternoon, September 24th, 4:00 to 5:30, in our Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome and is urged to come.

Many have spoken of their desire to make a gift of some kind, and we are arranging to give Carl and Frances an appropriate silver service for their home and a pulpit robe for Carl as a token of our deep appreciation for the ten wonderful years they have dedicated to His service in our midst. Any surplus of money will be given to them for an educational fund for their children.

If you wish to join in on this gift please make your check out to the Methodist Church Mettling Fund; this will make sure that the money is separated from other Church monies. Send your gift to the Church at the above address and mark the envelope "Carl Mettling Gift," please. If you desire to write Carl and Frances a personal note, please send it separately to them.

Our Pastoral Relations Committee is actively at work in seeking a new pastor, and we shall hope to be as successful as we were ten years ago, if that is possible!

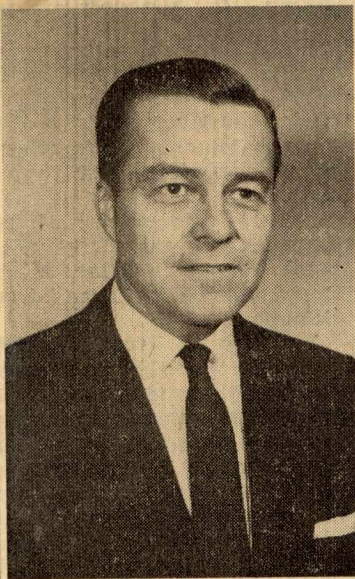
Yours Faithfully,

Howard O. Wagner
Chairman, Official Board

H. O. Wagner

Mrs. Fred E. Welsh
President, W. S. C. S.

Velva Welsh



REV. CARL METTLING

1961
**Reception For
Mettlings
Sunday**

A farewell reception for the Rev. and Mrs. Carl G. Mettling and family will be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 24, in the Fellowship Room of the Barrington Methodist church.

The official board and the Woman's Society of Christian Service will host the reception. Howard Wagner and Mrs. Fred Welsh, chairman and president of the groups, are in charge of the arrangements. The public is invited.

Rev. Mettling Is Appointed to Wheaton Church

The Rev. Carl G. Mettling will preach his final sermons as pastor of the Barrington Methodist church this Sunday, for on Sunday, Oct. 1, he assumes the pastorate of Gary Memorial Methodist church at Wheaton.

The appointment for the Rev. Mr. Mettling to take over the Wheaton parish was made this past week by Bishop Charles Brashares of the Methodist Rock River conference, Chicago area. The Rev. Mr. Mettling replaces Dr. Allen Billman, who has been appointed district superintendent of the western district. Dr. Billman served the church for nine years. The church has a membership of 2,400.

Successor Not Decided

Until the pastoral committee of the Barrington church and district superintendent, Dr. Amos Thornburg, decide upon a successor for the Rev. Mr. Mettling, the Rev. William Kirk, associate pastor who joined the Barrington parish staff in May, will be in charge.

The Mettling family will be leaving the parsonage at 135 W. Russell st. within the next two weeks to move to Wheaton, where their address will be 216 N. Main st. The four Mettling children, Carla, a senior, John, a sophomore at Barrington High school, and twins, Steve and Stan, 7th graders at Hough Street school, will be transferring to Wheaton schools.

The decision to leave Barrington was a difficult one for the Rev. Mr. Mettling and his wife, Frances, to make. "It has been a lovely decade here," he said. The members of the congregation feel the same way, reports from parishioners indicate.

Here 10 Years

wife, Frances, to make. "It has been a lovely decade here," he said. The members of the congregation feel the same way, reports from parishioners indicate.

Here 10 Years

In his 11th year at the Barrington church, the Rev. Mr. Mettling, 44, came to this parish from Memorial Methodist church at Zion in June, 1951, to succeed Dr. B. G. Swaney. He saw the congregation grow from 840 to the present figure 1,435.

A native of Indiana, he was raised on a farm in Kansas with a family of five brothers. He was graduated from Southwestern college, Winfield, Kans., in 1939, and received his bachelor of divinity degree from Garrett Biblical Institute, Northwestern university, in 1942.

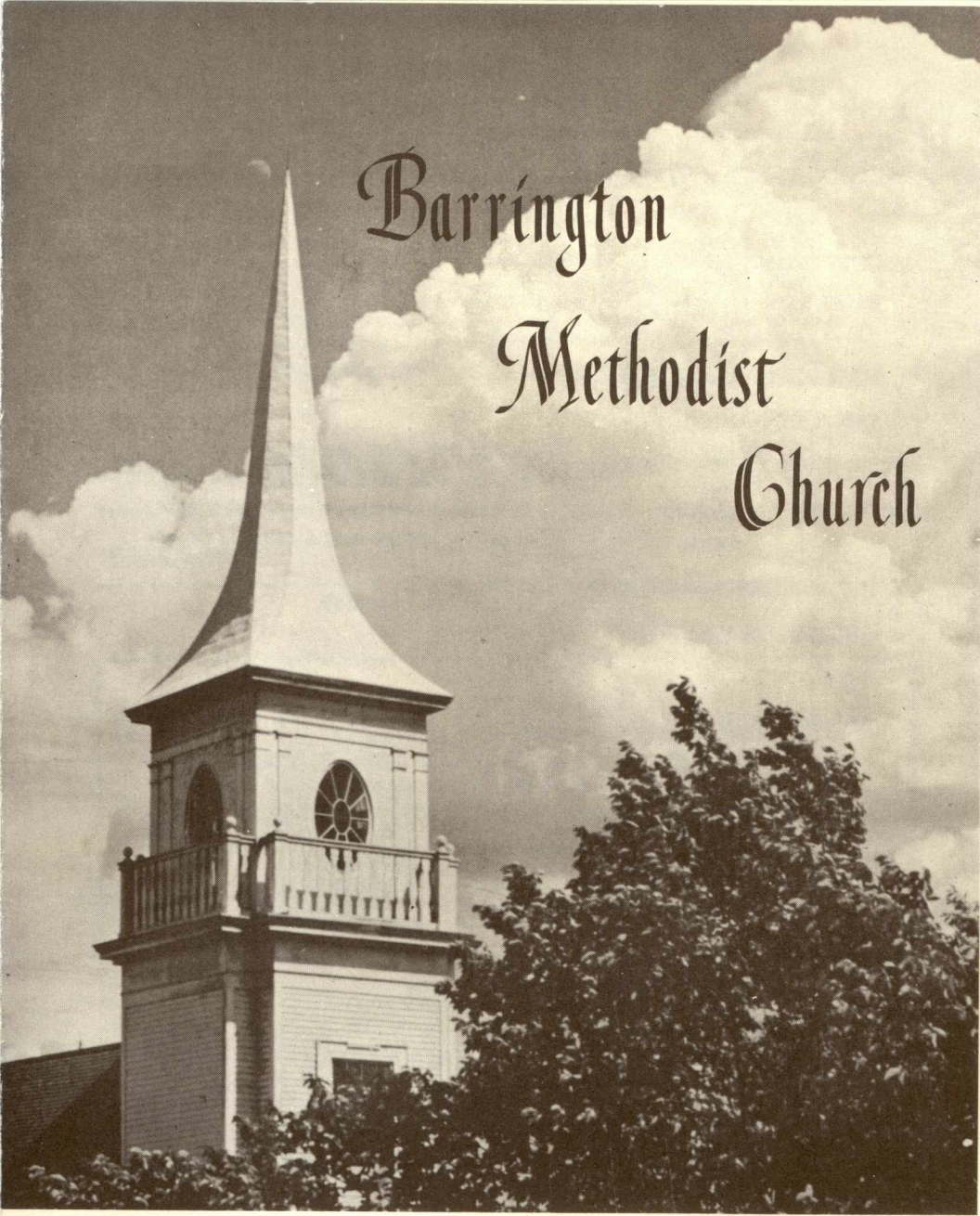
After serving for a year and a half as assistant pastor to Dr. Swaney at DeKalb, the Rev. Mr. Mettling served a student appointment at Bethel Methodist church, Chicago, from March, 1941 to 1943.

From 1943 to 1946 he served as a chaplain in the United States Navy, his principal duty being aboard the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Kitkum Bay.

He was appointed to the Zion church in 1946 and was there until he assumed the Barrington charge.

The Rev. Mr. Mettling has been active in the Barrington Ministerial Association and has cooperated generously in serving as chaplain for the Barrington Lions club and other civic affairs and rest homes. He is a member of a Lounsbury Masonic lodge.

In 1958 the pastor was a member of a Christian World Seminar Tour, and in the summer of 1960 he was director of a similar tour around the world. The tours included receptions, meetings and interviews arranged with interdenominational groups of Christian and other religious leaders and embassy officials in each country. Prime Minister Nehru of India was among the dignitaries who received the group.



Barrington Methodist Church

HOUGH STREET AT LINCOLN AVENUE

BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

Ministry of Music

Robert S. Stebbins, Jr.
Organist-Choir Director

CARL G. METTLING
Minister

WILLIAM G. KIRK

Associate Minister

Mrs. T. C. Powers
Church Secretary

Missionaries

Drs. Robert and
Bethel Fleming
Nepal

Sept 24-1961

W O R S H I P S E R V I C E S

9:30 and 11 o'clock

September 24, 1961

PRELUDE *Credo in Unum Deum* Everett Titcomb
 Invocation Alec Rowley

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 278 "Lead On, O King Eternal" *Lancashire*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Trust in the Lord, and do good.
 People: **The Lord will give strength unto his people.**
 Minister: O taste and see that the Lord is good.
 People: **God is our refuge and strength. Amen.**

INVOCATION and LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

* * * * *

ANTHEM 9:30 *Jesus, Our Lord, We Adore Thee* Will James
 (HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR)

Jesus, our Lord, we adore Thee, Jesus our crucified Savior. From Thy wounded side flowed Thy precious blood. For us the cross with all its shame with grace was borne. With Thy precious blood Thou washed away the guilt and the bitter shame and the sins of the world. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world! In agony Thy tears were shed, in shame was bowed Thy sacred head.

11:00 *Draw Thou My Soul, O Christ* Claude Means
 (CHANCEL CHOIR - BARITONE SOLO,
 ROBERT COLBURN)

Draw thou my soul, O Christ, closer to Thine;
 Breathe into every wish Thy will divine;
 Raise my low self above, won by Thy deathless love,
 Ever, O Christ, through mine, let Thy life shine.
 Lead forth my soul, O Christ, one with Thine own,
 Joyful to follow Thee through paths unknown.
 In Thee my strength renew, give me Thy work to do;
 Through me Thy truth be shown, Thy life made known.
 Not for myself alone may my prayer be;
 Lift Thou my world, O Christ, closer to Thee;
 Cleanse from its guilt and wrong, teach it salvation's song,
 'Till earth, as heaven, fulfill God's holy will.

— Words by Lucy Larcom

* * * * *

SCRIPTURE *Ephesians 6: 10-20*

CALL TO PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

O Love, How Deep

Everett Titcomb

9:30 - QUARTET

11:00 - CHANCEL CHOIR

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high, how passing thought and fantasy, that God, the Son of God should take our mortal form for mortal's sake. For us He prayed, for us He taught, for us His daily works He wrought by words and signs and actions, thus still seeking not Himself but us. All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad; the Trinity whom we adore forever and forever more. Amen

— Words from a 15th Century Latin text.

DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

SERMON *CHRISTIANITY: A SENSE OF URGENCY* Reverend Mettling

HYMN 267 "Rise Up, O Men Of God" *Festal Song*

BENEDICTION

* * * * * Seating intervals

FAREWELL TO THE METTLINGS

This afternoon a Farewell Reception for the Mettlings will be held in the Fellowship Hall from four to five-thirty. As this is the last Sunday the Mettlings will be with us, members and friends of the Church are cordially invited to avail themselves of this opportunity to extend best wishes. The Mettlings will be moving to Wheaton during the coming week where Reverend Mettling will continue his ministry at the Gary Memorial Church conducting his first service there October 1st.

The flowers on the altar this morning are given in loving memory of Mrs. James DeBolt, Sr. by her family.

TO THE PARENTS OF 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADERS: It would help very much to equalize the size of our 9:30 and 11 o'clock Sunday School classes if those who find it at all possible could attend the 11 o'clock session. The 9:30 session is very crowded, but the 11 o'clock session needs additional students in each class. Your cooperation will facilitate the best possible use of our new Sunday School class rooms and Chapel.

WELCOME VISITORS: If you are new in the community it will help us to become acquainted if you will sign one of the attendance cards to be found in the backs of the pews and place it in the collection plate.

(Announcements are on back page.)

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

- Today: FAREWELL RECEPTION for the Mettlings, 4-5:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. There will be no coffee hour following the services this morning because of the reception later in the day.
- Today: SENIOR MYF, 6:30 at the church. The program will consist of a theological quiz, followed by a discussion period.
- Tuesday: The COMMISSION ON MISSIONS (John Iverson, Chairman) will have its first meeting of the year at 8 p.m. in the main floor lounge.
- Thursday: The COMMISSION ON EDUCATION (James Shaver, Chairman) will meet in the main floor lounge at 8 p.m.
- Thursday: The COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS (Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Frey, Chairmen) will meet in the downstairs lounge at 8 p.m.
- Friday: The TEACHER TRAINING CLASS will meet at 8 p.m. The assignment is Chapter 3 in the Foundation Book.
- Saturday: JUNIOR HIGH MYF RETREAT at Wesley Woods. Meet at the church at 8:30 a.m., leave promptly at 9 a.m. (Return late Sunday afternoon.)

COMING EVENTS

- October 4 OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING
- October 5 WSCS GENERAL MEETING, Mrs. Bertram Swaney speaker, following the luncheon at 12:30.
- October 9 MEN'S BROTHERHOOD DINNER, Dr. Carl S. Winters, Clergyman now with General Motors, speaker. Circle F will serve the dinner.
- October 27, and 28 WSCS RUMMAGE SALE

ON LEAVING BARRINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

September 24, 1961

Now may I conclude with some personal reminiscence.

It seems only yesterday that the moving van was unloading us at our new resident in Barrington in the parsonage by the lovely colonial church, though it was more than ten years ago. That means that Carla was 7 years old, John 5, and Steve and Stan still in diapers.

A reception was soon held and a lovely floor lamp given the parsonage family, with some appropriate, though snide, remarks made about hoping that the new minister would be a shining light!

The first sermon, I well remember, was on the theme "Interdependence" using Paul's statement, "I planted, Appolos watered, but God giveth the increase."

Because of the successful work of my predecessor, Dr. Swaney, the Church when I came was bursting at the seams, especially with Sunday School children. So our effort that first year went towards planning for our first educational unit to the north. I well remember the number of meetings, the midnight oil, the cups of coffee consumed as we labored together in a common cause. The congregation gave a unanimous vote of approval to our plans which were carried out amidst general rejoicing. About fifteen months later, in the fall of 1953, our new building and balcony was consecrated on a Sunday, November 8th, by Bishop Brashares.

With our building completed, which we thought would last a life-time, we turned our thoughts to other emphases. We began to think in terms of our larger ministry to others. With this thought in mind, we received our second new American family, the Fabrycys, having received our first a little earlier, the Novoselskis. This was followed later with our third family, the Harry Blumes.

About this time our concern for others led us to make a study of our benevolence program. As a result we searched for and found the mission field in Nepal. A real

highlight of my ministry here was the Sunday morning the Flemings talked in our Church for the first time. The winsome personalities won our hearts to them and to their work. This has been a great blessing to them and to our Church.

The years 1956-57 saw our Church growing to the extent that a youth minister was added to the staff of one minister and one secretary. Dick Quinlan served our Church well, ably followed by Harly Hagmann , and now Bill Kirk.

The year 1957 witnessed the moving of the parsonage from just south of the Church to its present location at 135 West Russell. The moving was uneventful except that it took the preacher a long time to get his bearing in the new location as the house was turned 180 degrees, so that what was south on the inside was north on the outside!

Moving the parsonage amidst many grunts and groans of neighbors was a prelude to our second building venture which resulted in our lovely new building to the south, consecrated a year ago next November.

This was truly a wonderfully uplifting experience of organization, team work, cooperation. We were all caught up in a great spiritual enterprise, successful beyond our fondest dreams. I shall never forget our victory dinner the last night of the campaign as this group of a hundred or more men sat in the basement watching the final returns come in. Our goal was \$240,000. Would we make it? It was questionable. But as the last report came in we were over by \$275.00. We stood and cheered and sang the Doxology. It was wonderful!

And then I shall never forget the opportunity I had to travel, tendered me by members of this Church in the summer of 1958, and the privilege of going again in 1960. These have been wonderfully broadening experiences for me, making possible one of the most important days of my life when in India we met and talked with Prime Minister Nehru.

Yes, it has been a wonderful 10 years, years when we have together tasted difficulty, opportunity, progress, and life's joys and sorrows.

Since being here, it has been my privilege to unite 115 couples in holy matrimony, making possible part of the current population explosion.

It has been my responsibility to lay to rest the mortal remains of 98 of your loved ones and friends; baptize 405 children and adults.

Also, during this time our membership has grown from approximately 600 to 1450. And likewise our budget from \$18,000 to about \$90,000 in addition to our building programs.

I have purposely not mentioned any particular organization or names of individuals, lest I overlook one of the many that should receive this recognition.

But of special joy to me, and to Fran has been the establishment of the small Yokefellow group in the church, and the Prayer Circle. We fondly hope and pray that these will grow and multiply to the spiritual enrichment of the church and its members.

Now in conclusion let me say that it has been a real pleasure and joy to be your minister. You have been so good to us that it has always been difficult to talk about your sins! Perhaps the one word that best sums up my feelings on this occasion is the word gratitude. I am grateful to you for the privilege of being your minister. I came to you with considerable corn sticking out my ears -- still do, I guess, but it's ripening. You have helped me to grow in the ministry. You have forced me to think, to dig deeper, to enlarge my heart and my understanding.

Many of you have kindly expressed gratitude to me for my work with you. I assure you that I am even more grateful to you.

Finally, I am grateful to God for calling me, a boy off the farm in Kansas, into the most glorious work in the world, a minister of Christ. What joy, what drama, what satisfaction there is in this work! If I could just convey this to young men and women, the ministry would not lack for candidates. I definitely have never made a sacrifice in the ministry.

It is the joy of breaking the bread of life to the spiritually hungry, of helping another find God in his life. It is like the story carried by the press a few years ago of the ship that was wrecked off the shore of Beirut, Lebanon. Young Tom Ball an American passenger swam out and saved three lives. Afterwards he made a statement

which the Christian Century picked up as the statement of the year. Said he, "It is a wonderful thing to reach down and feel another hand clasp yours and know that you have saved a human life."

That's what it's like to be a minister of Jesus Christ, for which I shall always be eternally grateful.

It is a real wrench to leave; it is always difficult to leave loved ones and friends. But we feel "inside" that this is the time to go. May I ask that you do not invite me back for pastoral functions, that is the work of your new minister who will need your help, your love and loyalty. However, this does not mean that we give you up as friends. You are forever enshrined in our hearts.

"May the Lord bless thee and keep thee.

Carl H. Mettling