

# Town Talk

## With The New Year

By Harlowe Hoyt

As each New Year is ushered in and the Old Year passes on to the days that were comes the time when good resolutions are in order. Sins of commission are forgiven. Sins of omission are to be rectified by solemn promise. A new leaf is turned.

And so, for a time, the majority of us continue in the new ways we have undertaken. Then, too often, little by little, we commence to slip. Before many weeks, most of us are back to our bad habits, waiting the coming of another New Year to renew our pledges.

When Jesus went to John the Baptist seeking baptism in the fords of the River Jordan, he enacted the visual ceremony of washing sin away. He undertook a new life—a life which, until his crucifixion on the cross, was one of doing for others, of renunciation, of self-abnegation.

New Year's resolutions are most commendable. In fact, any determination to do right is commendable. Custom has established this promise making, just as the Chinese pay all debts on the New Year and start business anew.

But why wait until a certain day to determine to free ourselves from those habits which we know, deep in our hearts, are detrimental to our welfare or the welfare of others?

Is it not a foolish custom to "swear off" habits once a twelfth month? Make your good resolutions today. If you prove weak and fall in them after a bit, resolve once more and start again on the course with renewed determination. Each new effort adds to character and brings you nearer to ultimate success.

"Every morn is a new beginning. Every morn is a day made new."

### Calvary Evangelical Church

Sunday the newly elected officers will have charge of the Sunday School at 9:30 o'clock. Edred Shifferly, superintendent.

Prayer and praise service at 10:30 o'clock, conducted by the class leader.

On Wednesday night this church will join in the quarterly conference at the First Evangelical church, Decatur, where the District Superintendent, Rev. J. O. Mosier will preside.

Worship with sermon by Rev. M. W. Sundermann on Thursday night.

### "Victorian"

The Victorian period in furniture extends from 1827 to 1900. Mid-Victorian is about the time of the Civil War, and is usually the time associated with plush-covered atrocities and poorly designed machine-made furniture.

## FAMOUS CHURCHES OF THE WORLD

BY E. L. TINZMANN

### The Mormon Temple—Kirtland, Ohio

#### First of Three Temples Built

The first of the three temples built by the Mormons, following their founding by Joseph Smith, stands today in Kirtland, Ohio, a quiet little village on the river a few miles to the west of Cleveland.

When the Latter Day Saints, to their correct title, formed their body the place was Fayette, New York. For various reasons, moved to Kirtland, and it there the new religion really established. Among the converts who came there for baptism was Brigham Young, a carpenter, married a Kirtland girl as his wife, helped to build the temple, and succeeded Joseph Smith as head of the body.

The temple was started in 1833, corner stone being laid on July 7. The inside, exclusive of vestibule and stairways, was 55 feet 6 inches long, 30 feet wide, and 25 feet high. The result of a revelation to Smith, and this was the size specified in the divine message. The building is three stories in height, exclusive of the basement. Audiences occupy the first and second floors. In each room are eight pulpits, four at either end. These are used for worship. The attic is partitioned into twelve small apartments.

The pulpits in the auditoriums are one above the other. Each seat seats three people. There then, twelve people to each room, or a grand total of twenty-four representing the Melchisedek and Aaronic priesthoods. These were originally occupied by officers of the priesthood.

The temple today is a massive structure of rough blue stone covered over with cement which is laid to represent bricks. It is an area of 60 by 80 feet, is surrounded by a belfry, and has 3,000 windows admit



Light. On the front, above the largest window, a tablet reads: House of the Lord. Built by the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 1834. Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Succession by Decision of Court Feb. 1880. The temple was completed in 1835. Two years later, the great exodus to Nauvoo, Ill., took place, 700 leaving in one day. It was at Nauvoo the second temple was built, only to be abandoned when the body moved on to Salt Lake. For many years, the temple fell into disuse. Following the death of Joseph Smith in Carthage, Ill., the church divided. About one-tenth of the membership followed Brigham Young. But Mrs. Smith and her advocates returned to Kirtland, where Joseph Smith, Jr. was accepted as the head of the church. This is known as the reformed division, which refused to practice polygamy introduced by Young.

After some difficulty, right to the temple was acknowledged by the courts, and the place remains as the center of this small religious body.

# Come To Church Sunday

## THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON  
John 1:1-18

By HARLOWE R. HOYT  
WALTER SCOTT



John the Baptist, the son of Zacharias, an aged priest, and Elisabeth, the cousin of the Virgin Mary, was born about six months before Christ. He grew up in solitude and while still a youth went into the wilderness of Judea, living upon locusts and wild honey, wearing only a camel's hair, spending his time in prayer and meditation. At last, he felt the urge to preach.



In the wilderness of Judea, along the fords of the Jordan north to the Dead Sea, John the Baptist preached his message. He prophesied the coming of his new Messiah and urged his hearers to repent of their sins and prepare for the after life. So convincing were his exhortations that many were converted by him. These he baptized in the waters of the River Jordan.



Leaving his home in Galilee, Jesus travelled to the ford of the Jordan where John the Baptist was preaching. He said he had come to be baptized. John recognized him as the Messiah. "I have need to be baptized of thee and thou comest to me," John said. "Suffer it now," Jesus answered. "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." So the two descended into the river.

Thus Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. As Christ emerged from the water, the heavens were opened and the spirit of God in the form of a dove was seen to descend. As the bird alighted on the head of Jesus, a voice was heard from above. "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased," it declared. So Jesus began his ministry.

## DECATUR CHURCHES

First Christian Church  
C. R. Lanman, pastor.

The invitation of Christ is to both the strength of youth and the infirmity of age. To the aged pilgrim worn with service He says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest." To the vitality of youth is the challenge, "Take up thy cross and follow me."

You will find the Church of Christ both a place of rest and a place for service. Whosoever will may come.

Bible School at 9:30 a. m.  
Worship and communion at 10:30.  
Preaching at 11. Meeting of official board at 11:30.  
Christian Endeavor at 6 p. m.  
Evening service at 7 p. m.

### M. E. Church

It is quite evident that the church has a very definite objective today and that objective is showing people Jesus' way of life. The church's job is to give to the world the vision of Jesus, a vision that will be indelibly stamped on the very souls of men so that they will endeavor to live as He did while on earth. The vision that is needed does not come through creeds or formal statements of theology, but through a living reality in the souls of men. Men acknowledge Jesus but many of them have not felt the power of Him in their own lives, in other words, they have not had a vision of Him.

An objective successfully sponsored will result in a community, a nation, a world, where all may live their lives in comfort, unafraid, where justice rules, where vice and poverty shall cease to fester, where success shall be founded on service, where order shall not rest on force but on love. A nation where barriers are broken down, where there are no class antagonisms, national hatreds, race prejudices and No evening services.

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religious intolerance. A warless world where "nation shall not rise sword against nation," and a church full and alive because there people find the source of help in Christian living.

### Sunday Services

Church School, 9:30 A. M.  
Junior Church, 10:30 a. m.  
Morning worship, 10:30 a. m.  
Membership Roll Call, Mrs. Lewton, Music by Choir.  
Scripture reading by pastor.  
Epworth League, 6 p. m. Leader, Dr. Franklin.  
Evening worship, 7 p. m. Music by Adult choir. Sermon by the pastor.  
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening, 7 o'clock.

Presbyterian Church  
9:30 a. m.—Sunday School. Good attendance especially desired, so our work may go on.  
10:30 a. m.—Morning services, with sermon by Rev. B. B. Uhl of Toledo.  
6:00 p. m.—Christian Endeavor. You are cordially invited to all of these services. The attendance of every member is needed and desired at this time.  
No evening services.

## Sunday School ? QUESTIONS ?

### The Baptism of Jesus

#### QUESTIONS

1. Who was John the Baptist and when was he born?
2. For what is he noted in Biblical history?
3. Describe his early life.
4. What was the gist of his preaching?
5. What success did he have?
6. Why did Jesus come to him to be baptized?
7. How did John receive him?
8. Describe the baptism and what followed?
9. What did Jesus do following this?
10. At what date would this place the baptism?

#### ANSWERS

1. John the Baptist was the son of Zacharias, an aged priest of the temple, and Elisabeth, a cousin of the Virgin Mary. He was born about six months before Jesus.
2. John the Baptist is known as the last of the great prophets of the Old Testament. He is the bridge between the two Testaments, and the man who heralded the immediate coming of the new Messiah.
3. From his youth, John the Baptist was extremely religious. He spent his time in solitude, finally retiring to the wilderness of Judea, where he lived on wild honey and locusts, clad only in a camel's hide, praying, fasting and meditating.
4. John the Baptist preached that the new Messiah would appear shortly and that it behooved his hearers to renounce their worldly sins and prepare for the life to come.
5. So tremendous was the preaching of John the Baptist that multitudes flocked to the wilderness to hear him. Sadducees and Pharisees were baptized by him, and many were his converts.
6. To fulfill the prophecies, Jesus went to John the Baptist to be baptized. John at this time was preaching along the fords of the Jordan north of the Dead Sea.
7. John recognized Jesus as the awaited Messiah. He declared that Jesus should baptize him rather than he should baptize Jesus. Christ insisted and the two descended into the river.
8. Following the baptism of Jesus, the heavens opened and the spirit of God descended in the form of a dove and alighted on his head. A voice was heard at the same time, declaring: "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."
9. Following his baptism, Jesus retired to the wilderness where with a worship program under the

he spent forty days in fasting and meditation, during which time Satan tempted him.

10. The baptism of Jesus occurred late in the year 26 A. D. or early in the following year.

First Baptist Church  
A. B. Brown, pastor.

"Thus saith the Lord": "My word shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."—Is. 55:11.  
Bible School, 9:30 a. m. C. E. Bell, superintendent.  
Morning worship, 10:30 a. m. Theme: "The Race and the Crown."  
Communion, "The Lord's Supper."  
B. Y. P. U., 6 p. m. Questions answered by the pastor.  
Evening service, 7 p. m. Sermon: "Christ's Double Imperative." Music by the Young People.  
Prayer meeting, Wednesday evening, 7:30 o'clock. Choir practice. Young People's choir practice, 7 o'clock.  
It is better to live for Christ than to wish you had.

### United Brethren Church

R. E. Vance, pastor.

The "I AM's" of Christ. John 10:9—I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.  
It is not how long but how well we live that counts. Shall we keep this thought in mind as we launch out into the new year. You are cordially invited to get into the Sunday School for instruction in the Word of God. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for worship, at least once on the Lord's Day.

Morning sermon theme: "Untrodden Ways."  
Christian Endeavor, 6 p. m.  
Evening service, 7 p. m. Sermon on subject: "The Heretical Church."  
Regular official board meeting Monday evening, 7 o'clock.  
Sunday School council Tuesday evening, 7 o'clock.  
Call to prayer, Wednesday evening, 7 o'clock.  
"Moses got his new start at the burning bush. He caught a new vision of God and went forth. That is what we need in starting out on this new year."

First Evangelical Church  
M. W. Sundermann, minister.  
It is always important, in every adventure to get a right start. The best way to start the New Year is by going to church. Start the year with God. God in the home. Partnership with God means happiness. The morning service at the First Church will open at 9:15 o'clock retired to the wilderness where with a worship program under the

leadership of the new Sunday School board. Following the lesson study the pastor will preach upon: "Getting Started Right." This service will close at 11 o'clock.  
E. L. C. E., at 6:15 p. m.  
Evening worship, with sermon by the pastor at 7 o'clock.  
Brotherhood meeting on Monday night at 8 o'clock.

The third quarterly conference will convene on Wednesday night at 7 o'clock. District Superintendent Rev. J. O. Mosier will preach and preside over the business session. A lay delegate to the annual conference will be elected at this session.

### St. Marys Church

First Mass ..... 7:00  
Children's Mass ..... 8:30  
High Mass ..... 9:45  
Prayer Hour and Benediction 2:00

Zion Reformed Church  
Another year with new duties and new opportunities is before us. It is a good time to consider the seriousness of living for let us remember that the fashion of this world passeth away but that God's Word abideth forever.

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