

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Vol. 1, No. 1

October 3, 1954

This is the first edition of our Mary Lyon Congregational Church newspaper. At the Religious Education Meeting last Monday evening, the idea of a weekly bulletin, embracing all the activities of Buckland Center, yet containing principally church news, seemed a good one. This weekly communication might fill a definite need in our small community. And then perhaps it won't. But we hope everyone will help the Mary Lyon Messenger become a real part of our church and town.

This paper will not become a page of the regular Sunday Order of Worship handed out in church but will be given to the children to take home after Sunday School and then to all those who are interested in receiving it.

Sunday, October 3 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School
(Every child should try to be there by 9:45, as it is hoped that each Sunday something very interesting will be offered as an introduction to the regular Sunday School services which actually will start at 10:00. Slides, interesting stories and talks are promised in future weeks, to help get the children in the right attitude for the Sunday service.)

11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

4:00 p.m. An organization meeting for a Junior Fellowship Group (grades 6 to 9) and a Senior Fellowship Group (older boys and girls) at the parsonage. All ages will meet together to choose a program for the coming year.

7:30 p.m. - At the parsonage again. An informal meeting of adults (with the emphasis definitely on informal) with Mr. and Mrs. Brown. There will be a discussion of a program to fit the needs of those who are interested. Mr. Brown really wants to know what the adults want to do, what is the best time for meeting, and what programs can be planned with spiritual overtones, yet still filled with sociability. A big welcome is extended to you.

Monday - Scout Night will not meet until next week October 11.

Tuesday, Oct. 5 - Buckland 4-H Farmers, Grange Hall, after school.

Wednesday, Oct. 6 - Grange Meeting, Grange Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 7 - Crittenden P.T.A. Fair, 3:00 to 9:00
Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal, Vestry, 8:00 p.m.
Ladies Club Meeting, Vestry, day meeting.

Friday, Oct. 8 - - Junior Choir rehearsal, Vestry, 4:00 p.m.

The Sunday School year is opening again with Eleanor Clark as superintendent, and Mrs. Lois Trow as secretary-treasurer. A warm welcome is always extended to all the youngsters to attend and also to those who feel they would really enjoy teaching the young people and the little ones about God and the Bible. Those who would like to serve as regular teachers or even substitutes should visit Sunday School next Sunday and see what a joyous hour it is. And if anyone feels he or she would like to teach but

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hasn't the background necessary, be assured, the materials which are ordered each quarter for the teacher and pupils make teaching a pleasurable, easy -to-understand task.

THE LAYMAN

By Edgar Guest

Leave it to the ministers and soon the church will die;
Leave it to the women-folk, the young will pass it by;
For the church is all that lifts us from the coarse and selfish mob
And the church that is to prosper needs the layman on the job.

Now a layman has his business, and layman has his joys,
And he also has the training of his little girls and boys.
I wonder how he'd like it if there were no churches here
And he had to raise his children in a Godless atmosphere?

Each week (if the Mary Lyon Messenger continues) we will print a summary of Mr. Brown's sermon from the week before.

Sermon for Sunday, September 26, Religious Education Sunday

Our goal - fellowship, not self-love, but the love of God through Christ by the cross

1. The Bible gives us the answers if we use it properly
2. Through our church activities we become more familiar with the answers in the Bible
3. Only through prayer, worship and Christian action can fellowship in Christ be realized

Mr. Brown would like you to know that his books are available to anyone, not only religious books but a library of nature books and other subjects. Since some people might not like walking into the Brown's home, he will take several books to Sunday School each Sunday so they may be borrowed. And he will even designate essential pages for reading in each.

Here are suggested home activities for the 2 and 3 year olds.

October 3 - 9 God Gave Us Everything

Thought for the week: This world is full of beautiful and wonderful things. God has given us these things. It is polite to thank the One who has been so kind to us.

Activity: Take the child to the window and ask him to name some of the beautiful things he can see. Ask him how these flowers and trees happened to grow and what would happen to them if God did not send the sunshine and the rain that keeps them alive and beautiful. Ask the child to look about the room and to mention the things which make life happier for us. Then help the child to make up a little prayer in which he thanks God for the wonderful and beautiful things about him.

Events to watch for:

Saturday, Oct. 23 - The Shelburne Falls Trinity Churches are going to hold a Teacher's Institute
On Saturday it will be open to everyone around who is interested.

If you have any ideas that will improve or change the Mary Lyon Messenger, just drop in and talk it over with Eleanor Clark. It's possible that in this paper we might put announcements or births,

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marriages and deaths (as is done in other church papers of this type). Perhaps other small items such as new folks in town, old friends that are moving away, news of servicemen, and of course, all meetings. Let us know what you think. We'll be waiting to hear.

Vol. 1, No. 2

October 10, 1954

Here is the schedule for the coming week. If we've left anything out, let us know.

Sunday, October 10

9:45 to 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship

6:30 p.m. - Junior-Senior Fellowship at Vestry.

Monday, October 11 - Dairy Group of 4-H Farmers. Meet at Grange Hall after school.

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - first meeting of the season-Grange Hall

6:00 p.m. - Annual Meeting of the Cemetery Association, at the Vestry. All owners of plots are members.

8:00 p.m. - Buckland Belles - Mrs. Russell Wells

Tuesday, October 12 - Holiday

Wednesday, October 13

8:00 p.m. - Monthly choir rehearsal at Church.

4-H Busy Bees -- after school at Mrs. Litchfield's.

Thursday, October 14

8:30 p.m. - Buckland Male Chorus Rehearsal - Vestry

Friday, October 15

3:15 p.m. - Junior Choir Rehearsal - Vestry

Sunday, October 17 -

The Fall meeting of the Franklin Association of Congregational Christian Churches and Ministers, at the Congregational Church of Ashfield.

It seems as if perhaps at this time, public thanks are in order to the many people who make the affairs of the church and Sunday school run smoothly. Work for the church is usually taken for granted and public thanks isn't usually given or expected, yet we must realize there are many who help and give according to their opportunities. The numbers who turn up at church or Sunday school, (as teachers and pupils) give no indication of the many loving, willing activities of a much larger number of people.

Looking backwards, there is the auction to mention with its many contributors of articles, some giving their cast-offs and some giving where it hurt. And what a wonderful success it was! \$930.69

The Sunday School adjusted to the problems of the vestry with 39 children and 11 adults who were teachers or visitors. Our aim is not to just "get along", but to give this grand group of youngsters the best we can. To do that, there should be at least one more class...and at least two more teachers. If there were four more teachers,...or even six...no one teacher would have to feel chained to every Sunday, barring grave illness or like necessity.

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In the opening portion of Sunday School, before the actual service and classes began, the children turned their attention to the work of the church abroad and in other parts of our country, since the emphasis is so often just on our own church and its work at the local level. Through the film strip which was shown by Mrs. Elsie Mayer, the young people learned about "Our Church at Work Today".

1. Our church heals
2. Our church teaches
3. Our church tells others of Jesus
4. Our church serves its community
5. Our church meets human needs
6. We help our church

Then the Sunday School joined in a worship service led by Mrs. Brown. She very seriously explained the spiritual symbolism of the pulpit, cross and candles which very fortunately were in the vestry ready for the church service which followed.

The classes, held informally, were inspirational to all. Did any class choose a name and perhaps a purpose? Let Miss Clark know.

Church attendance for last Sunday was thirty-seven. The choir - Mrs. Harold Williams, Marilyn Kinney, Joyce Goodnow, Ruth Ann Ward, Marie Gould, Richard Scott. Janet Wetterwald was pianist. This is following the scheme of changing singers each Sunday. A general rehearsal for the whole choir has been called for October 13.

Outwitted by Edwin Markham

He drew a circle that shut me out -
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win;
We drew a circle that took him in:

Here is the summary of Mr. Brown's sermon last Sunday, Oct. 3

Topic: The Burning Bush

Theme: This time of year is one of the greatest for finding God in nature.

1. Moses found God in a burning bush
2. We can find God in the beauty of autumn nature
3. In the lesson of nature we find God in the things that we do

Miss Clark discovered something not only interesting, but very enlightening this week. If all the children in Upper Buckland who could and should come to Mary Lyon Sunday School showed up at the same time, there would be 71 children in the Sunday School! (This is from the census figures) The class of oldest boys, which Mrs. Elsie Mayer is teaching, could have 11 --- oldest girls, under Mrs. Eleanor Reddy, would have a possible 6.....Mr. Hale's class of fourth and fifth graders would have 7 boys and 9 girls!.....grade three children (who lack a teacher) should have 9.....a teacher should be planned for a first and second grade class which would also be 9 children...and kindergarten and nursery age could be a huge class of twenty children! When someone says "We need Sunday School teachers", it certainly isn't a trite statement, We do.

Things to watch for:

Cub Scout meetings will start soon.

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Wednesday, October 20 - Buckland entertains County Missionary Group
Saturday, October 23 - Teacher's Institute at Shelburne Falls Trinity Churches. All welcome.

Editor- Irmari Jones
Stencil Maker - Carol Lund

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October 17, 1954

Here's the schedule for the week ahead. We've tried to include everything.

Sunday, October 17

9:45 to 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11 a.m. – Morning Worship

6:30 p.m. – Junior-Senior Fellowship at Vestry. Topic for study – Communism

Afternoon and evening – Fall meeting of the Franklin County Association of Congregational Christian Churches and Ministers in Ashfield. The Pastor and his wife, the Superintendent of Sunday School and Mrs. Perchard, representing the Ladies' Club will attend. A good attendance is urged.

7:30 p.m. Singspiration with Rev. Peter McClelland at the Colrain Baptist Church

Monday, October 18

After school – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's.

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

Tuesday, October 19

3:15 p.m. – 4-H Tractor Group – Nathan Hale in charge at Atherton's

7:00 p.m. – Cuo? ___ Meeting – Grange Hall [illegible]

Wednesday, October 20

After school – 4-H Busy Bees at Mrs. Litchfield's. First lesson in textile painting with Mrs. Anna Peabody of Shelburne Falls.

10:30 a.m. – Franklin County District Department of Womens' Work of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society. All day meeting at the Church.

8:00 p.m. – Grange Installations with Ralph Blackmer, Deputy. Eleanor Clark, Mrs. Reddy and Mrs. Miller will go to the Forbes and Wallace in Springfield for the annual craft sale.

Thursday, October 21

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus Rehearsal – Church Vestry

Friday, October 22

3:15 p.m. – Junior Choir Rehearsal – Vestry

Saturday, October 23

8:00 p.m. – "Pinafore" will be presented in Colrain by the Buckland Players. Except for one change, the original cast will perform. Carol Lund is taking Marilyn Kenney's part.

Have you ever visited the nursery or primary classes when they are having their Sunday School lessons? For those who are teaching, it is especially rewarding because the little ones are so responsive to the truths about God. The theme in the nursery and primary classes this quarter is "The Creation of the World." But with our wonderful, helpful material the youngsters learn happily and easily about

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creation without realizing what a big subject they are really starting to understand. Children who save the pictures that they color each Sunday and learn the memory verse, will have a poem....

Thank you for the world so fair
Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the water sweet

Thank you for my mother dear
Thank you for her loving care
Thank you for my father strong
For my family, everyone.

Special thanks are in order for the teachers of the younger children. Mrs. Fox is in charge of the nursery and kindergarten department with Shirley Atherton, assisting. We are always grateful for all those who volunteer. Mrs. Alma Shippee will substitute for grands 1 and 2 and Mrs. Janet Wetterwald for grade 3.

A sentence written by a Mr. Stanton Colt over a century ago might give encouragement to all those who are teaching in Sunday School..."Thy deficiencies and imperfections offer no ground for exemption, for they will themselves be overcome and dissolved in the redemptive work that waits for thee."

This year the teachers are stressing the carrying of something as the young people go to Sunday School...Bibles, Quarterlies, work books...Even the little tots can carry their Bible Story Book. And parents can be a big help in reminding the children to take along their books.

Sunday School records are in the press of being organized. Records of attendance are being kept; yet the stress is not wholly on perfect attendance, which naturally depends on physical health, transportation and other events. Those fortunate enough to have perfect attendance will no doubt be honored at some time. However, if a child is not there on a Sunday, he or she may do something else to make up for the absence. He might learn a memory gem from his quarterly, or a Bible verse; draw and color a picture about the lesson missed, or make a small scrapbook. The child can see his teacher for a small project.

On the Sunday school quiz given last week, Eddie Purinton received the high score of 16, Bobby Hale had 15, Arnold Purinton and Lois Mollison each had 14.

Quotes (as heard by your superintendent and other Sunday School teachers, possibly the world over):

"I don't teach Sunday School because ...

"I can't work with that person."

"I work away from home six days a week; Sunday is my only morning to relax."

"I'm too old."

"I did my turn years ago."

"I just can't leave the babies now. I will, when they are a little bigger, I promise."

"I don't know enough about my Bible."

"I don't know enough"

Yet it does our hearts good when we hear...

"Those are the grandest children."

"You mean you have an average attendance of 40? At our city Sunday School we think we do well to have 25."

Don't forget the Teachers Institute at Shelburne Falls Trinity Churches next Saturday. All welcome.

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Editor – Irmarie Jones

Vol. 1 No. 5

October 31, 1954

Here's another schedule for another busy fall week.

Sunday, October 31

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

6:30 p.m. – Junior – Senior Fellowship at Parsonage

Monday, November 1

After School – Good News Class with Sarah Smith Also after school the Busy Bees have their second textile painting class.

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

8:00 p.m. – A movie, “The Beginning” will be shown at the vestry. Everyone is welcome. This is the Congregational movie of the year, sent around from the top offices to all the Congregational churches in the country and it is our turn to see it.

8:00 p.m. – A number of people from Buckland will attend a lecture by Miss Eunice Avery at Cora Smith Hall, sponsored by the Shelburne Falls Woman's Club. This is definitely open to the public, and all who have heard Miss Avery before will want to hear her again.

Tuesday, November 2

After School – 4 –H Club general meeting. Mr. Atwood will show movies.

11:00 – 7:00 – Voting in the Town Hall. Your chance to express your thoughts and make your choices.

Wednesday, November 3

After School – Cub Pack Meeting – Mrs. E. F. Purinton's.

8:00 – Grange Meeting Past Masters' Night.

Thursday, November 4

12:30 – Ladies' Club Luncheon at the home of Mrs. A. J. Porchard with Mrs. Orta Kenney as co-hostess.

8:00 – Crittenden P. T. A. Meeting

Friday, November 5

8:00 – Buckland Choristers

Did you know that a women's choir has been formed, called the Buckland Choristers? This group will present a Christmas program on December third at the Colrain Congregational Church. Of course, the program will consist mainly of Christmas music. “A man can do more than he thinks he can, but usually less than he thinks he does.” Did you notice this question in the Reader's Digest? Last Sunday 49 children were in Sunday School; the number grows each Sunday. Ten adults were present, not all as teachers, yet helping in some way. That is certainly a good turnout. Not too long ago less than twenty pupils and one teacher was considered an average Sunday's attendance. We have a lot to be grateful for. Yet the teachers, Minister, superintendent and even the pupils are always striving for a more interesting, inspiring Sunday School service. Someone, in referring to church work, has spoken of “the glory of the job.” Where can you realize it more than in the Sunday School? Every week you can realize a regarding, inspiring experience for just one hour of your time and a prayerful faith in God with youngsters who are really eager to learn about God, the Bible and our church. When the load of detail

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and time is shared, it makes it less a job and more of satisfaction. Someone has suggested a monthly mailing list for the Mary Lyon Messenger. Can you think of anyone who would like to receive it? Let us know.

Two Went Up Into the Temple to Pray by Richard Crashaw 1613 – 1649

Two went to pray? O rather say,
One went to brag, th' other to pray:
One stands up close and treads on high,
Where th' other dares not lend his eye.
One nearer to God's alter trod,
The other to the alter's God.

The poetry which is quoted each week in the paper is from Great Companions, a book of readings on the meaning and conduct of life from ancient and modern sources' published by the Boach Press in Boston. A book well worth having.

Don't forget, if you have any suggestions as to what to include in our paper, just drop in and tell Eleanor Clark. (And she will pass it on to Irmarie Jones, so it would be nice to tell her. E. W. C.)

Starting next Sunday, the first Sunday in November, Nov. 7, the Sunday School will start to keep scores and records for each child. And perfect attendance is only of the accomplishments which will be acknowledged. Any child who is fortunate enough and willing enough to have perfect attendance should certainly be recognized. However, scores will be kept for the exciting quizzes which are sometimes given. A record will be made, right down to the smallest class if the pupils carry to Sunday School the Bibles or booklets they are required to bring. Knowing the memory verse from the Sunday before will be very important...and knowing that verse two weeks later will be even better. Now, all these points, besides being credited to the child will also count for his class. And don't you imagine every pupil will want to help his class get the most points? If a youngster is absent, his points could be made up by someone else attending that day or by himself learning an extra memory gem, or the like. Details are not decided, even yet. Perhaps this all sounds too complicated and business like, but it certainly isn't going to take away from the spiritual purposes of Sunday School and it is likely to increase enthusiasm even more.

The Mary Lyon Messenger is in it's fifth week this Sunday. Is it worth continuing or would it be better just to drop the whole idea? This we really wish to know. It has been an experiment. Some weeks there is little to say.

We print 80 copies each week of 2 pages. The cost is about \$1 per Sunday which for the 5 Sundays of October has been an anonymous gift.

Vol. 1, No. 6

November 7, 1954

The schedule is just about the same as ever, but there's always plenty of activity.

Sunday Nov. 7

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning worship

6:30 p.m. – Junior-Senior Fellowship at vestry

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Monday, Nov. 8 After School – Good News Class with Sarah Smith
7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

Tuesday, Nov. 9
After School – 4 – H Dairy Meeting – Grange Hall Buckland Belles entertained by Mrs. William Reddy

Wednesday, Nov. 10
After School – Cub Pack Meeting – Mrs. E. F. Purinton's
6:00 – 7:30 – Annual Chicken Supper – served family style Tickets 99 cents and 50 cents.

Wednesday evening there will be a meeting down at the Buckland Town Hall to discuss a regional school. This is for the downtown people. A similar discussion on the regional school will be held in Upper Buckland a little later. Watch for it.

Thursday, Nov 11
Veteran's Day – it's no longer called Armistice Day. Stop in at the post office and read the thought stirring proclamation issued by Governor Herter for Veteran's Day.
Buckland Men's Chorus – Do they take a holiday or not?

Friday, Nov 12
3:15 p.m. – Junior Choir rehearsal – Vestry
8:00 p.m. – Buckland Choristers

Mrs. Brown attended the meeting of the United Church Women at Greenfield on Friday. This group of women of the Protestant Churches has as one of its major projects—the collection of parcels for missions.

Saturday, Nov.13
8:00 p.m. Business meeting of the church at the Vestry. A Christmas committee will be chosen and the minister's contract will be discussed. Other items will probably be brought up.

The date of the concert in Colrain by the Buckland Choristers was given last week as December 3. It should have been December 6. That's a date to remember.

Thanks are again due the men who helped work on the church improvements last Thursday. Just a note on the heat situation: J. G. Powell and Mr. Brown are the only two people who are to touch the thermostat.

The children who come in the front way of church should be sure to shut the door at the top of the stairs when they are on their way down to Sunday School.

The Ladies' Club is installing a new sink and hot water heater in the church kitchen and paying for the installation. This is their own project for which the members of the church should be grateful.

Children's suggestions for Sunday School service emphasize...."Let's all sing together". Arnold Purinton suggested that each Sunday Mr. Brown conduct an informal quiz on his discussion of the week before, just to make sure everyone remembers.

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Perhaps some children and adults have wondered recently about the more extensive use of candles, the wearing of robes and a greater emphasis on the altars in our church. In a discussion of this change Mrs. Brown brought out the thought that had been presented to her at a minister's wives meeting. If there is someday to be a united church we must reverse our thoughts and actions a little now, and allow for some formalities. In that way the symbols will come to mean only one thing among all people.

Mr. Brown preached his first sermon with us last year on November 1, so this Sunday marks the start of his second year in Buckland. His sermon last week was a condemnation of lip service in our religion in contrast to true worship through our deeds and thoughts.

Inbrothered by Edwin Markham

There is a destiny that makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone
All that we send into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

Now that November 7 has arrived, Miss Clark and Mrs. Trow, with the teachers, will be keeping a record for the pupils to encourage them to remember their memory verses, to attend regularly, to carry something to Sunday School and to help their own class as much as possible. Listed below will be the children in each age group, not necessarily by the exact class. If any youngsters are left out please let us know.

Nursery Age – Loren Mayer, David Reddy, Thomas Clark, Jody Wetterwald, Pam Shippee

Kindergarten – Elaine Clark, Ann Purinton, Kathleen Mowry, Stephen Larned, Robert Mollison

1st Grade – Audrey Churchill, Stanley Clark

2nd Grade – Rosaline Clark, Susan Hale, Mary Ann Maynard, Lewis Atherton, Doug Mollison, Steven Mayer

3rd Grade – Dennis Clark, Douglas Clark, Robert Cross, David Eastman, Floyd Scott, Francis Trow, Patsy Purinton

4th Grade – Bonita Clark, Barbara Gould, Betty Lou Maynard, Tommy Evans, Stephen Hale, Bill Gilbert

5th Grade – Harry Clark, Robert Hale, George Maynard, Edward Purinton, Susan Wilder, Lola Mollison

Older Girls – Emily Bleau, Amy Clark, Gwen Gilbert, Jane Gould, Mary Litchfield, Phyllis Scott

Older Boys – Philip Bleau, Melvin Cass, Richard Hale, Bill Reddy, Lewis Scott, Loren Burckard, Paul Atherton, Arnold Purinton

That's a lot of children and they make a fine Sunday School. It certainly is worthwhile to do all we can for them. Suggested Home Activity for 2's and 3's: God Never Forgets Us

Thought for the Week: In winter time the world is beautiful when it is covered with snow. Even though plants and flowers are not growing in winter, God has made sure that there will be growing things when spring comes.

Activity: Let the child feed the birds. Show him tracks birds make in the snow. Explain that God meant for the birds to eat the seeds. Point out ways people and birds are cared for in winter.

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Sunday, November 14

9:45 – 10:45- Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

6:30 p.m. – Junior – Senior Fellowship at Parsonage

Monday, November 15

After School – Good News Class with Sarah Smith

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

8:00 p.m. – 4-H Achievement Banquet – Grange Hall – for all Buckland 4 – H Farmers and their parents.

Tuesday, November 16

After School – 4- H Busy Bees Textile Painting class at Crittenden

8:00 p.m. – Nut T Club – Christmas Club – to be entertained by Miss Eleanor Clark

Wednesday, November 17

**After School – Cub Pack Meeting – Mrs. E. F. Purinton's.

8:00 p.m. – Grange Meeting – Two One-act plays.

Thursday, November 18

12:30 p.m. – Ladies Club Luncheon at Vestry. Mrs. N. L. Cass and Mrs. Howard Warfield co-hostess.

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Men's Chorus – Vestry.

Deerfield Valley Pomona Grange meets at Buckland with music arranged by the Buckland Grange.

Fourth degree Grangers will be admitted at 8:30. Local people who enjoy the chorus are welcomed to come to the literary program at 9:00.

Friday, November 19

3:15 P.M. - Junior Choir Rehearsal – Vestry 8:00 p.m. – Buckland Choristers.

**In regard to Cub meetings this year, help is definitely needed. There are younger boys who are ready and eager to become Cubs, but with only one or two mothers being Den Mothers it is impossible to take on any more boys at this time. If there is a mother of a younger boy or anyone who would like to help once a week where help is really needed, contact Mr. Hale or Mrs. Purinton. They'll be very glad to hear from you....and so will the boys.

And it's time that credit be given to some other folks that are really helping the young people once a week.....the Sunday School teachers, Miss Clark is superintendent, with Mrs. Lois Trow as secretary – treasurer (She takes attendance and keeps track of the points the children are earning). Mrs. Elsie Mayer teaches the oldest boys, while Mrs. Eleanor Reddy has the oldest girls. Nathan Hale conducts the fourth and fifth grade class, combined. Mrs. Amy Clark had third, Mrs. Alma Shippee is teaching first and second, and Mrs. Louise Fox and Shirley Atherton are in charge of the nursery and kindergarten age. Mrs. Brown is always there to help out since the Junior choir usually contributes something to the Sunday School services. And of course Mr. Brown is always there to guide, instruct, and even substitute if necessary. Thanks are certainly due the many substitutes who have helped every Sunday school session run smoothly. Every volunteer is certainly appreciated.

The themes which the upper classes have been working out are – Job's Struggle to understand Life and The Way of Wisom (a study of Proverbs). The younger children have been stressing Thanks to God for the first quarter. The third grade is having "Old Testament Stories."

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The new heating system has proven itself to be a grand change, and steps are going forward to complete the system. Church was a little cool last Sunday because of the opening which had been cut and caused a draft. There is always a chance for those who have helped and especially those men who have been putting it off to get a hand into the remodeling work at church. Again appreciation is expressed for the work which the men did this past week. Every little bit helps, to be trite.

And thanks certainly are due all the people who helped make the chicken supper such a huge success last Wednesday evening. Perhaps next week we can give you an accurate count of the number of tickets sold. It was worth all the hard work and time which so many people put into it.

Sincere sympathy is extended to the families of L. C. Litchfield and J. G. Powell for the recent sad losses of members of their families.

Thanksgiving is less than two weeks away. It certainly is a time to express our personal gratitude to God by doing just a little more for the other fellow. "I will offer unto Thee the sacrifice of Thanksgiving." Psalms.

Are the children in your house remembering to learn their memory verse each week? They really enjoy doing it and that is one of the things that helps them earn individual and class points at Sunday School. Perhaps you think it is a little too difficult, especially for the little tots, to have something to learn each week. A "Note to Parents" on the back of one of the Sunday School work books perhaps explains the importance of these memory verses. "Since individual drill is necessary to truly hide God's Word in the hearts of boys and girls, we are asking you to help.....It is wrong to maintain that the child should never memorize anything that he cannot understand in some degree. We should always explain the meaning of that which we ask him to commit, and make sure that he gets it. Have him tell you what he thinks the verse means and correct any misconceptions which he may have. Do not drop a passage after it has been learned. Keep calling for it from time to time: give it added meaning as he has new experiences. Help to lay up in his mind a precious, spiritual resource that will be always available. That certainly seems to sum it up, don't you think?

Home Activities for 2 and 3 year olds. Week of November 14 – 20:

Thought for the Week: We have many things to be thankful for every day. In the spring the seeds will begin to grow and buds will come out on trees. The warm summer sun and rain will make the fruits and vegetables and the flowers grow fast. We have Thanksgiving Day so that we may show God that we are thankful for His care.

Activity: Help the child to think of all kinds of gifts from God. Talk to him about the ways in which we can show God that we are thankful for these gifts. Help the child pack a box or basket full of goodies and go with him when he takes them to a neighbor who is ill or elderly, or to a member of the family of whom he is fond.

Statement of Ownership of the Mary Lyon Messenger: This paper is a project of the Mary Lyon Sunday School. So far, it has been financed by gifts from interested individuals. It costs about 2 cents a copy...prints and distributes about 80 copies. It's purpose is "to bring the very local news" not found in the public press; to inform those parents who are now interested in Sunday School; inform everyone of the responsibility involved with so many interested children; and be a contact with all parents. It really strives to serve as a community news sheet. While the staff seems to prefer to do their part without publicity, the Sunday School superintendent wishes to make it plain that it is not done by EWC, glad

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though she is to cooperate. Mrs. Jones is an excellent editor and the Messenger is due to grow better as we help her. Signed, Eleanor W. Clark.

Be sure to let us have all your new items. Other churches also have budget concerns whether they are large or small so we copy the following from the instructions of another church:

FIRST: Let every member pray about his share in this budget.

SECOND: Let every member make a pledge of financial support to the Church and benevolence.

THIRD: Trust God to help you keep your pledge. He will help you.

Now read the Bible verse below. Believe it.

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

VOL. 1, NO. 8

November 21, 1954

There seems to be a lot of news this week. Here's the schedule first.

Sunday, November 21

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 – Morning Worship

6:30 p.m. – Junior – Senior Fellowship at the Vestry

Monday, November 22

After School – Good News Class with Sarah Smith

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

8:00 p.m. – Buckland Choristers

Wednesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Eve Service – Church

Thursday, November 25 Thanksgiving Day

There still hasn't been any response to the need for another Cub Den Mother. Isn't there anyone who can give that time once a week for a really worthwhile activity?

Many thanks to all the women who baked for and worked on the Flower Committee Food Sale yesterday.

It seems that some children (and parents) have been a little distressed because the youngsters would lose those important Sunday School points when they are absent. But no points need to be lost (since it is not humanly possible for everyone to attend every week). The child who is absent can memorize two or three Bible verses of his own choosing to recite the following week and he will receive his star just as if he hadn't been absent the week before. So help your youngster to learn some beloved Bible verses next time he or she is absent, and the absence will be eased, and you will have enriched your own thinking.

Report from the church meeting, a week ago last night, Sat., Nov. 13th: Reverend Brown requested a contract for a stated time and also asked that we consider the standards suggested by the Congregational Conference. After those present considered these different suggested items: car, gas, electricity,

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telephone, and retirement, \$100.00 was allotted for miscellaneous use. A raise of \$500.00 was given, bringing the salary in addition to free use of the parsonage, to \$2500.00 a year. A contract was then drawn up for one year. In the discussion, it was pointed out that anyone, particularly in his first year after training, had to learn to adjust the lessons learned to his own use. And the first year is really adjustment year. Also noted strongly by several who spoke was the fact that these young people need welcoming into our personal lives as people--not as a ministerial couple.

In other orders of business the legal aspect of the water situation was taken care of by two agreements, voted on at that time by the church and accepted last Wednesday by the Grange.

1. Payment of annual rent to the town by both groups for use of the town spring.
2. Church tank storage use by Grange and joint sharing of maintenance from school house to church building.

This past week the Clerk of the Church reported that Mr. Brown has accepted the contract which the church offered him. The best of luck is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Brown for their next year in Buckland.

Probably a great many people have wondered just what progress has been made in reaching the financial goal for church improvements. Remember, the goal was and still is \$3000.00. Already paid in cash is \$1100.00. Just \$184.00 is left to be collected in unpaid pledges. The work committee is not quite ready with the accurate figures, but \$1184.00 is approximately the amount of money they have. So that figure of \$3000.00 doesn't look too far away but there is well over \$500.00 still needed.

The question of committees to help with the improvements keeps popping up all the time. As someone said who was at the church meeting the other night, "Those of us who were there are somewhat mixed up and I'm sure those who weren't there must be mixed up on these special committees." Following is a complete list of all these special committees, including a list of the Community Christmas party committees.

Church Improvement Committee

J. G. Powell, Chairman

Mrs. Raymond Cooper (plus standing committee)

Walter Aring

Francis Willis, Chairman

Mrs. J.G. Powell

Mrs. Walter Aring

Charles Trow

John M. Eastman

Sub-Committee to do telephoning in arranging work bees (Appointed by Improvement Committee)

Mrs. J. G. Powell

Mrs. Walter Aring

Mrs. Raymond Cooper

General Committee (Appointed by vote of church at business meeting)

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To oversee the proposed project and to delegate other committees for fund raising and other duties. At a later meeting they were empowered to arrange financing within the borrowing capacity of the church, for a period not to exceed three years.

Mr. Samuel Brown
Standing Committee
Deacons

Committee of Three-in-Charge

This committee was appointed by the general committee with the power to act for the general committee when it might be impossible or impractical to get the larger group together.

Mr. Samuel Brown
Mrs. J. G. Powell (representing standing committee)
Walter Aring (representing deacons)

Fund-Raising Committee (appointed by above committee of three)

Nathan Hale, Chairmen
Samuel Brown, Secretary
Mrs. John M. Eastman, Treasurer

Work Committee (appointed at a church business meeting)

Mr. and Mrs. James Mollison
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Litchfield
Miss Shirley Scott
Mrs. Charles Nadeau
Mrs. Nathaniel Cass

Appointed by Improvement Committee

Charles Trow: To arrange for pointing up wall at rear of vestry

Community Christmas Party Church Committee:

Mrs. Raymond Cooper
Miss Shirley Scott
James Mollison
[Christmas Party committee is to work with Ladies Club and Grange Committee]

Ladies Club Committee:

Mrs. Walter Aring
Mrs. Louise Fox
Mrs. Howard Scott

Grange Committee:

Mrs. Russell Wells
Samuel Wilson
Leonard Lund

Invariably as Thanksgiving comes around we are more conscious of the words “thanks” and “gratitude”. Are we grateful enough for our community, our country or our family that we love so much and so often

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take for granted. From another point of view, do we tell people how much we appreciate something as often as we should? This is Thanksgiving week. Here is the way Ralph Waldo Emerson expressed his feeling of gratitude:

For each new morning with its light
Father, we thank Thee.
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food, for love and friends,
Father, we thank Thee.
For everything Thy goodness sends,
Father in Heaven, we Thank thee.

Suggested Home Activities for 2 and 3 year olds: God Cares for Us in Summer, Week of November 21 – 27.

Thought for the week: In summer we will see God's work everywhere. We will enjoy the warm sun and the cool breezes. We like to sit under tall trees. We are thankful that God cares for us in summer. Activity: Show the child pictures of fruits and vegetables. Seed catalogues and magazines which features gardens have many beautiful pictures a child will enjoy. Let the child name the fruits and vegetables he recognizes. He might cut out the foods he likes best and paste them on a large sheet of paper. (This all ties in beautifully with Thanksgiving. ISJ) Teach him this prayer: Dear God, I think every day is Thanksgiving Day. Amen.

Have a happy, heartwarming Thanksgiving everyone.

Vol. 1, No. 9

November 28, 1954

Does it seem possible this is the ninth Messenger already? Well, here we go with this week's activities.

Sunday, November 28

9:45-10:45 – Sunday School – Don't forget that first fifteen minutes – informal, but inspiring – that the children enjoy so much. It helps the children quite down and become receptive to the Sunday School service which follows).

11:00 – Morning Worship

Monday, November 29

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

Tuesday, November 30

After School – All Buckland 4-H Farmers who are 12 and over will meet at Mrs. Mayer's for an organizational meeting for the year 1954-55. The younger members will have their meeting the following week. More later on it.

Wednesday, December 1 – The Christmas month is upon us.

After School – Cub Pack Meeting – Mrs. E.F.Purinton's

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5:00 p.m. – Ladies' Club Fair opens at the vestry. Baked foods, candy, Christmas greens and decorations, aprons and fancy work will go on sale at that time.

8:00 p.m. – Grange – Hobby Night.

Thursday, December 2

8:00 p.m. – Crittenden PTA meeting – Christmas play and special music.

8:00 p.m. – Buckland Choristers – at the Church.

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Men's Chorus – at the vestry.

For their special meeting this month, the Cubs went to North Adams by train yesterday, to enjoy the thrill of going through Hoosac Tunnel. Mrs. Purinton and Mrs. Evans accompanied them.

Now that December is arriving, don't forget about the community Christmas party. Every child in town is welcome and Santa will have a gift for each of them. And think how many new ones he'll have to remember this year. Just a thought looking ahead.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown will be away most of next week attending the National Council of Churches in Boston. This is the first time Buckland has ever been represented at this very important meeting for all protestant denominations of the United States. When you come right down to it our church is just as important to us, or even more so, as the largest city church which sends its delegate. And at the meeting of our church will be on a par with any of the other churches.

Did you know that this Sunday is Advent Sunday? You've probably heard that name at some other time, as I had, and wondered what it meant. Mr. Brown will keep us informed each Sunday before Christmas, what the name of that Sunday is, and what it stands for. Advent Sunday is the first Sunday of the Advent season, the nearest Sunday to St. Andrew's Day. This Sunday was to center around the disciples, and Andrew was a disciple, a brother of Peter and one of his closest followers. The early church was torn between the teachings of Peter and the teachings of Paul. This season, Peter was in the forefront, whereas Easter was Paul's time. As Andrew was the closest to Peter, they chose the Sunday after his day for the start of the Advent season. This was a time of big celebrations for new members in the church, a time used for purposes of instruction. As for St. Andrew, not too much is known about him, but tradition says he was a missionary to India.

Happiness, eternal or temporal, is not the reward that mankind seeks. Happinesses are but his wayside companions. His soul is in the journey and in the struggle Stevenson.

Have all of you noticed the grand material that the youngsters are getting in Sunday School. In our house, I see the lovely booklet which the first and second graders are using and the grand magazine, "Junior Life" which the fourth and fifth graders have. The primary booklet is printed in such large, easy-to-read type and uses words which the children can read themselves and which they are so proud to read. Each simple text is accompanied by handsome picture for them to color (and the memory verses are right under the picture).

The magazine, "Junior Life" is just as exciting and as chock full of activities and stories as any of the expensive, monthly periodicals for children...and they get this once a week. The stories are delightful: there are quizzes, jokes, a crossword puzzle, and lovely pictures illustrating a truth from the Bible and a Bible story. But that's just what they take home with them. They also have a quarterly booklet which they work with in Sunday School called "Songs from Heaven." And of course they are always the

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Sunday Pix for one person of each family to take home. The material for the other classes is just as full, complete and diversified. Those are just the two sets I have seen.

Are you making sure your children learn their memory verses?

Would you live in a town without a church? Would many of our people have moved to Buckland if there hadn't been a church in the center of town? Perhaps that wouldn't have change any family's desire to live in our town of Buckland, yet everyone, I'm sure, is pleased that a church with its stabilizing influence is always open and welcoming us. Every animal needs something to live on – food, drink, and shelter. Man needs these and much more. He must also have something to live for – some ideal, some objective, some purpose. We can find that in our church. If our church were closed up tight, don't you think there would be a score of folks with a pretty anchorless feeling?

And don't you enjoy hearing the bells ring, calling all to worship before a service? Perhaps they haven't rung as much as we'd like to hear them of late. Even the non-church goers have been bewailing the fact that our church bell hasn't been rung lately as often as everyone likes. There really is an uplifting feeling, just listening to them on a Sunday morning.

Vol. 1, No. 10

December 5, 1954

It seems like a full week ahead, so let's go.

Sunday, December 5

9:45-10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 – Morning Worship

2:00 p.p. – Buckland Male Chorus will sing at the Ashfield House and Green Meadows Nursing Home.

Mr. Brown will accompany them to lead a worship service.

6:30 p.m. – Junior-Senior Fellowship - vestry

Monday, December 6

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

After School – 4-H Buckland Farmers, 12 years and older, at Mrs. Mayer's

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

Tuesday, December 7

No school for Crittenden

3:00 p.m. –Buckland 4-H Farmers , under 12 years, meet at Mrs. Mayer's

Wednesday, December 8

After School – Cub Pack Meeting – Mrs. E.F.Purinton's

8:00 p.m. – Nut-T-Club at Mrs. Richard Gerry's

Thursday, December 9

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus – at the vestry.

Friday, December 10

3:15 p.m. – Junior choir – vestry.

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It has been suggested that at the first of each month we list which member of the flower committee is in charge of the flowers for that month. Then if anyone wants to present flowers in memory of someone, they will know whom to contact. For the month of December Mrs. Brown is in charge.

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Ladies' Club Fair last Wednesday. Greenery which was for sale at the fair can still be bought at the post office. There are door sprays and boxberries. If anyone wants to place an order for Christmas greens, please contact the president of the club, Mrs. Robert Atherton at 5-9258.

This week we want to congratulate the parents of new babies who are in our Buckland area. Each month we'll send out congratulations to new parents from the month before. Mrs. and Mrs. Francis Willis became parents of a son, Paul Lawrence on November 13. And Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Wilson, Jr. also had a son, Neil James, on November 20. A hearty welcome to the new little citizens.

Next week we will print a list of those Sunday School pupils who had perfect attendance for November and also those who attended regularly for the first nine Sundays of the year, from Oct. 5. We are going to wait and see if any of the youngsters absent that last Sunday in November will make up that absence by memorizing Bible verses, thus nullifying the absence.

And also next week, I hope to be able again to tell what this Sunday and next Sunday before Christmas are called. Mr. Brown was gone most of the week and when I finally did try to contact him, his line was out of order. So after telling you last Sunday was Advent Sunday we'll have to wait another week to find out what the next two Sundays in the Advent season are called. Mrs. Brown has given us some very interesting information about Advent Sunday. "On the first Sunday in Advent, in many English homes, an Advent wreath and four tapers are placed in the window. Just before the evening the first candle is set aflame. On the second advent Sunday, two are lighted and so on until the four are burning. This custom can be seen in effect at the parsonage where four candles are set on a table near one of the front windows."

We would like to extend sincere heartfelt sympathy to the family on Donat Auge in his sudden, sad loss. We also extend deep sympathy to the family of the Joseph Poiriers in their unexpected recent loss.

Remember the boxes the Sunday School used to get ready for Ellis Island children at Christmas time? Just a note to say that that famous gateway to the United States has finally closed its doors.

Mrs. Mayer received from Mr. Merrill a morning worship program from a recent service at the church in Hawaii the Merrills attend. The extensive service, the large staff listed, and a weekly program just crammed with activities make you realize what a large church it is. And of course, this is only one of the many churches in Honolulu. Mr. Merrill went on to tell Mrs. Mayer that the ladies' bazaar realized them several thousand dollars. The land of coconuts and pineapples worships just the same way we do in this country.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown spent a good part of this past week at the National Council of Churches in Boston, where Mr. Brown knew six out of the eight key speakers. You have probably heard reports about it on the radio and read about it in your newspaper, but next week we hope to have some news of it direct from the Browns.

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Starting this week, The Messenger will list the schedule of high school activities, not with the regular Buckland Center schedule, but somewhere in the paper:

Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 7 and 8 – Senior Class Play, “Jane Eyre”

Friday, December 10 – first basketball game of the season with Sanderson Academy at Cowell Gymnasium.

Shall we continue with this listing each week?

True worth is in being, not seeming –
In doing each day that goes by,
Some little good – not in dreaming
Of great things to do by and by.

Cary

Recently a “Letter to the Editor” in one of the periodicals from a religious publishing house has been called to my attention. It concerns a problem, that, I’m sure, is not acute in Buckland, yet it is something many families may have been thinking about. The woman who wrote the letter explained that church activities and demand were starting to become burdensome to their family, and she even felt guilty about doing God’s will for the church when it seemed to upset family and home life so much. I really don’t think anyone in Buckland feels that strongly about such an important matter. In Buckland we should evaluate our basics, try to discover just what we can contribute,...what efforts we can make for the church...and yet not feel at all burdened, but uplifted. What are the different contributions that are being made and what further ones can be given? Already Sunday School definitely has a loyal backing with a grand attendance and willing inspired teachers. Perhaps our church education could be better with all kinds of additions, but it is progressing. Contributions of labor have been so gratifying this pas year. Of course there are always the cash contributions and gifts....that seems unnecessary to mention. Food donations for suppers and sales seem important in Buckland. There is a senior choir and a junior choir that give their music. The Ladies’ Club helps in so many ways. The Young People’s Fellowship, and even the Scouts, Cubs and 4-H are all making their important contributions toward the basic efforts of the church and the community. What way can you give more joyously?...why not work for the church through your own thought and prayer which can be done at home, at work, at church...it doesn’t matter. And so important, yet not nearly so often given to our church and to God is family church attendance. We’ll speak again about these basic contributions in future issues. Anybody have any views on the subject?

Is there still an interest in Home Activities for two and three year olds? Here is the one for the week, December 5-11.

Thought for the Week: We can give Jesus a Christmas gift too. God gave us Jesus. We ought to give something really fine as a gift to Jesus. Let’s think about the very finest gift we could give.

Activity: help the child make simplest gifts for other members of the family. Colored pictures, cut from magazines, may be pasted on bright construction paper and made to serve as bookmarks or greeting cards. Or help the child to learn a Christmas song to be sung to other members of the family. Teach him that a thoughtful act is also a gift.

And speaking of the two and three year olds...and the five and six year olds, and so on. Santa will be making his visit to the Grange Hall in Buckland soon. we hope to have the announcement next week on the exact day for our big community Christmas party.

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Vol. 1, No. 11

December 12, 1954

Here's a calendar full of holiday activities

Sunday, December 12

9:45 - 10:45 - Sunday School

11:00 Morning Worship

5:00 - Local Council of Churches will meet at the Methodist Church in Shelburne Falls. All are welcome. Our delegates will go.

6:30 - Junior-Senior Fellowship - Vestry

Monday, December 13

After school - Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts - Grange Hall

8:00 P.M. - Buckland Belles Christmas Party - at Betty Powell's

Wednesday, December 15

After School -- Cub Pack Meeting - Mrs. Christine Purinton's

8:00 P.M. Grange Christmas Program with Buckland Choristers

Thursday, December 16

12:00 Noon - Ladies' Club Christmas Party - Vestry - Exchange of 50cent gifts

8:30 P.M. Buckland Male Chorus - Vestry

Friday, December 17

3:15 P.M. Junior Choir - Vestry

Sunday, December 19

5:00 P.M. - Christmas Candlelight Service ----please note

Next Sunday the seven year old youngsters will receive their Bibles. They will be given to them during the regular morning worship service. Those who are to receive Bibles are Steven Mayer, Rosaline Clark, Susan Hale, Mary Ann Maynard, Douglas Mollison and Lewis Atherton.

Now, here's that list of those who had perfect attendance -

Perfect attendance for 9 Sundays, October 3 through November 28.

Stanley Clark	Anne Purinton	David Reddy
Pamela Shippee	Mary Ann Maynard	Dennis Clark
Douglas Clark	Robert Cross	Bonita Clark
Barbara GouldBetty	Lou Maynard	George Maynard
Amy Clark	Jane Gould	William Reddy

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Perfect attendance for 4 Sundays, November 7 through the 28th.

Anne Purinton	David Reddy	Pamela Shippee
Stanley Clark	Mary Ann Maynard	Lewis Atherton
Susan Hale	Rosaline Clark	Dennis Clark
Douglas Clark	Robert Cross	Bonita Clark
Barbara Gould	Betty Lou Maynard	George Maynard
Edward Purinton	Robert Hale	Stephen Hale
Amy Clark	Jane Gould	William Reddy
Paul Atherton	Richard Hale	Gwen Gilbert

Some of these pupils had perfect attendance by learning a special Bible verse to make up for an absence.

Today in Sunday School the children brought special donations. In case some of the other parents didn't get it straight, as I didn't, these contributions are to help in the drive of the National Council of Churches to send booklets on Christ to foreign countries.

In discussing the different Sundays in the Advent season with Mr. Brown, he said it is really difficult to pin each Sunday down to a specific meaning. After the first Sunday of the Advent Season which was St. Andrew's Day, the next one was used in the old church for a discussion of Mary's position in their thinking and worship and other doctrines which are now really part of the Catholic dogma.

This Sunday, or today, would have been used for a discussion of the meaning of John's figure, "the Word of God". Why is the Bible called the "the Word of God"? What does it mean to accept wholeheartedly that idea? And that's why even now we celebrate that Sunday as "Bible Sunday" in the churches.

Have you seen the Advent candles in the parsonage window?

Mr. Brown will be out of town all day this coming Wednesday.

The special Christmas vesper service of our church will be held next Sunday afternoon, December 19 at 5:00....a candlelight service entitled the "Hope of Christmas". Shirley Scott will be the soloist. The Junior Choir will sing one number. At this time of year a candlelight service with lots of nice music fills one with reverence and joy. Try to make it, and take the whole family

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King.

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the son
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.

Ay! We shout to the lovely evangel they bring
And we greet in his cradle our Savior and King

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Here is Mr. and Mrs. Brown's report of the National Council of Churches:

"The Third General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America was held in Boston, November 28 through Dec. 2. This is the general Policy and Planning session which decides what is going to be done by the Council over the next three years. Instead of each denomination working separately, this is an attempt to co-ordinate the efforts of all the denominations participating. There are 31 separate denominations which actually make up the Assembly with many more denominations which support the work of the council in different ways. 35,000,000 Americans are brought together in this way to decide and plan for the church program for the next three years. The National Council is the American agency for the World Council of Churches which met in Evanston, Illinois this past summer. The words, "This nation under God", which hung in gold letters over the stage of the auditorium where the meetings were held, in a very real sense, reflect the purpose and objectives of this assembly. One of the speakers who was quoted in the paper had this to say--"The average church is so much conformed to the world that people are surprised if it sharply challenges the prevailing behavior of the community. Consequently, Christianity is regarded by many as a harmless adornment of a comfortable life." That seems like a pretty powerful indictment. The council meeting did bring out the fact church attendance and church building are at an all time high.

The only outstanding activities at Arms Academy in the coming week are the two basketball games which will be played away.

The Buckland 4-H Farmers chose new officers for the year at their organization meetings this past week. The younger group, under 12, calls themselves "Our 4-H Farmers". Officers for the older group: President, Paul Atherton; vice-president, David Fiske; secretary, Shirley Atherton; treasurer Lewis Scott; and news reporter, Lloyd Cass. In the younger group officers are: President, Robert Hale; vice-president, George Maynard; secretary, Steven Hale; treasurer, William Hathaway; and news reporter, Betty Lou Maynard.

Once in a discussion with Mr. Merrill about the Sundays which give some of us such a "lift" and the other Sundays which may have had true worship for someone else, Mr. Merrill remarked that we might miss the "glory" Sundays if we weren't there the other times. One never knew when they would come. Last Sunday the organist was Janet Wetterwald the choir was Janet Brown. Janet Wetterwald sang with Mrs. Brown at the organ:

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
And a baby's low cry."

Then later the two sang a duet. "Away in the Manger". It was just one of those gems you hate to miss.

Suggested home activities for 2 and 3 year olds: I'm Thankful for Jesus. Week of December 12-18. Thought for the week: When Jesus was born the shepherds went to see Him in the manger. They knelt and gave thanks to God because Jesus had been sent to them.

Activity: Show the child pictures of the shepherds. Sing songs which tell about the shepherds, or play appropriate Christmas records while the child listens. Perhaps you could let him help make a simple creche, using only a few figures. Ask him to look in magazines for Christmas pictures showing the

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manger , the shepherds and the animals in the stable. Teach the child this prayer: “Dear God thank you for Jesus. Amen.”

Santa will be jingling his bells and bringing his sleigh into Buckland on the evening of December 22 at Grange Hall. All youngsters in the community will receive a gift. And everyone is heartily welcome.

The Buckland 4-H Farmers are working hard on an exciting Christmas play, something new for our Christmas party. It won't be long now.

Vol. 1, No. 12

December 19, 1954

Christmas week is finally here. And there's not much of a schedule.

Sunday, December 19

11:00 - Morning worship -- a real family Sunday

5:00 - Christmas Candlelight Service - “The Hope of Christmas.” Shirley Scott soloist. Junior choir.

8:00 - Methodist Church in Shelburne Falls, - Joint Council of Churches “Christmas Cantata”.

Participants from our Church include Mrs. Brown, Shirley Scott, Joyce Goodnow and Marie Gould.

Everyone is welcome. Take the whole family.

Monday, December 20

After School - Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

After school - Rehearsal for 4-H Christmas Play - Grange Hall

7:00 P.M. - Boy Scouts - Grange Hall

Wednesday, December 22

Morning - Christmas parties at Crittenden School

7:30 - Buckland Christmas party! All welcome! Santa has gifts for all the children. Buckland 4-H Farmers will present a Christmas play.

Friday, December 24

3:15 :P.M. - Junior Choir Christmas party - Vestry - Carol singing with the Cub Scouts.

Saturday, December 25 - Christmas Day!

This is the fourth Sunday of Advent. On this day in olden times, all the “Why's” of Christmas were discussed. Why a star, why the shepherds, why the wise men. Have you seen the Advent candles in the parsonage window?

Bonny Dodge will also be one of the children receiving a Bible this morning.

All the encouraging things that people have said about the Messenger are very gratifying. I appreciate the bouquets and criticisms that have been tossed this way. And they certainly make me happy to put the paper together each week. Many thanks.

On the Arms Academy schedule this week is the Senior formal Christmas party at Cowell Gymnasium, this Tuesday, from 8:30 to 12:00. The basketball team will play another game away from home on Mon. evening, Dec. 20.

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During November, \$1.55 had to be taken from the Sunday School money to help pay for putting out the Messenger. Voluntary contributions have been a big help. In December, folks have already given more than a dollar. If you feel you'd like to help out, just leave it with Eleanor Clark.

There really doesn't seem to be much news from Buckland this week. Everyone is busy with families and Christmas. Here's how Christ's birth is celebrated in other countries.

In Norway, we see a candle burning brightly in the window of every home, which welcomes any traveler who is hungry or in need of shelter. The Yule log is burned, and each person present will throw a branch into the fire. The branches carry with them all of last year's hatreds, fears and troubles...all of the things which should be forgotten.

In Poland, Christmas is known as the Festival of the Star, and children write their letters to the Three Wise Men, from whom they receive their presents.

In Czechoslovakia a friend of the family dresses up like St. Nicholas, and gives presents only to children who know their prayers.

Persia was the home of one of the Three Wise Men. Here the great day is called the Time of the Little Feast and there is great rejoicing for the birth of Christ.

In Germany, the tree is brought in on Christmas Eve and decorated with gifts made by the family for one another. Candles are placed in the windows...in this case, to light the way for the Christ Child.

The head of the house in Bulgaria sprinkles grain on doorsteps saying, "Christ is born."

The birds and animals are remembered, too, in Denmark, with special food and care on Christmas Eve. It is an old belief there that manger animals stand at midnight to honor Christ's birth.

Christmas morning in Yugoslavia neighbors welcome each other by saying, "God's peace; Christ is born," kiss each other three times and forgive past misunderstandings.

In almost every Italian home, a presepio (manger set) can be found. Traveling pipers sing carols around the southern Italian countryside. Gifts are given on the Twelfth Night in the custom of the Wise Men.

(Thanks to that fine magazine, Guideposts.)

A Christmas Carol by James Russell Lowell

"What means this glory round our feet,"

The Magi mused, "More bright than morn?"

The voices changed clear and sweet

"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

"What means that star," The Shepherds said,

"That brightens through the rocky glen?"

And angels, answering overhead,

Sang, "Peace on earth, good-will to men!"

It's eighteen hundred years and more

Since those sweet oracles were dumb;

We wait for Him like them of yore;

Alas, He seems so slow to come!

And they who do their souls no wrong,

But keep at eve the faith of morn,

Shall daily hear the angel-song,

"Today the Prince of Peace is born!"

A Merry, Merry Christmas to Everyone!

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Vol. 1, No. 14

Jan. 2, 1955

It's the first time the Messenger has greeted a New Year. Here goes with a busy schedule.

Sunday, January 2

9:45 - 10:45 - Sunday School

11:00 Morning Worship

6:30 - Junior-Senior Fellowship - Vestry

Monday, January 3

After School - Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

After School - Buckland 4-H Farmers, Meeting at Mrs. Mayer's of older group. Be sure to take your notebook.

7:00 P.M. Boy Scouts - Grange Hall

Tuesday, January 4

After School - Younger group of Buckland 4-H Farmers, at Mayer's. Be sure to take notebooks

Wednesday, January 5

After School - Cub Pack Meeting - Mrs. Purinton's. No Grange this week.

Thursday, January 6

(Not sure of time) Ladies' Club - Vestry

8:00 P.M. - Crittenden PTA - Health talk and movie with Miss Patricia Abbott

Friday, January 7

3:15 - Junior Choir - Vestry

The Flower Committee for January will be Mrs. Brown for this Sunday and Mrs. Sally Eastman for the other three Sundays. Anyone wanting to give flowers in memory of anyone should contact Mrs. Eastman.

Donald Judson, who was our minister two years ago, sent the following Christmas greetings to everyone, through the post office..."Every good wish for your happiness this Christmas and throughout the year. To you and the good people of Buckland: Please give them my greeting through the post office for a fine holiday season."

Congratulations to the family of Gerard Gilbert on the birth of Shelby Jean December 9.

If your house is like mine, this is the week-end when you either put away for reference next year, or discard most of your Christmas greeting cards. It is suggested in one of the Sunday School teaching manuals that we save all cards that have Biblical scenes on them for use in the Sunday School. Can't you just see how pleased the 4 to 7 year olds would be making a little notebook of scenes from Jesus' life? If anyone has Biblical Christmas cards he or she would like to let the Sunday School have, please leave them with Miss Clark at the post office. And looking ahead to spring and the "awakening" of nature, cards with birds, flowers or trees on would be appreciated for that time. Those would be general greeting cards, of course.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Some question has arisen as to why Bibles are given to the children at Christmas time instead of on Children's Sunday. Children's Sunday is the closing day of Sunday School for the year. The youngsters who receive Bibles would probably take them home and put them away for a whole summer. Now the way it is, the children start to use the Bibles immediately in their Sunday School work with the teachers and at home. And if anyone thinks seven is too early an age to receive a Bible, he should see the enthusiasm and real interest with which those little ones discover and learn to cherish our sacred book. There is no doubt that very soon the new Revised Edition will be the one given to the children.

Sarah Smith wanted me to extend an invitation to all youngsters who are interested to attend her Good News Classes after school on Monday afternoons at her home. The children who are now going really get a lot out of it.

How about saving Monday and (or) Tuesday evenings for work at church on the unfinished project? Let's complete that work soon.

In one of Mr. Brown's recent sermons he mentioned the windows which are in our church. Have you seen the Star of Bethlehem in one of them? In another is the Bible, shown open, as it always should be. The Mary Lyon window, if you'll notice, has 66 red dots which represent the 66 books of the Bible. This is common in stained glass windows. In another is a harp, in another an anchor, another a tilted cross and in two others a crown and a bunch of grapes. I know I hadn't realized how much one can learn from studying our stained glass windows.

Perhaps some people might like to know that, not counting last Sunday's collection, the Sunday School has paid all its bills and has a dollar to start the New Year. When you think of all the fine supplies and reading material as well as the Bibles which were given out, you realize the Sunday School is certainly taking care of itself. Of course twenty-five dollars came from the church fund at the start of the Year, as it has done for many years.

There is \$5.76, cash on hand in the Messenger fund, just from voluntary contributions. I feel that this is a real compliment. That means we can pay back the Sunday School the \$1.55 we borrowed in Nov. It will take care of all December expenses and carry us into January. Thanks a lot.

THE NEW YEAR by Horatio Nelson Powers

A flower unblown; a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested;
A path untrod; a house whose room
Lack yet the heart's divine perfumes;
A landscape whose wide border lies
In silent shade beneath the skies;
A wondrous fountain yet unsealed;
A casket with its gifts concealed--
This is the Year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates.

Happy New Year! Irmarié Jones, editor

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Vol. 1, No.16

January 16, 1955

Sunday, January 16

9:45 - 10:45 - Sunday School

11:00 - Morning Worship

Monday, January 17

After School - Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 P.M. - Boy Scouts - Grange Hall

8:00 P.M. - Buckland Belles at Mrs. Janet Wetterwald's. Mrs. Margaret Wilson will also be a hostess.

Tuesday, January 18

3:00 - Tractor Group of Buckland 4-H Farmers at the Shelburne Falls Farm Equipment Co. on Conway Street

8:00 P.M. - Christmas Club at Mrs. Charles Hunt's.

Wednesday, January 19

After School - Cub Pack Meeting - Mrs. Purinton's

8:00 P.M. - Meeting at the Grange Hall to discuss and learn about the plans of the Crittenden planning committee and the committee for the new regional high school. Here is a meeting that everyone should want to attend.

Thursday, January 20

12:30 - Ladies Club - Vestry - Mrs. Elsie Warfield and Mrs. Carrie Cass, hostesses.

8:30 P.M. Buckland Male Chorus - Vestry

Friday, January 21

3:15 - Junior Choir - Vestry (Mrs. Brown expects to return this week.)

Sunday, January 23

9:45 - 10:45 - Sunday School

11:00 Morning Worship

Instead of their regular meeting this past week, the Cubs held a winter sports party yesterday afternoon, with skating, sliding, and, of course, refreshments.

The Girl's Choir is providing music for the service this morning.

At the Fire Association meeting last Thursday, it was brought out again that the offer still holds that the association will still pay 2/5 of the cost of anyone's fire hole construction, providing that amount does not exceed \$50.00. Everyone was reminded to provide a deep enough water hole so that the suction of the hose (in case of fire) won't funnel the water out and fill the hose with air. If you haven't seen to it that a water hole is dug for your fire protection, get to it as soon as possible. It's so easy to let something like that go. The same officers were re-elected for the association. A contribution of \$5 was voted to the church for the use of the vestry as a meeting place.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

I don't think I have to say much about how important the school discussion will be Wednesday evening. Here's your chance to hear about the plans right from the men who have been working with them. You can read about it in the paper but it's never as satisfactory as being right there. If you have any questions to ask be sure to take them along with you.

Carol Lund is taking the census, the assessors have been making their rounds since the first of the year, and now the March of Dimes is upon us. Some of the collectors will be Sarah Smith, Mrs. Francis Stone, Mrs. Harold Toy and Mrs. Ed Mowry. The rest of the solicitors will be listed in next week's Messenger. (Incidentally, the census reports which Mrs. Lund is tracking down are for the state of Massachusetts, nothing to do with the town.)

Two of the youngsters in town were injured skating or sliding last week-end. Sandra Wells who broke her arm has been back in school. And as far as I know, Emily Bleau came home from the hospital yesterday where she has been confirmed with a chipped bone in her leg. She will be going around on crutches for a while, but she should be back at school Monday.

The Sunday School has its own Viewmaster! Everyone probably knows the Viewmaster which shows wonderful Kodachrome prints, giving them a three dimensional look. Nine reels have been bought of scenes of Biblical places. And Mr. Brown who has seen a great many of those places has assured us that they look exactly as pictured on the Viewmaster reels. Now --- anyone who has a view master is asked to bring it to Sunday School so it can be used to look at these reels. And if anyone has any of the reels that would be suitable for Sunday School that they would be willing to lend, I know it would be appreciated. Because of his close association with many of the Biblical places, Mr. Brown will have a lot to tell the Sunday School about the scenes shown on the Viewmaster reels. More reels will be purchased in the future.

Anyone who visits Sunday School lately could not help but be impressed at seeing youngsters from the second grade class on handling their Bibles and using them with understanding for the Sunday lessons. The learning of memory verses has become an enjoyable experience for the children, too, (at least it has for mine) and even learning longer Bible verses as a make-up for absences has become a real challenge and activity. Our Sunday School certainly doesn't lack variety.

The high school schedule for the coming week includes a basketball game at Cowell Gym with the Smith Academy in Hatfield for a game. The girls' basketball team will play Tuesday afternoon in Keene and will play Keene here on Friday afternoon. Midyear exams next week.

Mrs. Leona Kenney, our local librarian, has called to our attention the program, "Carnival of Books", heard over WBZ and WBZA every Saturday morning at 10:30. This is a wonderful program dramatizing and describing the new books for children. It used to be on at 9:30 Sunday morning and our house was usually so busy leaving for Sunday School that we seldom heard it. Try to listen. It's well worth while. We heard it yesterday.

Did everyone see the fine article on the Sam Wilsons in last Tuesday's Greenfield Recorder Gazette? And there'll be another article about them next Tuesday, too.

The house raising for the Charles Nadeaus has really been progressing. As I write this all the walls are expected to be raised and by the weekend the framework for the roof will be up. Then the lumber will season in the frame. The spirit of neighborliness shown to the Nadeaus is something to be proud of--and we are proud to know that Apple Valley where this neighborly spirit is so strong is partly in Buckland.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

And the older folks remember well when many of the Apple Valley folks were staunch supporters and faithful attendants of the "Center Church".

Life is made up, not of great sacrifices or duties, but of little things, in which smiles and kindnesses and small obligations, given habitually, are what win and preserve the heart and secure comfort. Sir Humphrey Davey

After writing last week about the local scholarships available, someone asked me, "What about the Grange scholarships?" So, what about them? Any grange student is eligible to borrow money from the Massachusetts State Grange Educational Aid Fund, to which all Granges contribute. This money is loaned at a very low rate of interest and with plenty of time to pay it back. However, when there is extra money, scholarships are given to persons who qualify. If someone does receive a scholarship in one year, that doesn't mean he can't borrow from the fund the following year. Many local people have taken advantage of these generous facilities for borrowing education money or earning the scholarships in the past. In fact, at one time, special projects were carried out each year to earn money for the Educational Aid Fund. I hope I have presented this correctly. If I haven't I'll be hearing from plenty of Grangers.

A religious note of national importance. Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the greatest living Missionary and great humanitarian, quietly celebrated his 80th birthday on January 14. When you read about his life, it makes you realize that most people go through life doing only a small fraction of what they are really capable. He certainly is a shining example of a dedicated man.

Have you ever heard this? "I've gotten out of the habit of going to church." One minister's answer to this...."Has God ever gotten out of the habit of taking care of you?"

I'm still wondering if anyone uses the activities for 2 and 3 year olds. Here they are in brief for this week. Jan. 16 -22

Thought for the week: Little children can help by obeying their fathers and mothers. When Jesus was a little boy He liked to help His parents and to do the things they asked Him to.

Activity: Perhaps the child has a pet who will do what he says. That is obeying. Be sure the child understands what the word means and what it means to obey his parents.

Don't forget that new school discussion Wed. evening at 8:00 at Grange Hall.

Vol. 1, No. 27

April 3, 1955

Palm Sunday, April 3

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Sermon: "The Northern Gate",

Special meeting after church service to vote on those persons who wish to be received into the church at the Maundy Thursday Service

2:30 p.m. – Junior-Senior Fellowship – Vestry

7:30 p.m. – Final Lenten Vesper Service – Shelburne Center Church

Monday, April 4

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

7:00 p.m. – Work Bee at Church

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Tuesday, April 5

No Buckland 4-H Farmers – Meeting next Tuesday

No Pastor's Class

7:00 p.m. – Craftsmen's Club – John Eastman's

Wednesday, April 6

After School – Cub Den Meeting – Mrs. Purinton's

After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield's

8:00 p.m. – grange Meeting Miss Betty Munch, exchange student, speaker.

Thursday, April 7 – Maundy Thursday

Ladies' Club card party postponed indefinitely

Crittenden PTA meeting postponed until next week

7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service – reception of new members

7:30 p.m. – Communion Service, sponsored by Shelburne Falls Council of Churches – Trinity

Fellowship

No Buckland Male Chorus

Friday, April 8 – Good Friday – No School

4:00 p.m. – Junior Choir rehearsal

2:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service, sponsored by Shelburne Falls Council of Churches, - Methodist Church

Saturday, April 9

2:00 p.m. - Stamp Collector's Club

Easter Sunday, April 10

6:00 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service (see below)

No Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

No Junior- Senior Fellowship

Mrs. Janet Wetterwald is the organist this morning with the girls' choir singing.

Those who turned out for the work bee last Monday night were Walter Aring, Donat Auge, Samuel Brown, Charles Litchfield, John F. Powell, John G. Powell, William Reddy, and Roger Scott. Mrs. Walter Aring served refreshments.

Mrs. Brown has a special announcement for the mothers of the Junior choir members. She would like you mothers of children who have robes and collars at home to do up the robes and get the collars starched. They should be sent back to the church, on a hanger, by Friday, with the name of the member in the collar and on the gown. The ties have, come. So we'll see the new choir robes on Easter Sunday.

Did you notice the special services listed on the schedule for this coming week? And for the first time in many years, our church will be having an Easter sunrise service at six o'clock. It will be on the lawn of the Perchard's home, with its beautiful view. Just go in your everyday clothes. No one is going to notice what you have on. After the service, breakfast will be served in the vestry. If you and your family are planning to go to the breakfast, please contact Mrs. Litchfield, Mrs. Cass, or Mrs. Brown. An Easter sunrise service is always a memorable occasion.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

The schedule this week seems to be a series of “no Meetings”. The Buckland Male Chorus will meet a week from Thursday, and they hope that all members will show up for that rehearsal.

The April 1 issue of “Our Buckland” is out! If you haven’t received your copy yet, stop in for it at the post office or pick yours up at the Grange meeting next Wednesday evening.

And speaking of Grange, the speaker for next Wednesday evening , Betty Munch, is well-known in Buckland. She lived with the Woodsome’s and used to sing in our choir. She has been an exchange student to South America. A really special meeting.

The Ladies’ Club has been invited to join the Ladies Circle of the Ashfield Congregational Church for a luncheon meeting on Wednesday, April 13. The second mile boxes will be dedicated and other service work discussed. If any of you are planning to attend, please tell Mrs. Atherton at 5-9258 by Monday April 11.

Mr. Brown has asked me to print the following letter.

To the Readers of the Mary Lyon Messenger:

The time has come for your pastor to take stand with regard to this news sheet.

I will speak frankly.

At present the Messenger has not been a success financially, and is causing a certain amount of consternation among the members of the church and other interested persons because of its weekly appeal for funds.

The church officially cannot subsidize this undertaking at this time. We have more important use of the financial resources of the church and I feel that the heating plant and sanitary conditions within the church of primary importance.

Further, the funds of the church are at a critical point, witch means that we have reached “ the point of no return.”

Therefore, I propose the following alternatives for this paper:

(1) That we suspend operation of it until such time as you feel able to support its requirements. OR (2) we place the paper on a subscription basis at whatever level seems right and just and subject to the approval of the church body. OR (3) that we use some other means such as a supper, bake sale or other means of financial drive to subsidize the paper and to continue its operation on that basis.

If you find this paper useful and important enough in your life to pay for its operation then by all means let’s continue it.

But, if you don feel that it is worth the dollar or so which is the present cost of operation, roughly, per copy per year, then obviously it has been a mistake and an unnecessary waste of time to Mrs. Jones, Miss Clark, and the rest of the staff who have put so much time into it.

I wish to express my appreciation to those who have worked so hard for it: the rest of it is up to you, the reader.

Faithfully yours,
Samuel G. Brown.

P.S. – With regard to postage. The church has shown its willingness to cover this expense. I have personally taken this expense for the past months since the start of this year. Some of you, realizing this, have returned more than your share of the expense.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

If you are planning to resit your child for the Well-Child Clinic at the Buckland Town Hall, April 11, 12, 15, 18, and 19, you can do so by contacting Sally Eastman at 5-6480.

Those who had perfect attendance at Sunday School for March included David Reddy, Lewis Atherton, Susan Hale, Douglas Clark, Dennis Clark, Robert Cross, Patsy Purinton, Floyd Scott, Bonita Clark, Harry Clark, Barbara Gould, Robert Hale, Steven Hale, Amy Clark, Mary Litchfield, Phyllis Scott, Paul Atherton, Lewis Scott and Richard Hale. There may be a few names next week when some make up absences of one week. The class with the best percentage of perfect attendance was the third grade class with five out of eight.

I have thought for a good many weeks that a spiritual message from Mr. Brown really had a place in our paper. Starting today, Palm Sunday, we will have some thoughts from our pastor every week.

Palm Sunday-----

“The people looked upon Jesus as a hero. He was going to lead a military coup which would overthrow the Roman yoke. He was going to rally the good people around him to smash the puppet rulers of Judah and Sumaria. He was going to cleanse the temple of all its evil practices.

He was going to perform many more miracles of faith and healing. Small wonder he was hailed and cheered as he came into Jerusalem.

By Thursday it was apparent to them that Jesus would not do those things so they lost their faith in him. He was a false Messiah. He should be put to death and so he was.

The people were right to do this to him because he did not do what they wanted him to do. But God had other plans. This carpenter of Nazareth was to 1955 years in the hearts of the people.

This is the miracle God gave to us. Isn't it true that God does not do what we expect, what we want, what we hope for? God does those things which in some way makes us more alert to His world and more aware of our own world.”

Remember to buy Easter seals.

Irmarie Jones, editor

Vol. 1 No. 28

April 10, 1955

Happy Easter everyone!

Easter Sunday, April 10

6:00 a.m. - Easter Sunrise Service – at the Perchard's

No Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Sermon: “The Women's Idle Tale”;

Scripture: Luke 24: 1-12

No Junior-Senior Fellowship

Monday, April 11

After School – Good News Class – Sarah Smith's

After School – Buckland 4-H Farmers older group – Mrs. Mayer's

7:30 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

7:00 p.m. Work bee at church

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Tuesday, April 12

After school – Buckland 4-H Farmers, younger group – Mrs. Mayer's
7:00 p.m. – Buckland Craft Associates at John Eastman's
8:00 p.m. – Rehearsal for Fourth Degree – Grange Hall

Wednesday, April 13

After School – Cub Den Meeting – Mrs. Purinton's
After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield's
8:00 p.m. – Buckland Belles – home of Millie Willis, Alma Shippee, co-hostess

Thursday, April 14

12:30 – Ladies' Club – Vestry
8:00 p.m. – Crittenden PTA Meeting
8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal – Vestry

Friday, April 15

After School – Junior Choir rehearsal – Vestry

Sunday, April 17

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
There will be a meeting immediately following the service, called by the altar committee and the standing committee.

The music this morning is furnished by both our choirs: the junior choir and the senior choir. Mrs. Florence Scott is organist.

Good News! Good News! The improvements and remodeling are almost finished! A little more help for a couple more weeks and the end will be in sight. Here's what is left to be done: painting rest rooms, installing baseboards, Celotexing the back room and a few other odd jobs.

When (and if) spring finally gets here, everyone will be needed to help clean up out of doors. Then, we as a community can say, "another job well done." However, those men who so faithfully turned up just about every Monday evening really deserve a great deal of credit. Incidentally, I was also supposed to tell you that the cement floor is in.

Those who turned out for the work bee last Monday evening were Donat Auge, Samuel Brown, John M. Eastman, Nathan Hale, John F. Powell, John G. Powell, William Reddy, and Francis Willis. Mrs. Jennie Cooper served refreshments. Try to make it Monday night to help push through those last few jobs.

The storm of last Palm Sunday reminded Mrs. Mary Griswold of a Palm Sunday week-end seventeen years ago when she had six couples from Connecticut staying with her. She says they had to stay up all night to keep the house warm, the storm was so intense. "And anyone who went to church that Palm Sunday, really plowed themselves out", finished Mrs. Griswold.

Mr. Trow told me of one Easter Sunday several years ago when it was so cold that the flowers placed in the unheated church the night before were severely frost bitten before the service Sunday morning.

It looks, as I write this, as if Easter, 1955 will be a beautiful day, but in New England, we never know.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Have you read the new Our Buckland yet? It certainly had a variety of carefully written interesting articles. Everyone responsible really deserves a hearty, "Thank you."

Jane Gould and Rosaline Clark also had perfect attendance in March by making up the absence last Sunday with a memorized verse.

In the flurry of the Easter week-end, I want to remind the Ladies Club members to call Mrs. Atherton by tomorrow night if you are planning to go to the meeting of the Ladies Circle at the Ashfield Church on Wednesday.

Have you heard about Buckland Craft Associates, the newest up-and-coming organization in our town? It was organized last Tuesday evening at John Eastman's, as a share the tool, share the talent" enterprise. The members work on their own special woodworking projects, but if anyone has special jobs they would like done, just contact the Buckland Craft Associates. Any profit will go back into the club for small supplies. If you are interested in projects of this sort and if you have some tools or talent that would be useful to the whole group, why not drop in at the next meeting this coming Tuesday at 7 o'clock!

Here is Mr. Brown's Easter message for us:

Spiritual Security

In our modern day we are constantly aware of all forms of security. On an international level both financially and politically we are engaged in a way of nerves to try to out-produce, out-think and out-manipulate the enemies of our forms of security. Freedom, democracy, free enterprise are securities against slavery, dictatorship, and statism.

But we have also reached the stage of desperation in our won inner lives. We do not want to be told what to do, nor do we want to do what we are told. This is the great struggle that we constantly face and constantly try to overcome.

There is a power at work within us which is older than our country, more powerful within us than our loyalty to our economic system. Almost two thousand years have elapsed since a small group of women found an empty tomb. And with the passage of time this event we call Easter has become habit with us. After all, none of us can conceive what life was like before Easter happened. This is both extremely dangerous and extremely inspirational for us. The danger comes in the fact that we accept his age-old event without its real meaning becoming clear to us.

The inspiration comes to us when we can see at least a part of what this dramatic occurrence really means to us here and now. What does Easter really signify?

The victory over death, The finality of our earthy existence no longer has the marked importance to us if we understand what it means.

The victory of good over evil. This is by far, the most important meaning Easter for those of us who carry on day by day. In our time it is most important to remember that this issue is no longer in doubt in the perspective of eternity. However, God's will still must be done on earth as it is in heaven.

The assurance of Christ that he will come again. As difficult as it is to understand this concept it is a very important one for our understanding of Easter.

If Easter is going to mean anything it must mean that all of us accept it in light of the Cross of Jesus. Your soul and mine need desperately to be used and utilized in our age. To expose our souls to reality of the Monday through Saturday world is not to injure them but to make the world a more secure place for our bodies to live in.

Our souls do not get worn or even frayed by use. This is a thought which should come to us on Easter to be remembered for the year ahead.

Irmarie Jones, editor

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Vol. 1 No. 29

April 17, 1955

Sunday April 17

9:45-10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship: Sermon: “In His Name, Walk!” Scripture: Acts 3:1-6

Meeting immediately following the service to vote on recommendations of the Altar Committee.

No Junior-Senior Fellowship this week.

Monday April 18

Good News Class omitted (Vacation, you know.”

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

7:00 p.m. – Work Bee at Church

7:30 p.m. – and anytime after – principals of “The Mikado” meet at Eleanor Reddy’s to preview consumes

Tuesday April 19

7:00 p.m. – Buckland Craft Associates at John Eastman’s

8:00 p.m. – Nut-T Club – Mrs. Jennie Cooper’s

Wednesday April 20

High School students back to school.

All day meeting Colrain – Franklin County District Department of Women’s work of the Massachusetts Congregational Conference and Missionary Society

3:00 p.m. – 4-H Busy Bees work meeting

No Cub Den meetings

Thursday April 21

3:00 p.m. – Tractor Group of Buckland 4-H Farmers – Dick Mayers’

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal – Vestry

Friday April 22

2:30 p.m. – Food Sale – Community Rooms – Benefit Mikado Costumes

Junior Choir rehearsal omitted

8:00 p.m. – Cub Pack Meeting

Saturday April 23

2:30 p.m. – Buckland Stamp Collectors

8:00 p.m. – Family type square dance – Grange Hall

Sunday, April 24

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Janet Wetterwald’s

Men from 2:00- 3:00; women from 4:00 – 5:30.

Mrs. Janet Wetterwald is organist this morning. The girl’s choir is furnishing the choral music.

Six stalwarts turned out for the work bee last Monday evening. They included John Eastman, Nathan Hale, Joe Mayer, John F. Powell, J. G. Powell and Harold Williams. Mrs. Ed Mowrey and Mrs. John Eastman furnished the refreshments.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Mrs. Betty Purinton is the member of the flower committee who is in charge of flowers for this month. I'm kind of late with the announcement. Didn't the altar look lovely last Sunday?

And while we're speaking of the altar, I think we all owe a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dick Scott for giving the church the beautiful, dark velvet dossal hanging behind the altar. Yes, that's the correct word for it thanks to Eleanor. (Who thanks Mrs. Perchard.) I put "dosser" in the Greenfield paper, which means about the same thing.

It is probable that the donor of the dossal, Mr. Dick Scott, was Richard Nelson Scott, one of 10 children born to Wilbur Thaxter Scott & Ruth E (Clark) Scott. Dick was the brother of our beloved church member, Edie (Scott) Gerry. Dick grew up in Hawley and Buckland. In the 1950 census Dick was living on Ashfield Road in Buckland with his mother Ruth and his brother Clark Scott. Clark would become the husband of our dear friend and church member Elvira (Vi) Scott. At the time of the 1950 census, Dick, and his mother and brother, were neighbors of Joe Mayer and Joe's mother May. Dick was a farmer and he delivered milk. He and his wife Joann (pronounced Joan) married about 1953 in Buckland. Dick met Joann on his milk route. They had a dairy in Buckland at Sunnyside Farms (now Walnut Hill). Dick and Joann eventually moved to Amherst. Dick then moved to New York.

Bill Eastman is finally fully recovered from his severe illness and Roger Scott came home from the hospital Friday afternoon.

Congratulations to the parents of the new little ladies in town...Nina Anderson, born to Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Anderson on April 11 and Deborah Ann Scott, born to Mr. and Mrs. Roger Scott on April 12.

Come on now and swing your partners, big and small, at the square dance this coming Saturday evening. It's at the Grange Hall again, at 8 o'clock for the whole family. Freddy Walker will be the caller...and a small admission fee will have to be charged this time for each person. Refreshments will be on sale. The Home and Community Service committee of the Grange has planned this dance with the idea that if it's successful there will be more like it in the future. So get out there and give it your support.

I think we will all be glad to know that Mr. Brown has completed his thesis required for graduation from the seminary. Now he can look forward to his graduation and ordination into the ministry.

The Cub Pack meeting Friday night is to reward the cubs for their individual work and to let the Cubs show what they have been doing. Not only are the parents of Cubs welcome, but it is hoped that younger boys will be or are now eligible for Cubs and their parents will also be present. It's at 7:30 o'clock at Grange Hall.

Did you know that the Buckland Craft Associates are going to help with the staging for the Mikado?

Have you heard about the Cancer Crusade in town? Mrs. Charles Litchfield is chairman and the Buckland 4-H Busy Bees will do the soliciting on one day, Tuesday, April 26. You can expect one of the young girls on that day. There is a cancer coin can in the post office and another at Pike's Store also.

The following was spotted by several persons in the April "Christian Herald" and I was asked to print part of it in the Messenger, since this Sunday is the day for voting on the altar committee recommendations.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

The Facts About a Divided Chancel

“The reason for a ‘divided chancel’ – separated pulpit and lectern – is not that it looks pretty. Nor is it a matter of following the current style. Nor is it in any sense an imitation of the practices of liturgical churches.

The fundamental factor in the new arrangement is the placing of the communion table at a central point in the church upon which the eyes of the congregation are focused. Behind this there lies a bit of logic. The church is being thought of increasingly as a fellowship of believers..... If the communion table is to be at the center, the pulpit must be placed somewhere else, and the common practice is to put it to one side. There is no rule as to which side this should be...If possible, it is desirable to have the pulpit opposite the larger part of the choir.

In smaller churches where there is little space at the front, the entire service can be conducted from the pulpit. In larger churches there is usually a reading desk or lectern on the side opposite the pulpit. An excellent arrangement is to have the pulpit and organ console on one side and the lectern and choir on the other.

Three practical considerations favor this arrangement.

1. The more easily the choir can see the minister, particularly during the sermon, the better. And if he can see them, the preacher will find the singers a most inspiring portion of his congregation.
2. Most churches now have a center aisle, and more are getting them. Center pulpits and center aisles just don't go together. Preaching down the aisle is embarrassing. The temptation is to swivel, addressing a few words to one side of the house and then turning one's attending to the other. At a side pulpit, the preacher is compelled to take a stance and hold it.
3. Acoustically, the center pulpit is often the worst place in a church from which to speak. Behind it are usually hangings, the choir and the organ pipes, all of which absorb sound. On the other hand, if the pulpit and lectern can be placed far enough to either side so that there is a plastered wall behind them, this will serve as a sounding board for the minister's voice.

The most frequent objection to the pulpit and lectern arrangement is that it minimizes the sermon and the place of the Bible in worship. Properly used, the opposite result can be obtained.”

Here is Mr. Brown's “After Easter” message for us.

Why is the Easter Sunday always considered the climax of the year in Protestant churches? Why do we call this “Low Sunday”?

The answers to the questions are always rather negative. Easter is the beginning, not the end for Christianity. I suspect “Low Sunday” is named by the English speaking churches and actually does not refer to the number of people in church in spite of popular opinion. A quick survey of the history of the church has shown me that “Low Sunday” actually is “Bishop L we's Sunday”, in honor of the original editor-in-chief of the committee appointed by King James in 1610 to write a translation of the Bible. We all know this Bible as the King James' Version, which was introduced to the English Churches on the Sunday after Easter 1611.

We are starting on that season of the year which has been known as: “The Birthday of the Church”. The Bible calls this, Pentecost, or the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

With the Easter season having awakened our acuteness in the presence of God, I believe it is most important to remember that the church is the one institution which survives in our society which as always tried to examine the basic presuppositions in the light of history, not of the world, but of the universe. Surely God can be found in the beauty of nature for he created it, but when we neglect the church we are inviting the negative forces of the world. More than this we neglect

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ourselves as surely as when we don't keep our bodies in healthy surveillance. If the church here or anywhere means anything it means one way – the way of God.

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Take your family to the square dance!
Remember the Cancer Crusade!
How many trout did you get yesterday?

Irmarie Jones, editor
Eleanor W. Clark, stencils

Vol. 1, No. 30

April 24, 1955

Sunday April 24

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship: “The Fishing Season”; Scripture: Acts 13: 44-52; Children’s story on a thunderstorm.

No Junior-Senion Fellowship

3:00 p.m. In Greenfield; Meeting of Franklin County Assoc. of Ministers and Churches, the Browns and six delegates from Buckland will attend.

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Janet Wetterwald’s

Monday April 25

After School – Good news Class

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

7:00 p.m. – Work Bee at Church

Tuesday April 26 – Local Cancer Crusade Day – give to the 4-H girls!

7:00 p.m. – Buckland Craft Associates – John Eastman’s

8:00 p.m. – Rehearsal for third degree – Grange Hall. 9:00 p.m. Fourth degree

Wednesday April 27

After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield’s

8:00 p.m. – Grange third and fourth degree

Thursday April 28

12:30 p.m. – Ladies Club – Sewing – Vestry

8:00 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus Rehearsal – Vestry

Friday April 29

After School – Junior Choir rehearsal

Saturday April 30

2:30 p.m. – Buckland Stamp Collectors

Sunday May 1

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

2:30 p.m. – Junior-Senior Fellowship – Vestry

The organist this morning is Mrs. Florence Scott. The Junior Choir is singing.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Just six again at the work bee last Monday evening. Those who turned out were Samuel Brown, John H. Eastman, Nathan Hale, Joseph Mayer, John F. Powell and John G. Powell. Refreshments were served by Mrs. J.G.Powell.

Buckland's cancer crusade is this Tuesday. If you are out when one of the 4-H girls come to the house for a donation, you can still drop it in the coin cancer can at the Post Office or Pike's store.

The Buckland Stamp Collectors are conducting a "Bring in a New Member" contest. Eddie Purinton has Lower St. from Casses down toward the Ashfield line, and Cross St.; Harry Clark has Upper St. and High St.; George Maynard, Bobby and Susan Hale are going to canvas from Casses toward Ware's bridge. The campaign will be over May 1. A prize of 50 cents for buying stamps will be given to the winner. I think the youngsters are to be complimented for their enterprise in forming and continuing this club.

Buckland Ladies' Club did themselves proud at the Congregational meeting for women at the Colrain Congregational church last Wednesday. The Ladies' Club was complimented on dedicating their second mile, and completing a layette for friendly service. Janet Wetterwald was the organist for the whole day, not an easy task. And Shirley Scott was soloist for the morning session.

The Ladies' Club has also completed and sent a quilt to the Walker Home. I have been wanting to say something about the Walker Home for quite a while. Thanks to Mrs. Perchard, I have this information to give you about it. The Walker Home is a home for retired missionaries of Congregational Christian churches. Children of missionaries, who become stranded or sick while their parents are abroad are also taken care of there. This home is financed largely by the Congregational organization. However, contributions are constantly being sent in by private individuals and the Congregational churches. (Incidentally, the home is located in Auburndale, Mass.) Different types of contributions can be made besides money – sheets, quilts, special delicacies, presents for Christmas time, and even clothes for their missionary barrel.

Helping the Walker Home has become one of the projects of the Ladies' Club.

This is Mr. Brown's message to us this week:

The Seasons of the Church Year

We all know the Christmas and Easter Season of the Church year, but how many of us realize that the church has a year-round calendar? In the Free Churches we have gotten away from observing any of the church festivals except Christmas and Easter in order that we remain free from the dictates of rigorous authority. The Counter-Reformation of the church has in a sense been revitalized in our day of the forms of worship.

Some of you agree with the friend and say, "Yes, we do need more definite rituals to eliminate the uncertainties of not knowing what the direction of the church is!"

Our goal, we all agree, is to promote the Gospel of Jesus in all places and to all people, but our methods of attaining it are completely different. I feel personally somewhere in between the two extremes I want some sense of the Church Year as a an absolute, and yet I revolt against a rigorous expression week by week of the exact date for the exact expression of some phase of the church life.

Technically, we are in the time of the year now when we are preparing for Pentacost. The birthday of the church is an important aspect of church life just as our individual birthdays are in some sense important to us as individuals.

I would like to raise the basic question, "What is the Church?" or "Who is the Church?" Do we have to be a member of the church in order to be a part of it? Does God keep a record of church

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membership for the day of judgement? I do not have any answers to these questions which are at all satisfying to all of you – even though I will try to answer them in the weeks we come together for worship.

The important thing is not that we have complete and final answers to the questions we think about in our religious life. The really important thing is that we recognize the Divine Encounter - God is here, God was there, God will be – when we are asking. It is only in the seeking that we find Him. He knows it is we that must know. If the Church Year means anything it means our search. If our search is to have meaning it must have direction and purpose.

Countless millions of people go through life without the certainty of God. This is our great concern as Christians. And as Christians we must realize that it is not as individuals but as the great fellowship of the Church that we gain direction and purpose for life.

When we can meet life's demands because we are a fellowship of Christians and not in spite of our Church loyalties, then the Gospel Will have gone a long way toward being heard and understood in the whole world.

Did anyone else hear a lovely orchestral arrangement of Mikado music on the Saturday children's program of WBZ about two weeks ago? It really got me in the mood to see the operetta. A reminder to those members of the cast who are going to rehearse this afternoon...you are supposed to have your parts learned by heart.

The Messenger has really been a happy enterprise right from the start last October. I have appreciated the letters and donations that have come in the mail about it. And I'm always pleased to hear somebody enjoys reading it. All the donations at the Post Office I know are appreciated. And you know, if it weren't for the typists and someone to run off the stencils even after they are typed, there still wouldn't be any Messenger, no matter how many weeks I wrote it. All the help that has been given the Messenger has really made it a community project. Now, the question is – how many more weeks do we want it before the summer vacation? And is it something we want to do again next year?

Someone has suggested to me that there must be plenty of families in town who have records they would enjoy sharing with the rest of the folks in town. Why wouldn't it be possible to build a small shell on our common in the middle of town and have recorded concerts on summer nights? With the high fidelity recordings and machines, some beautiful programs could be worked out. And if we had a shell the Shelburne Falls Band music and the Buckland Male Chorus would sound better, too. It's just another thought that was voiced to me and that I pass on to you. I don't think you can have too many ideas for doing interesting things in a town.

“One can never thank people, one can never pay in gratitude; one can only pay in kind somewhere else in life, unconsciously perhaps, someday without knowing it, one might give a simple ordinary act as they given to us.”
Anne Lindbergh “Listen the Wind”

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Vol. 1, No. 31

May 1, 1955

Sunday, May 1

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship Scripture: James 3:1-5

Sermon “The Little Member”

4:30 – 8:00 p.m. – Youth Rally in the Trinitarian Church in Northfield

Monday, May 2

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith’s

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

There will be no work bee at church

7:00 p.m. – Shelburne Falls Woman’s Club supper put on by Ladies’ Club

Tuesday, May 3

After School – 4-H Busy Bees at Mrs. Litchfield’s to practice for Girl’s Day

No 4-H Farmers – it will be next week

7:00 p.m. – Buckland Craft Associates – John Eastman’s

Wednesday, May 4

After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield’s. Girls who are in dress rehearsal leave from Crittenden for Hawlemont

8:00 p.m. – Buckland Belles meet at Sally Eastman’s with Barbara Scott as co-hostess

Thursday, May 5

Don’t forget to listen to Kay Green’s program over WHAI at 1:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. – Crittenden annual P.T.A. banquet at Methodist Church

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Recorder-Gazette photographer will be at church to take pictures of Junior Choir, Men’s Chorus and other items of interest.

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal – Vestry

Make reservations for P.T.A. banquet with Mrs. Litchfield by Sunday night.

Friday, May 6

After School – Junior Choir rehearsal

Saturday, May 7

9:00 a.m. – 4-H Busy Bees attend Girl’s Day at South Deerfield

2:30 p.m.- Buckland Stamp Collectors

8:00 p.m. – Family Square Dance at Grange Hall

Sunday, May 8

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 – Morning Worship

2:30 p.m. – Junior Senior Fellowship – Vestry

Playing the organ this morning is Mrs. Janet Wetterwald. The girls choir is providing the musical selections.

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Since no one turned out for the work bee last Monday evening, except George Powell, plans were immediately made for the big work bee yesterday. We hope it was a success.

This week's first prize for fish stories goes to Malcolm Dodge for the trout he caught in the Deerfield River last Thursday. It was 24 inches long, weighed 5 lbs., had a 3 inch mouth stretch and a 6 inch tail stretch.
No stretching!

Did anyone see Shirley Atherton on Television last Friday? She was on a 4-H program over WHYN-TV from Springfield from 2:45 – 3:00 p.m.

I said just last week how much I appreciated hearing from people about the Messenger, and this week I had one more reason to be pleased. Mrs. Merrill wrote me a grand long letter from Hawaii, not only mentioning our paper, but telling me a lot about the islands.

Despite the rainy weather the 4-H Busy Bees went around on their Cancer crusade. If by chance you haven't been contacted, I imagine there is still time to drop your contribution into the coin can at Pike's store or the Post Office.

Mrs. Litchfield wants to express her appreciation to the 4-H girls and their parents for the fine job they did on this campaign. The girls collected \$79.75. This does not include the coin cans.

And DON'T forget your tickets for "The Mikado". That's right! They go on sale Today! It may be early, but if you want them for a certain night, be sure to get them well ahead of time. The dates are June 24, 25, 27, 28, and 29. Get them from Philip Smith, John Eastman, Bud Anderson, or any member of the cast.

Last week I talked about the Walker Home, one of the projects which the Ladies' Club is helping with this year. Another project into which women's groups of Congregational churches enter is called Adventures in Reading. Any club to be eligible for this project must have ten qualified readers. And what is a qualified reader? – she must read at least four books, one book from each of four divisions which the directors of Adventures in Reading specify. Our ladies this year had fourteen qualified readers, with a total of 203 books read from the lists of required reading. The smallest number was 8 read, the largest number was 23, which made an average of 14-1/2 books per person. Mrs. Kenney is chairman for Buckland, and Mrs. Raymond Atherton of Ashfield is the county chairman. I meant to mention this project in April, as Adventures in Reading goes from one April 1st to the next.

Here is Mr. Brown's May Day message for us:

May Day

In the Lebanon on the first of May they have a great bonfire festival. The people express their joy at the coming of Spring by singing and dancing around a huge fire. I saw my first camel race on May Day, and I still wonder how it is possible to train those sloppy, distempered slow-pokes to run so fast across the desert sands.

In this country we have lost the tradition of May Day. This is unfortunate and yet it is understandable. Our way of life has changed; man is no longer the slave of Nature's will; Man is the Boss! Man has found out almost all he needs to know. Only life itself remains a mystery. Science is fast learning life's secret and then man will claim no need for a higher allegiance.

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God becomes a state of mind, only the missing link is man's knowledge. This is the Communist doctrine supported by his yes-men. May Day is the Communist Independence Day – or almost. God becomes or is a convenience, a worn crutch. Religion is emotional mass psychosis. What can we say to this mood, this situation?

It says in Genesis: "God walked in the cool of the evening in the garden." Try it yourself, you will find him there. You may also find someone else – yourself. After all, in spite of the splendor and wonders of Spring beauty, if you don't look you won't find a thing!

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May 8, 1955

Sunday, May 8

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship, Scripture: Acts 9:36-42

Sermon – "She was full of good Works"

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. – Mikado Rehearsal – Janet Wetterwald's

Men – 2:00-3:30; Women 4:00-5:30

Monday, May 9

After School – Clesson Valley Dair Club – Elsie Mayer's

After School – Good News Class – Sarah Smith's

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

8:15 p.m. – Sunday School teacher's meeting – Elsie Mayer's

Tuesday, May 10

12:30 p.m. – Ladies' Club Mothers' Day Dinner and Birthday; Music Mrs. Brown; Movies – May Nadeau; Hostesses – the officers

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus

Friday, May 13

Afterschool – Junior Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, May 14

2:30 p.m. – Buckland Stamp Collectors

6:15 p.m. – Baked Ham Supper served by Grange, benefit of MIKADO Committee – Mrs. Ruth Anderson, Betty Powell, Jennie Cooper, Elsie Warfield, and Millicent Burnap

Prices – Adults, \$0.99; children 6 – 12, \$0.50; Children under 6, free

Sunday, May 15

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 – Morning Worship

Mrs. Florence Scott is the organist this morning with the girls' choir singing.

How many of you heard Janet Wetterwald last Thursday afternoon on Kay Green's program over WHAI ?

Five members of our Junior-Senior Fellowship attended a youth rally in Northfield last Sunday, accompanied by the Browns. It seems good to have a reactivated youth group in the church with interested young people. And from the looks of the population of Buckland, the fellowship should be growing within the next few years.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

The same spirit of neighborliness and helpfulness that was evident when everyone pitched in and helped the Charles Nadeau's start a new house came forth again this past week for Roger Scott. On Tuesday a large group of friends and neighbors with tractors, manure spreaders, fertilizer spreaders and shovels took over his spring work. The manure was spread and fertilizer was spread. Then yesterday, those who still wanted to help, but don't have machinery, showed up to wash Roger's sap buckets. The "good neighbors" of Buckland have proved themselves again.

And speaking of help, the work bee last Saturday was a real success. Since it was such a beautiful day, most of the work was done outdoors. The Grange was having a bee at the same time, so of course everyone cooperated to make things look better around both buildings. Russell Wells furnished a tractor with a loader and a scoop that really helped with the grading. The Grange ditch was graded and the water pipe put through the wall. The water was supposed to be connected yesterday. Those who turned out for the joint bee were Donat Auge, Samuel Brown, Charles Litchfield, James Mollison, J.G.Powell, William Roberts, Francis Trow, Preston Warfield, Russell Wells, Harold Williams and Francis Willis.

I would like to extend an apology to the three men who turned up for the work bee Monday night a week ago. I said last week that J.G. Powell was the only one there, but sometime in the evening Charles Litchfield, Harold William and Samuel Brown appeared.

Those youngsters who had perfect Sunday School attendance on the three Sundays in April were Stanley Clark, Douglas Mollison, Lewis Atherton, Rosaline Clark, Douglas Clark, Dennis Clark, Robert Cross, Patricia Purinton, Bonita Clark, Harry Clark, Barbara Gould, Lola Mollison, Amy Clark, Jane Gould, Paul Atherton, Mary Litchfield, and Susan Hale.

And here is Mr. Brown's Mother's Day message for us:

This is Mother's Day! I believe that every mother wants and should get our full respect and love. But I don't believe in Mother Worship. Our "Mom and Apple Pie" sentimentalism can be found in all ancient religions including one of Christianity's arch-rivals in the early days – The worship of The Great Mother.

When we are thinking about Mother, while we give her flowers, what she really wants of us is to be what she taught us to be and perhaps a little better. If we put her on a pedestal, it does not really show her what we think of her. It only makes her more conspicuous.

I know what my own mother would have said to me if she were alive Today. She would say, "Sam, flowers are very pretty, but it's the goodness in your heart that is truly beautiful."

Vol. 1 No. 33

May 15, 1955

Sunday, May 15

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 am – Morning Worship, Scripture – Acts 1:12-14

Monday, May 16

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Tuesday, May 17

After School – Tractor group of Buckland 4-H Farmers

7:00 p.m. – Clesson's Valley Dairy Club meet at Elsie Mayer's for judging tour.

7:00 p.m. – Buckland Crafts Association – at John M. Eastman's

Wednesday, May 18

After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield's

8:00 p.m. – Christmas Club at Ruth Hunt's

Thursday, May 19

8:00 p.m. – Pamona Grange meets at Shelburne – conferring of 5th. Degree

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal

Friday, May 20

After School – Junior Choir rehearsal

Saturday, May 21

8:00 – 11:00 p.m. – Another good family square dance at Grange Hall, Freddie Walker calling.

Sunday, May 22

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. – Mikado rehearsals – Janet Wetterwald's

Janet Wetterwald is playing the organ this morning and the girls' choir is supplying special music.

Tomorrow is the day that Mr. Brown is graduated from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. These last two years must have been quite strenuous for him with his pastoral duties here and his classes in Andover. Last year he was in Andover from Monday through Thursday, while this past year he had to down only on Wednesdays. And also he had a thesis to write. Our sincerest congratulations to him!

This Tuesday, he and Mrs. Brown will attend the 156th annual meeting of the Massachusetts Congregational Christian Conference in Fitchburg. His ordination at our church will take place early in the summer – the first ordination at our church since 1929.

There were several persons from Buckland who were trying to plan to attend Mr. Brown's graduation, but it just seems to something that can't be done.

Walter Scott's name was accidentally left off the list for that big Saturday Work Bee. Our apologies.

The every member church canvas will be conducted throughout the community soon. And while we're trying to decide what our donation should be, we might remember that we're no longer living in the world of \$0.10 loaf of bread and the \$0.30 pound of steak. It takes a lot more to run our church every year, just for essentials, so try to make that donation or pledge a little bigger than it was before.

It's time to get in your items for the swap column of "Our Buckland." They'd like to have those items early, and of course, you should be working on your next literary effort for that publication.

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Isn't it grand that Ort Kenney and "Pop" Wise are recovering so nicely from their recent operations?

The Busy Bees will be selling those good 4-H cookies throughout the town for the next couple of weeks.

Our sincerest congratulations to Virginia Wilder who won the prize for becoming a "Mother's Day Mother" with the birth of her baby boy last Sunday at Franklin County Hospital.

At the Sunday School teachers' meeting the other night, it was decided that Children's Sunday will be June 12. A big family box lunch auction, picnic, and possible square dance will be held on the common sponsored by the Sunday School on June 17. Save that date.

And save this coming Saturday, too, for another of those wonderful family square dances. They get better all the time!

Here is Mr. Brown's message for "Rural Life Sunday":

This is the Sunday set aside by the Church to do honor to those who live in the country and to the farmers to whom we owe so much. No words can actually express appreciation adequately but in a sense there is not other means of letting you know what we are really trying to say!

Buckland has many very wonderful virtues, not the least of which is the spirit of the people. No community can "measure up" to the highest standards of Christian living, but we can say we live in a town which stands high on the list of those areas which can call themselves Christian.

We have a long way to go, but when we do look back we can see the road of progress has stretched far to the horizon behind us.

What of the road ahead? The pavement narrows, the surface is quite rough, but do you think it is worth the extra effort?

The Highway to a better life has been under construction for a long time; the road gang is not large, the tools are old and slightly rusted, but – IT IS WORTH IT!

Do you think we can make it even better?

Vol. 1 No. 34

May 22, 1955

Only a few more issues of the Messenger for this year, and then we feel we shall have to stop for the summer. Perhaps we can list the schedules for the summer months on the back of the church programs.

Sunday, May 22

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship. Scripture – Acts 2:1-4 "A sound from Heaven"

2:00 – 5:30 p.m. – Mikado Rehearsal – Janet Wetterwald's

Men 2:00-3:30; Women 4:00-5:30

Monday, May 23

After School – Good News Class at Sarah Smith's

7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts – Grange Hall

MARY LYON MESSENGER

Tuesday, May 24

Wednesday, May 25

After School – 4-H Busy Bees – Mrs. Litchfield's

8:00 p.m. – Grange meeting (to begin on time)-Speaker-Sgt Grogan, Juvenile Police Officer in Greenfield. Public welcome at 8:30 or 8:45

Thursday, May 26

12:30 p.m. – Ladies' Club – Vestry – Mission sewing. Hostesses – Winnie Scott, Florence Scott

8:30 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus rehearsal

Friday, May 27

After School – Junior Choir rehearsal

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Grange Hall – the whole cast – pictures taken

Saturday, May 28

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Grange Hall – whole cast

Sunday, May 29

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. – Sunday School

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

2:30 p.m. – Junior Senior Fellowship – Vestry

Florence Scott is the organist today with the Junior choir providing the music. This is the last regular appearance of the Junior Choir until next fall.

Several people from town did get to the baccalaureate service at Andover-Newton Theological Seminary at Newton Center ... Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Cass, the Charles Litchfields, and Mrs. Evans [Doris Litchfield Evans Howes]. Mrs. Evans also attended the graduation exercises the next day.

The Browns's went from his graduation to the meeting of the Massachusetts Congregational Christian Conference in Fitchburg.

The 4-H Club members in town have really been knocking on doors the past two weeks. The Buckland 4-H Farmers are selling very handy packages of light bulbs, which is something we all need and use constantly. The Busy Bees are still selling those good cookies. All profit, of course is for the respective club treasuries. And each club has a grand prize for the top salesman.

The Mikado rehearsal of Friday night will include the informal picture taking by the Recorder-Gazette. All assistants in every department are expected to be there.

There are several families in town whose phone numbers are not as listed in the book. Since we try to be a community paper here are the ones we know about: Earl F. Purinton, Enoch Wells, Russell Wells, Francis Stone, Winthrop Anderson, Raymond Cooper, ...and here's another not in the book...Ralph Wilder – PR 3-8670. Do you know any others?

The every member canvas committee expects to send out their annual letter this coming week. It will include a letter from the minister and an estimated budget for the coming year from the standing committee. This letter will come to acquaint you with the church's needs. The following with the every member canvas committee and their assistants will call on you. This is the time of the year specifically

MARY LYON MESSENGER

set aside to let you have the opportunity to give and pledge all you can to your church. It is also the time for a friendly, neighborly visit with someone from the church. And don't forget there are plenty of families who have not yet joined the church who give, too.

This committee canvas will precede the annual church meeting which is to be held Tuesday evening June 7. Those who have worked so hard on church projects and committees, but have still not taken the step of actually joining the church, are always welcome at the meetings.

Set aside that date. It's important.

Dear Father, hear and bless Thy beasts and singing birds;
And guard with tenderness, small things that have no words.

Remember to write that article for "Our Buckland". Next issue is July 1. And what do you want to swap? Set June 1st deadline for yourself – then you surely will beath the June 15 deadline.

Special – Note: Public very welcome to hear Sgt. Grogan Wed. evening at the Grange Hall...And bring someone else along, too.

Mr. Brown's message:

The 156th Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Congregational Christian Conference.

The theme of the conference at Fitchburg was "The Family, The Church and the Christian Society." The family is the most important factor of the future of the church was the message by Dr. Elton Trueblood in one of the key features.

The college students of Today are asking the basic religious questions. This is what Dr. Charles Cole of Amherst told us.

There was a heated discussion of the resolution supporting the General Councils position toward the impending merger. It is this question which I think may require much of our attending during the time that we have before the 195 call for the General Synod.

How many of us have read the Basis of Union? I think this is one thing we can do in every church, including our own. Does this mean the end of Congregationalism? Does this change the status of our own church? Do we sacrifice all without gaining anything? What does the Body of Christ to this type of situation? Who are the Evangelical and Reformed Churches? Why is this a union, not a merger?

This brings us to a modest proposal: Should we as a church really try to dig into this question and attempt to figure out how we here in Buckland should consider our own position to Be?

Should we become Union conscious?

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Since this is to be the final issue of the first volume of the Messenger, we shall try to list everything as far into the summer as we know of the schedule.

Sunday, June 12

9:45 – 10:45 – Sunday school rehearsal

11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Children's Sunday

4:30 p.m. – Ecclesiastical Council will examine Mr. Brown for his ordination

8:15 p.m. – Ordination Service of our Pastor, Mr. Brown. The congregation is welcome.

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Monday, June 13

No more Good News Class until fall

7:00 p.m. – Scouts – Vestry

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Grange Hall

Tuesday, June 14

6:30 p.m. – Supper served in vestry for Men's Club of North Parish Church in Greenfield

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal

Wednesday, June 15

6:30 p.m. – Nut-T Club picnic at Helen Williams'

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal – Grange Hall

8:00 p.m. – Grange invited to neighbor at Bernardston Grange

Thursday, June 16

8:00 p.m. – Grange Business Meeting

Friday, June 17

7:15 p.m. – Several members of Mikado cast on TV, channel 61, Springfield

5:30 p.m. – Sunday School picnic for the whole family – box lunches

Saturday, June 18

2:00 p.m. – Food sale of 4-H Busy bees – post office

8:00 p.m. – Mikado rehearsal

Sunday, June 19

10 a.m. (note time) – Morning Worship

3:00 – 6:00 p.m. – open house at the parsonage – everyone invited

8:00 p.m. – Buckland Male Chorus Vesper service

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings – Mikado rehearsals

Tuesday, June 21

4-H Busy Bees Picnic – Camp Howe

Wednesday, June 22

12:15p.m. Junior Choir picnic – leave from church for Ashfield Lake

Friday, June 24, Saturday June 25, Monday June 27, Tuesday June 28, and Wednesday June 29:

“THE MIKADO”

Sunday, June 26 – Grange Sunday – postponed until Aug. 7

Wednesday, July 6 – 8:00 p.m. Grange Meeting – strawberry festival

Thursday, July 7 Our 4-H Farmers – picnic

Tuesday, July 12 – Clesson Vally Dairy Club picnic

Those children who had perfect Sunday School attendance for May were Elaine Clark, Ann Purinton, David Reddy, Stanley Clark, Mary Ann Maynard, Lewis Atherton, Rosaline Clark, Dennis Clark, Douglas Clark, Robert Cross, Patsy Purinton, Floyd Scott, Bonita Clark, Harry Clark, Barbara

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Gould, Robert Hale, Stephen Hale, Amy Clark, Jane Gould, Mary Litchfield, Phyllis Scott, Paul Atherton, and Richard Hale.

If you can possibly get to a TV set which picks up Channel 61 in Springfield on Friday at 7:15 p.m., you want to be sure to see our own Buckland operetta members performing. A few members of the cast will be giving a sample of the Mikado on the Western Mass. Electric show.

Today is going to be an outstanding day for our church, the first ordination here since 1929. At 4:30 Mr. Brown will be examined by the ecclesiastical council. Early in the evening our church ladies will serve a supper to the visiting delegates and church people. The actual ordination will be at 8:15. All members and friends of the church are welcome. A very special service is planned, including wonderful church music and a sermon by a leading church dignitary.

Next Sunday is open house at the parsonage from 3 to 6 where everyone is again heartily welcome. That evening the Buckland Male Chorus will present their annual vesper concert.

There are many picnics planned for our youngsters' groups. The calendar speaks for itself.

One of our leading June highlights is the presentation of "The Mikado". The members of the cast have been working hard since January, and all the other persons connected with it are giving their all. Tickets must be purchased in advance. You can get them from Phil Smith, ticket chairman, John Eastman and Bud Anderson, or from plenty of other Grange members. They are available in Shelburne Falls at Sawyers, Ware Fuel, Aubuchon's and March's. Let's all try to make it on one of these dates: June 24, 25, 27, 28, and 29.

Speaking of the Grange, haven't you often wondered what good use could be made of your old nylon stockings? They pile up so fast. The Grange is collecting old nylon stockings for one of their charities – that is, the stockings are converted to cash for charity – so if you have any discarded hose at home, give them to a Grange member or drop them off at the Post Office. They'd appreciate it.

As far as is known, the only graduates we have this year are Barbara Kenney who will receive her degree from the Massachusetts School of Arts, and Ruth Ann Ward who is graduating from Arms Academy. Congratulations to both girls.

It's really time now to get that article in to Carol Lund for "Our Buckland." That's something else you can leave at the post office and Miss Clark will see that it gets to Carol.

The square dances sponsored by the Home and Community Service Committee of the Grange will undoubtedly be resumed after the Mikado is all over. Watch for one in July.

The secret of being happy in this world is not to mind or be troubled by little things.

Sir Joshua Reynolds

The vacation Bible school of the Shelburne Falls Council of Churches will be conducted from June 20 to July 1 at the Baptist and Congregational churches downtown. Mr. Brown is the chairman. Of course, youngsters from our congregation are welcomed, from primary to 7th or 8th grades.

The Bible School will start at nine each morning, Monday through Friday, for two weeks, probably ending around 11:30. Mr. Brown and Mrs. Cross from our church will be teaching. However, an appeal is out for teachers' aides of high school age, and for more teachers, too. Also, transportation is

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needed. Anyone who feels he or she can provide transportation or teach should contact Mr. Brown as soon as possible.

Those parents who are planning to end their children to the vacation Bible should contact Mr. Brown so he'll have some idea how many are going from Buckland. The actual registration takes place the first day.

Although the annual church meeting last Tuesday evening was a rather long one, it didn't produce any really startling news. The budget for the coming year is the largest one we've had to meet yet... \$3,500. We still need a Sunday school superintendent for next year.

The lists of the new committee members will be posted in the vestibule of the church sometime next week. It was voted at the meeting that the person whose name is first on each committee is responsible for calling that committee together for organization within 90 days of the annual meeting. That doesn't mean that person is chairman...the chairman will be chosen when the committee meets.

And did you know that it was decided that the services on Sunday will be at 10:00 a.m.? starting next Sunday and continuing until Sunday school starts up again? Seems like a good idea for the summer.

The 4-H Busy Bees gave Mrs. Litchfield a real surprise party Wednesday afternoon. She was really overwhelmed. In appreciation for all she's done for them, the members gave her gifts and brought along refreshments, with the help of some of the mothers.

And it was the girls who were surprised, too, when they found out it was Mrs. Litchfield's birthday.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Janet Wetterwald is organist this morning and of course, the Junior Choir is singing for the Children's Sunday Service.

To Mrs. Irmarié Jones we bring our sincere thanks for her arduous work as editor of the "Mary Lyon Messenger." Because of her ability and enthusiasm, it has been a message. It has been also a contact between Sunday School and parents, Church and Community, as well as a calendar of events in "Our Home Town." Thank you, Irmarié. Well done. The Staff