

# Stable Religion

By REV. E. M. SCHOPPA  
Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church

What a way for God to invade our world! No royal proclamation, no fuss! It was all done so quietly! Yet, once you have the picture, you can't forget it. A King, yes, a Redeemer, born in a cow barn! How could we help coming, as did the wisemen, to visit this Baby whose birth meant that the calendar was to be changed?

So, this year like before, we lit our trees, sang carols, gave gifts, and shouted, "Merry Christmas!" And well we should, for it was Jesus' birthday. However, we might ask ourselves now that our celebrating is over, "What will happen now?"

Something did happen after that first Christmas, you know. Jesus didn't just stay in that manger. He left it. He went to Nazareth. "The child grew" the holy record tells us. He became a man. He took His Gospel to the people. He healed the sick, lifted the fallen. He was flung to a cross. He rose from the dead. He sent His spirit to the church.

So much happened after that cow barn experience!

Perhaps there are far too

## Scientist Lesson Planned

"But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: A land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." These words from Deuteronomy are part of the Responsive Reading in this week's Bible Lesson. Sermon titled "Christian Science" to be read in all Christian Science churches this Sunday.

The lesson-sermon also includes related passages from the denominational textbook, including the following: "The discoverer of Christian Science finds the path less difficult when she has the high goal always before her thoughts, than when she counts her footsteps in endeavoring to reach it. When the destination is desirable, expectation speeds our progress." (Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures by Mary Baker Eddy)

Services at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 218th and Manuel Avenue, begin at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

many folk around who have only a Christmas religion! It is full of music and poetry; it is a fine emotional thing — but it never gets Christ out of the barn.

Despite all our sentimental singing during the holiday season, the fact remains that Jesus couldn't have done very much for the world if He had stayed a baby! Babies are wonderful; they bring us happiness; but they aren't very helpful in building things or in tilling the soil or in running hospitals.

Jesus, as a baby, couldn't have given us the Sermon on the Mount. He couldn't have lived His mighty life before those who were moved to exclaim, "He teacheth as one having authority." He couldn't have taken His death beam to Calvary. He had to quit the stable and become a man before He could perform His mission for God and to man.

A stable faith is good but not good enough. We must have a cross faith, a resurrection faith. We must do even better than that. We must have a Pentecost faith. We must have a faith that fulfills the words of the Apostle Paul: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

During this season we have again seen and heard the story of the Savior's birth. On television we have seen that which makes us marvel at the story as well as the portrayal. The story of Christmas has been so dramatically presented that we ourselves feel that we have seen the wisemen's camels plodding over the desert, trailing the new born star.

We have heard the angels' song floating across the night, we have seen the shepherds hurrying to see the Child. We have seen Mary clasping the Babe to her heart. But so much of what we see and hear leaves Jesus in the inn keeper's ox stall. It never gets Him even as far as the Temple to ask His famous question, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?"

Only an incompetent scholar would suggest that Jesus never lived. We do irreparable damage to the Gospel when we discount the historical Christ. He did come to this earth. He was stable born. He was a carpenter in Nazareth. He did travel over Palestine, preaching, teaching, and healing men. He was crucified. He rose from the dead. He ascended to Heaven.

But the Christ of the cow barn is and must indeed be the Christ also of the space age. The Master who moved among men, who straddled donkeys, must move also in our age of tremendous automation and space travels. We must not speak of Him as though He were only something of the past. He is the Lord of all history, past, present, and future. Our faith requires a yesterday Savior; but it requires a today Savior too. Moreover most of us have lived long enough to

know that we will also need a Redeemer tomorrow.

It is a far cry from the Christ Child among the oxen to the Christ spirit among moon-bent missiles and winged-rockets. But that distance must be spanned. Even the distance between the historical Easter and our time must be bridged. We must realize in human personality what Paul termed "the power of His resurrection," which can lift men from their dead selves to "walk in newness of life."

We should not underplay the Christmas season even though we might flinch at some of the false merrymaking, the commercial goings on, the jug tilting and carousing. We should not, however, mar the story of the startled men from the East, or the angel choirs over the Judean hills. We never want to diminish the scene. Yet we dare not keep Jesus in the cow barn forever.

A man once dreamed that he was in the stable in Bethlehem and saw the Child. He asked, "What are you doing here, Little One?" And the Child answered, "I am not doing anything, here! But I shall go from here soon. I shall speak parables that will haunt the world. I shall climb a hill, rise on a cross, and the world will not be able to forget. I will overwhelm the grave. I shall establish the Church. I will come again some day to receive my faithful ones to Myself. My birth in the stable is not as important as the fact that I shall be born in men's hearts around the world!"

Sing, then, at Christmas. But sing after Christmas also. Give gifts while you sing, but remember that God's grace makes every day a giving time. Christmas is not a date on the calendar; it is a spirit in eternity.

## Richelieu To Discuss New Year

Dr. Frank E. Richelieu, pastor of the Torrance-Redondo Church of Religious Science, 907 Knob Hills Ave., will talk on "1969 — Time's Trump card" Sunday at the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services.

The second unit of the First Year Course in Science of Mind will begin Thursday, Jan. 9, at the church. The 12 lessons in this unit will be based on "The Practice and Technique of Spiritual Mind Healing." Classes will be held Thursdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m.

## Press-Herald

Every Wednesday and Friday  
3238 W. Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance

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## Press-Herald

# Churches

Friday, December 27, 1968

A-3

## Church Parish Halls Benefit the Elderly

One of the material gifts of the church that is giving great spiritual benefit to thousands of men and women of all faiths is the gift of the parish hall, for use as a Senior Center for all people in the neighborhood.

This is the summation of a Christmas message by Charles W. Skoen, Jr., executive director of the California Commission on Aging with offices in Sacramento.

Skoen said the past year has seen a surge of interest in the state's senior population, with churches taking a strong lead. Not only are the churches making the educational halls available, Skoen said, but the

parishioners with leadership ability have been generous in setting up programs which range from purely social and recreational, to the serious assistance with health and housing problems.

The programs have bridged the generation gap ... high school teenagers have gone out to visit shut-ins in homes or hospitals under auspices of the Legion of Mary, the Marian Visitors, high school clubs.

Just as the Senior Centers serve members of all faiths, these young people are helping all in need of help, regardless of religious belief. "This" points out Skoen, "is

## Biola Schedules Sacred Concert

Featuring a sacred concert by recording artists, "The Caravan Singers," Biola College, 13800 Biola Avenue, La Mirada, will present the first concert of the third annual series of Sunday Afternoon Musicals on Jan. 5, at 3 p.m. The 90-minute program will be held in the music recital hall which is located on the 73-acre campus.

In keeping with the spirit of sacrifice, the commencement of a life on Christmas Day dedicated to serving all mankind, even to the Supreme Sacrifice.

"The church is offering a rare gift in extending its facilities, a gift which all Senior Californians will cherish upon receiving."

## Take a good look



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24730 Narbonne Ave., Lomita Phone DA 6-6029

Worship Service ..... 7 P.M.  
Church ..... 10:50 A.M.  
Sunday School ..... 9:45 A.M.  
Training Union ..... 6 P.M.

### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF TORRANCE

(Disciples of Christ)  
2336 El Dorado—FA 8-2820

Rev. H. Milton Sippe, Minister  
Res. Phone FA 8-4183  
Rev. Joseph Tong, Minister of Education  
Two Sessions of Church School and Morning Worship 9:30 and 11:00 A.M.  
Nursery provided at both sessions.  
CHI RHO Fellowship 5:30 P.M.  
Christian Youth Fellowship—7:00 P.M.

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Torrance  
Cargen and El Prado  
Phone FA 8-3243

Rev. Arthur Nagel, Pastor  
Res. Phone FA 8-6231  
SUNDAYS  
Two Worship Services—All 9:30 and 11 A.M.  
Two Complete Church Schools 9:30 and 11 A.M.  
All ages—nursery thru adults Fellowship Meeting 6:30 P.M.

### ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

1900 Prospect Ave.  
Redondo Beach

Monsignor Daniel P. Collins  
Mass 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:15, 12:15  
Phone 378-9329

### SOUTH BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

4565 Sharynne Lane  
Torrance, Calif.  
Frontier 8-3433

Sunday School ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Church Services at 10:30 A.M.  
Junior and Primary Church 10:30 A.M.  
Baptist Training Union ..... 6:00 P.M.  
Evening Worship ..... 7:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Prayer Service ..... 7:00 P.M.  
Nursery and toddler care—All Services. Bus transportation service.

### CENTRAL EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Marcelina & Arlington

Rev. Walter M. Stanton  
FA 8-3010  
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11:00—Morning Worship  
6:30—Youth Fellowship  
Midweek Worship Service 7:30 Wednesday Evening

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### TORRANCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

700 Maple Ave.  
R. Wallis Kornegay, Pastor  
Ph. 328-9080

9:45 Sunday School  
10:30 Morning Worship  
7:00 P.M. Evening Service

### ST. CATHERINE LABOUR CHURCH

3244 Redondo Beach Blvd.  
Torrance  
Phone Davis 8-8900

Sunday Masses, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12  
Weekday Masses: 6:30 A.M. and 8:15 A.M.  
Confessions Saturday 4:00 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9:00

### PACIFIC VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Member Baptist General Conference  
Temporarily located in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Sonoma St. at Acacia Ave. Torrance, Calif. Tel. 328-4118

Types of Worship:  
Sunday School for all ages ..... 9:15 A.M.  
Sunday Morning ..... 10:30-11:30 A.M.  
Sunday Eve. Service 7:00 P.M.  
Thursday Prayer Fellowship ..... 7:30 P.M.  
—Nursery Available at All Services—

### ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1452 Egnatia—FA 8-3751  
Rev. Hugh R. Percy  
R.A. B.D. Rector

7:30 A.M. Holy Communion  
9:15 A.M. Family Worship Service followed by Church School and Coffee Hour  
11:00 A.M. Morning Worship (Choral Eucharist on 1st and 3rd Sundays)  
(Child care and Nursery provided at 9:15 and 11 A.M. services)  
Weekdays Holy Communion at 11 A.M. Thursdays and 8:30 A.M. on All Saint's Days.

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GARDENA

1887 W. Redondo Beach Blvd.  
Phone DA 4-1064

Rev. John Miller, Minister  
1452 W. 152nd St. Gardena DA 3-1215  
Worship Service ..... 11:00 A.M.  
(Nursery Care Provided)  
Sunday Church School Classes, All Ages ..... 9:30 A.M.  
Senior H. Fellowship and Junior High Fellowship Sundays at 7:00 P.M.  
Presbyterian Pre-school, Week Day Mornings

### FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1728 Flower Street  
Phone 320-4181  
William J. Rolider, Pastor  
Phone FA 8-3249

Steven A. Myers, Assoc. Pastor  
Worship Services  
8:00 A.M., 9:15 A.M., 10:45 A.M.  
Sunday School  
10:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M., 10:45 A.M.  
Nursery services for 9:15 A.M. and 10:45 A.M.  
Holy Communion—First Sunday Luther League—2nd and 4th Sundays  
Christian Elementary School—Kindergarten thru 8th Grade

### NATIVITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

1447 Egnatia Ave., Torrance  
Phone: FA 8-2776  
Rev. John P. Cremins, Pastor

MASS SCHEDULE  
Sundays: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10:15, 11:15, 12:15 and 5 P.M.  
St. Joseph's at 9:30 A.M.  
SATURDAY CONFESIONS 10:30 to 11:30 A.M., 3:30 to 5:30, 7:30 to 9 P.M.  
St. Joseph's at 7:15 P.M.  
BAPTISMS  
Every Sunday at 1:45 P.M.

### TORRANCE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Serving Christ and the Needs of Men  
2118 Cargen Street  
Phone 328-6050  
Rev. Lloyd H. Newlin

SUNDAY  
Worship Services 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Classes 9:30 a.m.  
Youth Activities 5:45 p.m.  
Evening Gospel Hour 7 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY  
Youth & Adult Study, Prayer & Fellowship 7:15 p.m.  
Nursery Facilities

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod  
706 Knob Hill Redondo Beach 378-9535

Rev. E.M. Schoppa, Pastor  
Worship Service, 8 and 11 A.M.  
Nursery Care Provided  
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Dial Inspiration—378-4293 (24 Hours)

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### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

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Sunday School 9:15 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.  
Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by parent or guardian for enrollment.  
Reading Room—1496 Cravens Open 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily except Sunday and Holidays. Also 7 to 9 Monday and Friday evenings.  
All are welcome to attend our services and use our Reading Room.

### CALVARY BAPTIST TABERNACLE

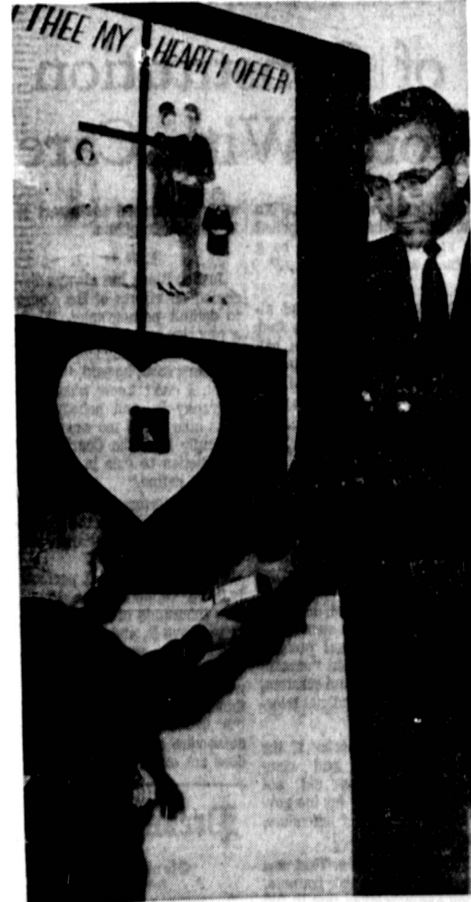
A Church of the Old Gospel  
George Hunt, Pastor  
18701 Denker Avenue, Gardena 327-2040

Sunday School ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Youth Meetings ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Evening Service ..... 7:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING 7:15 p.m.  
Nursery Available All Services

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LEARNING TO GIVE ... John Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Robinson, is showing his special offering box to his pastor, the Rev. E. M. Schoppa of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Little John and many other worshippers placed their "Gift for The King" on the altar of the church on Christmas Eve.