

Council PTA is Idea 'Clearing House' for Welfare Promotion

Torrance Council PTA is a conference body of parents and teachers from individual PTA units within the Torrance Unified School District, serving as a clearance board for ideas, methods, and procedures wherein the units may co-operate on common projects.

Each of the 11 PTA units here works in conjunction with its school to further the aims of parent-teacher work, the promotion of the welfare of children in home, school, church, and community. The leader of the group then takes its problems and its ideas to Council sessions.

During 1953-54 the Council, with "Opportunities Unlimited" as its theme, will be under the guidance of Mrs. Hartley E. Carr, who previously served as president of Torrance Elementary PTA for two years and is a member of the original Board of Education.

Among community projects resulting from the active efforts of this group is the Torrance Dental Health Association. Council spearheaded the movement for this organization, and other PTAs and civic groups rapidly joined, giving time and funds to insure dental care for Torrance school children.

Main centers of activity for the Council this year will be co-operation with its units in continuing good health projects and informative reading. Mrs. John L. Hinds is publicity chairman of the group.

Baptist Women's Society Aids Missions, Provides Youth Scholarship Funds

In the early 1930's, a local group of Baptist women interested in welfare work in the First Baptist Church became affiliated with the National Council of the American Baptist Convention. The Society has grown with the church so that the now 408 members of the church are automatically members of the Mission Society.

There are five circles of the society meeting monthly, either in the afternoon or evening, to do White Cross work and hear programs on home and foreign missions. The Circles are called Maranatha, Dorcas, Victory, Friendship and Margaret Condon.

Circle members are also united in the larger program of the Women's Mission Society, which meets monthly on the third Thursday at 10:15 a.m. in the Church Annex. At these meetings, programs on the work in Baptist Mission fields are presented through speakers, returned missionaries, or those on furlough. Skits and plays are sometimes presented. Other programs stress Christian citizenship and special needs. Devotions and special music are always part of the monthly program. A School of Missions is conducted each year and is open to the entire church membership. Children of the church are given missionary education in the study and in the past year 622 juveniles participated, giving \$140 to mission projects. The student counselor corresponded with all service men and students away from the local church.

Methodist Women Unite for Church, Community Service

All over the world, women in every Methodist Church of the new United Methodism met in September, 1940, to organize the new "Woman's Society of Christian Service," combining the work of the Ladies Aids and the Home and Foreign Missionary Societies.

At the first or charter meeting of the local WSCS, held Sept. 10 at the church parlors, membership cards were issued to 43 women. Rev. Harry Branton called the first session to order, and Mrs. Branton conducted the impressive enrollment rite.

The original 43 members were divided into three circles, with Mrs. Grace Hooper as president of the circle.

The list includes Ruth, led by Mrs. D. C. Turner; Martha, Mrs. J. J. Greer; Esther, Mrs. Hooper; Sara, Mrs. Sara Hogue; Rebecca, Mrs. H. D. Gray; Miriam, Mrs. Balesley; Rachel, Mrs. L. E. Shelhart; Naomi, Mrs. R. W. Flowers; and Mary, Mrs. E. Bly.

Newest of the group is the North Torrance Circle under the direction of Mrs. R. Schroeder. The Woman's Society of Christian Service raises funds by annual contributions of its members, by the annual December bazaar, and by church dinners. One thousand dollars of all the funds raised is contributed each year for additions to the church. Other monies go to missionaries throughout the world, and to the needy in the local church.

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