

## Trio Of Important Events Mark Week For Little White Church

By Laura Rawson

Three important events have claimed the attention of the Soquel Congregational church, familiarly known as "The Little White Church in the Vale," this week beginning Sunday, when memorial vespers honored the memory of the Rev. T. Davis Preston, pastor of the church from 1940 to 1954, took place.

Rev. Preston died on his 70th birthday, June 9.

One of his dreams for the church was chimes to peal forth over the Soquel valley which he loved. This dream was carried out Sunday when a set of 21 chimes was dedicated in his memory.

Rev. Alvin W. Pevehouse, the recently installed pastor of the church, in his meditation, paid tribute to Rev. Preston in words which voiced the thoughts of members of the church who knew and loved him.

In part, he said, "It may seem strange to you that I come into a pulpit today to speak at a memorial for a man I did not know and never met.

"But it is not so strange, when you stop to think, and I am not so unfamiliar with him. People pass away. It is the rule of life, that they pass and leave us, and we bury them. But one of the things you cannot bury is a dream and you cannot bury an ideal, nor a pervasive idea. In the past two months I have sat in the seat where there is the best view of the life of our late pastor.

"While each of you came to know him as a person, as a man, through trial and joy through the years, I have gotten to know him as a dream, as an ideal and it was that dream and ideal that he most was. It was that dream and ideal which has been coming to fruition in this beautiful church, in the hearts of people, in the shine upon the eyes of our children. It lives and walks the pews here, it broods upon the spire, it is a glow from our candles on the sunniest of days with a light of its own.

"Therefore, we come not on this day to talk of things that have passed, of days that might be forgotten, of a presence gone from us: but we pause to remember that what was the kernel of this life, is here, present, living, inspiring, burning into our lives: the love of God, the love of God that was in Christ Jesus, the love of God that was in a good pastor.

"In a poetic summary we might well say that in the last 14 years, our pastor split the sky in two and let the face of God shine here upon you."

Mrs. Preston was present for the memorial vespers for her husband and following the service was greeted by the congregation which filled the sanctuary.

Monday the women's circle of the church honored her at a dinner in

the church hall, attended by a large number of members and guests.

Tables glowed with the beauty of tuberous begonias from the Brown ranch.

Mrs. Ernest B. Price, president of the circle, welcomed Mrs. Preston who now makes her home in Auburn with a daughter.

She had been the guest of Mrs. Harvey West at Lake Tahoe and the women motored to Soquel to attend the memorial service and spend a few days in the home of Mrs. Ed West.

The third event was the annual church meeting Tuesday evening, presided over by Dr. Ernest Price, moderator, in the absence of Robert Burton, chairman of the church council. Mrs. Harold Nelson served as clerk and Mrs. Bert Izant arranged the program, followed by refreshments.

The highlight of the evening was the huge book, three by four feet placed on an easel, on whose pages were complete reports of all church departments, chairmen and committees.

Mrs. Izant compiled the material and Mrs. I. R. Lovett did the art work, with a picture of the church as a cover design.

Lettered in Old English with illuminated titles and featured pages, it is a beautiful production and many friends of Soquel church hope it will be placed in a position for the public to see.

The first two pages were devoted to the chimes memorial to Rev. Preston and the stained glass window memorial to Mrs. John Carter which faces the highway. It was placed by Carter in memory of his wife who was vice president of the women's circle. The two deaths occurred but a day apart.

A bit of sentiment connected with the window is that it was made by the same company which made the two windows placed in the church many years ago; one in memory of Mother and one in memory of Father. They were not for any particular mother or father, but for all mothers and fathers.

A drawing in gold color of the chimes and of the beautiful window in which green predominates by Mrs. Lovett, grace the pages.

The following six pages tell of the religious education, Sunday school and Camp So Ca Mo which was organized by Rev. Preston.

New organizations of the church are featured and pages depict the great amount of work accomplished by the women of the church.

One page honors Mrs. Preston.

Two choirs, the senior chancel directed by Curtis Bowman and the junior carol choir with Mrs. Helen Green, director, are featured and the friendly help of Harvey West who has done much in memory of his pioneer father, Ed West, is recognized. The name of Ralph Borresen appears often on the pages as a leader in church organization and a worker.

The pages are replete with names of all who have worked on the various church projects.

Although the book looks backward to work accomplished the last year, there is a future event scheduled as the October Festival when an all-church party will be a big affair.

Carter announced he will have a baptismal font placed in the church in June, as an anniversary memorial to his wife, Madge.

The members heard this announcement with profound gratefulness.

During the business meeting Ted Kasje entertained the children at a party in West hall.

## Spiritual Heritage Of Freedom Is Sermon-Lesson

How we may prove and experience man's God-given dominion over material bondage of all kinds—sin, disease, and limitation—will be brought out at Christian Science services Sunday. The subject of the Lesson-Sermon is "Material."

The spiritual heritage of freedom which belongs to man is set forth in the following selection from the Bible (Galatians 4:6,7): "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father."