



Fantastic stained-glass window dominates new Wesley Foundation youth center, actually tells the story of progress of John Wesley pictorially.

# THE YOUTH CENTER

Churches have made certain that students find other places than the library or taverns in which to spend spare hours. Ringing the University's campus are modern and homey buildings of union, offering meditation and recreation.

**S**TUDENT DAYS are a time for growth; new ideas bring new ideals, new surroundings form new attitudes.

Religious groups have long been watchful that spiritual growth should not lag behind the intellectual growth which a university encourages.

At the University of Oklahoma the attempt to meet this need for growth is made largely through the student centers. These denominational groups are usually housed in their own buildings and are connected with Norman churches. They serve as centers for student religious life, study, recreation and counseling.

The student center gives campus reli-

gious life more emphasis than it can receive in a church which serves a whole community. Almost without exception the students run their own program with a full-time director in charge.

As one such director explained, "There's no use in starting something unless the students initiate it. It dies without student support. Directors can only suggest and manage."

To many students the center has become a center for social life, as well. Most of the groups attempt to have at least one social function a month. Games, television, books and phonograph records tempt students to drop in during their free hours.

Projects to help others and to improve the center and the church occupy an important part of the student center activity time. These projects often take the shape of help to student groups and to students at other universities, to other churches and to national projects of the individual denomination.

The spiritual growth which is the aim of the center comes through activities which extend beyond Sunday school and church. Communion services, retreats, noonday and evening devotions, and all kinds of study group sessions attempt to make the student think, to grow intellectually as he grows spiritually.



Photographed by  
JEFF GRIFFIN

Lutheran student center has white, steep-roof building resembling home more than most. Note TV antenna.

## Crusade for Christ Movement Is Active



**T**HE MOST ACTIVE interdenominational group on the O. U. campus is the Crusade for Christ movement. Organized at UCLA six years ago by an Oklahoman, Bill Bright, the Crusade uses the old-fashioned appeal of personal testimony and contact to convert students and encourage them to study the Bible. Each convert is urged to join a church, any he chooses.

The Crusade study groups are among many on the campus. Some study the Bible exclusively, but the emphasis is on the relation of religion to everyday life.

For example, students have recently presented programs on integration, Christian discipline and witnessing, war and sex and religion.

Classes and discussion groups on denominational beliefs and problems are always active.

Every year the University sponsors a four-day Conference on Religion. This brings outside speakers to the campus and initiates interdenominational discussions.

The student centers frequently cooperate on joint projects. The annual Thanksgiving service and weekly services presented by students at the Norman Naval base are examples.

Westminster Fellowship, the organization maintained by Presbyterian Church, meets in spacious recreation quarters in the church itself.

Hillel Foundation, one of the first centers to "go modern," plans full week's program for Jewish students attending.



The Baptist Student Union, sprawling and sunny, sits next to the University President's house. Entrance at right leads down to basement lounge.



Catholic students meet here for conversations and devotions in a New England type house.

YOUTH  
CENTERS  
Continued



The Christian Church decided on a brick structure, with carport for visitors who drive.

Early of a weekday afternoon, in a typical youth center lounge, an early arrival entertains himself at the piano as he awaits coming of his friends.

