

B6 NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1986

Readers conduct classes for Church of Christ, Scientist

By DAN BURNETTE
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Some churches call their members "parishioners" or simply "believers."

But in the Church of Christ, Scientist, the congregation is made up of "students."

Services in the First Church of Christ, Scientist, 10045 Clair Drive, are led by two "readers."

The readers conduct lessons, the topic of which is the same each week for all Christian Science churches. The lessons are based on passages from the King James version of the Bible and the church's text, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by founder Mary Baker Eddy.

Three hymns are sung and members of the congregation may relate experiences on the power of

prayers.

Reading the Bible, the writings of Eddy and other spiritual guidance is of such importance to Christian Scientists that each church has a "reading room," or library, for use by the members.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist Reading Room in Sun City is at 106th and Peoria avenues.

Reader Robert Russell says the emphasis on reading and prayer parallels the experience of the church's founder.

Eddy was seriously injured when she fell on some ice in 1866. She went into an intense period of prayer, which she believed led to her healing.

Out of several years of studying the Bible, Eddy wrote *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. The first edition was published in 1875.

Christian Scientists believe illness represents sin, Russell says. Healing through prayer is confirmation of overcoming sin.

Reader Gertrude Duncan says, "Many people have been healed just reading passages from *Science and Health*."

The Christian Scientists have been meeting since the early days of Sun City. The first service was in Sun City Community Center (now Oakmont Recreation Center) in May 1961.

In April 1962 the Sun City group was recognized as a Christian Science Society by the Christian Science Board of directors in Boston (site of the first, or "Mother" Church of Christ, Science).

The Sunday School was started in August 1963 and the Reading Room opened in May 1964, when the

church also incorporated under Arizona statute.

The Society was recognized as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sun City-Youngtown in May 1965.

The present site at Clair Drive and 101st Avenue was purchased in May 1965. The first service in the new church edifice was Aug. 6, 1967. The name later was changed to First Church of Christ, Scientist, Sun City.

Russell says the church serves many nearby communities as well as Sun City. The church welcomes all people, including children, as the Sunday School and nursery for infants are usually well-attended.

Services and Sunday School start at 9:30 a.m., with a second service during winter months at 11 a.m. There also is a Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m.

First Church Of Christ Scientist's New Church

Ground was broken Jan. 27, at 9:00 a.m. for the First Church of Christ Scientist's new church building at 101st and Clair Drive.

The building will contain 22 rooms, there will be 228 fixed theater type seats, a Sunday School room for approximately 50 students, a nursery, offices and storage areas. It will have a total of 7,700 square feet of space.

The exterior of the building will be colored slump block with a fire treated cedar shake shingle roof. There will be an exposed agate concrete terrace, with a covered colonade around the terrace. Parking will be

for 150 cars.

The architect is Gabor Lorant of Phoenix, and the general contractors the Ranier Construction Company.

The building committee of the church includes: Herbert Huebsch, Alfred A. Houle, Bernard Rosene, Dempsey Fairchild, Donald M. Plumb, Theodore G. Siekerman, Mrs. Phillip Campbell and Mrs. Clifford Burnham.

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GROUND BREAKING — The First Church of Christ Scientist of Sun City and Youngtown have started construction of the church building at 101st and Clair Drive. On hand to turn the first shovel of dirt for the new church on Friday morning, were, left to right, Mrs. C. L. Burnham, clerk of

the building committee; Mrs. Arch Michel, vice-president Board of Trustees; Herbert Huebsch, chairman of the building committee; A. W. Lass, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Ira Jordon, board member; and Gabor Lorant, architect.

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Morgan Photo