

FIF Jan '67

James Park_E
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11-20-66

NOV

Dear Uncle Wesley,

I guess neither of us is a very good letter writer. It seems that a lot of things happen between letters.

Yes, I am getting well along in the ministry. I have had my first funeral this month, which I guess completes the scope of things the minister is expected to do. I have married four people and baptized four, the last two being this very morning. I have pretty good control of the work in the two rural churches, but my work with students is really too much to even begin with only a quarter of my time allotted to it. Almost nothing can even be begun with that amount of time. I have 170 parishioners and 300 Methodist students under my care. I had to smile at your mention that you have sometimes had to start the service in your own church when the minister is late. This has not happened to me, but it may yet. One change which was made when I took this charge was that one of three churches was closed, which allowed us to increase the time between services from 15 minutes to 30. But there have been some times when I have cut it a little close. I preached too long on reformation Sunday, and almost ~~arrived~~ arrived too late at the second church.

The Port Rowan church certainly is fortunate in having you to put out the "United Church News." I don't think this would be possible in my ~~4~~ churches. But while we are on the subject of publications, I would like to report that I have been published for the ~~sixth~~ first time: The Fall 1966 issue of The Christian Scholar, a theological journal published by our National Council of Churches, carries my article "Bultmann's Understanding of God."

The second half of Grandfather's bequest to me will come in handy for paying off some debts incurred during my long education.

Happy to hear about "Jonathon Craig Leonard"; this is the first I had heard of him.

Thanks for your letter and I hope to be hearing from you again from time to time.

Cordially yours,

James Edward Park