

MINI-HISTORY: OUR CONGREGATION IN THE YEAR 1925



The Rev. Sidney Swain Robins



CHORAL UNION SERIES — 1922 - 1923

FORTY-FOURTH SEASON

NINTH CONCERT

No. CCCXIII COMPLETE SERIES

Third May Festival Concert

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 18, 2:30 O'CLOCK

CHILDREN'S CONCERT

SOLOISTS

MISS SUZANNE KEENER, *Soprano*

MR. ARTHUR KRAFT, *Tenor*

MR. ANTHONY WHITMIRE, *Violinist*

CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL CHORUS

MR. GEORGE OSCAR BOWEN, *Conductor*

MRS. GEORGE B. RHEAD, MISS IRENE FINLAY, and MISS LUCILLE GRAHAM, *Accompanists*

MR. PHILIP LAROWE, *Organist*

Please set the way-back machine to December, 1925.

It's the Roaring Twenties. Calvin Coolidge is president. Prohibition was enacted almost six years ago, and women finally won the right to vote seven months later. And by the way, ladies, now that we can vote, I hope that you take advantage of the opportunity.

Here in Ann Arbor, it has been a good year at the First Unitarian Church. Our beautiful church is located at the corner of State and Huron Streets. We continue to be ably served by our minister, Dr. Sidney Robins, and our music director, Mr. Philip La Rowe.

Rev. Robins preaches on a wide variety of thought-provoking topics. One comment that he made this summer has remained with me. He said that the motto of the Unitarian church is: "Find out the truth about a matter and make that your doctrine; but do not turn your doctrine into a creed for your neighbor to sign. Find out the truth about a matter and make that your doctrine; but do not turn your doctrine into a creed for your neighbor to sign."

In the fall Rev. Robins offered a series of sermons on the theme of Religion for the Unreligious. His sermon topics included "The dire confusion about religion," also "Theism and Humanism."

We heard another special series of sermons when Professor A. Eustace Haydon joined us for four Sundays this May. Dr. Haydon is professor of the history of religion at the University of Chicago and "has the reputation of being one of the world's greatest lay-preachers." His sermon topics included "A Modern Religious Ideal," also "The Old Spirituality and the New."

Unitarians marked several milestones this year. The American Unitarian Association celebrated its one hundredth anniversary at its annual meeting in Boston this May. Among the events at the meeting was the fourth annual Ware lecture delivered by Rev. Ambrose White Vernon. Rev. Vernon is professor of Biography at Dartmouth College and author of the

recent book, Ten pivotal figures of history.

Closer to home, the Detroit Unitarian Church celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary by hosting a meeting of the Michigan Unitarian Conference. Perhaps some of you had a chance to attend. One highlight was Charles Francis Potter, of Antioch College, speaking on the Humor and Pathos of the case of Tennessee v. John Scopes. As you remember, that case was tried in July of this year, and Mr. Scopes was found guilty of teaching evolution. In other remarks, Mr. Potter said: "Unitarians do not advertise enough. Many intelligent people are totally ignorant of the fact that there is such a church."

Another nearby gathering of Unitarians was the Western Unitarian Conference, which met in Toledo this year. Among the attendees were Dr. & Mrs. Norbert Capek of Prague.

The year is drawing to a close, but there are two items of interest before the end of the month. First, as we did last year, the collection at our Christmas service will be donated to Near East Relief. And second, Rev. and Mrs. Robins will host an open house at their home on Sunday evenings over the Christmas break. All of you who are staying in Ann Arbor are invited.

What's ahead in the year 1926 and beyond? Who can say? After all, we're still writing our history.

Mini-History, 12/21/2014 presented by Laura Bollettino