







PRINCETON FRESHMAN: Virgil Miller Newton preaches to his congregation in the Clarksburg, N.J., Methodist church. Newton likes to "put across sermon with my hands."

Freshman Serves as Pastor for Three Churches

man class to play a major role in churches. He conducts three sera wedding was not acting as vices a Sunday on the Imlaystown groom. He was performing the Circuit and has the right to service.

Virgil Miller Newton, a dedi-

marry, baptize and bury.

Licensed to preach as a senior cated 18-year-old freshman, is cur- at Sewanee Military Academy,

The first member of the fresh- southern New Jersey Methodist sive training to reach his present filling in for vacationing ministers position.

Must Be Called

istry. Newton said, "I'm just as sure as I'm sitting here talking to you that I was called to preach the word of God." He felt this as a sophomore in high school.

in the Tampa (his home town) | Princeton. and St. Petersburg, Florida, area. The Methodist Church feels that As a student supply pastor, Newa man must be called to the min- ton preached an average of two sermons each Sunday.

He was so enthusiastic about the work that his district superintendent, the administrative official under the bishop, wrote to the Last summer he got his first Trenton district superintendent,

By ST. CLAIR A. SULLIVAN | rently the minister for three | Newton has gone through inten- | practical experience as a preacher, | saying that Newton would be glad to help out in this area while at

Special Delivery

A special delivery letter from Trenton in the return mail explained that there was an urgent need for a pastor in the three small rural churches on the Imlaystown Circuit.

Newton took on the responsibil-(Continued on page 4)



STUDENT: Newton prepares his sermon for next Sunday.. He bases his 35 minute talks on scripture, draws illustrations from reading.

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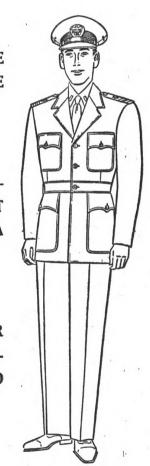
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Newton Was Called to Ministry As Sophomore in High School

ity for these parishes and the bishop gave him a special certificate giving him the right to marry, baptize and serve com-

He now performs three services regularly each Sunday-9:30 at Clarksburg, 11:00 at Emley's Hill and 2:00 at Imlaystown.

One Wedding

Newton has officiated at four funerals of members of his parishes. He has christened three infants in the service of Holy Baptism. And he has performed one wedding.

The 18-year-old pastor married his first couple who were 19 and 17 years old this January.

His regular duties include youth every other Saturday afternoon. scripture. He decides on a text and



Rev. V. M. Newton '60

group meetings each Friday night and visits to his parishioners Newton occasionally takes his "young people" as he calls them (many of them are almost as old as he) bowling, swimming and ice skating.

The high points of his three regular Sunday services are his dynamic, sincere sermons. Newton punctuates these talks with fluent, unpracticed gestures. He says, "I try to put the sermon across with my hands."

Newton never writes out his sermons which last anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes. He uses sketchy notes and changes both the length and general direction of the sermon to fit the individual churches on his circuit.

All of his sermons are based on



'IS THE WICK OF YOUR SOUL LIT?': Newton delivers sermon to Clarksburg congregation. He gives sincere talk from short notes.

has a skeleton of the talk worked | afford that much time. out in his mind by the Wednesday before he will deliver it. On Friday he fills out the skeleton with illustrations from his reading and is prepared to speak.

The young minister says that all this work for the churches does detract a little from his studies here, "but not a great amount."

This work does not keep him from participating in campus activties. Newton is a member of Whig-Clio and is active in the speakers bureau of that organization. Newton would like to participate in sports but he cannot

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YOUNG PREACHER: Princetonian greets the young and old.

Two of Newton's small rural churches were founded in the middle of the last century. The third, the Emley's Hill church was built in 1790. It is believed that the first Methodist bishop in the United States preached the first sermon

(Continued on page 5)

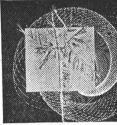
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Princeton Freshman Was Not Brought Up to Be Minister, But Parents Are Proud of Newton's Dedication to Church

(Continued from page 4) to the original congregation of this church in a barn nearby.

Though the attendance at the churches is small—the largest is an average of 55 at Clarkstownthe number of Sunday worshipers at all three has increased since Newton began preaching in September.

His parishioners are all immensely happy with their young pastor. The circuit was formerly handled by a student from the Drew Theological Seminary.

Newton receives a salary from his churches which, though not



PASTOR: Newton greets trustee head of Clarksburg church.

equivalent to that of a regular minister, helps to defray the expenses of his position and educa-

Both of Newton's parents are active in his home church, the Hyde Park Methodist Church in

father has served as a trustee of the church and been active in local organs of the Community Chest and Red Cross drive. His mother is on the alter guild, missionary society and used to teach Sunday School.

But Newton was not brought up to be a minister. Though his



School throughout his life, there are no ministers in the Newton family since before the Civil War.

He made the decision to serve God on his own and his parents are proud of his decision and his

Newton was one of three Princeton students involved in a Virginia automobile accident which caused the death of John L. Robinson '57 in late January. Robinson, the vice president of Prospect Club, was killed instantly in the crash. John S. Kuhlthau '58 received a concussion while Newton suffered lacerations. They had been redowntown Tampa, Florida. His turning from a ministers confer-



Picture Credits

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ence at Asbury College, Wilmore,

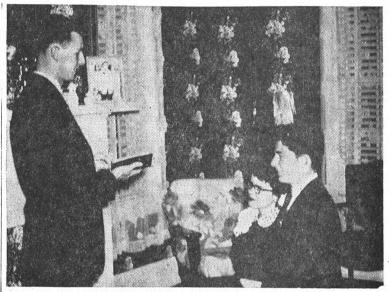
Feeling that it would not be fair to leave his circuit for the summer, Newton will stay in New Jersey over the vacation to work in his parishes.

As to future plans, he will go to a Methodist seminary after graduating from Princeton with an AB. Newton has taken one course in the religion department and plans to take others. But he will not major in religion. Undecided, as to his major, Newton is inclined toward the history department.

Calling himself an "ardent Southerner," he plans to attend a seminary in the South to better prepare him for his life's work in that part of the country.

The young pastor sums up his view of Christianity in a pamphlet entitled "Light for the Lost":

"Jesus is the true light, a great candle with a perfect flame. A steady flame, one that never wavers even amid the storms of con-



'I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE': Pastor Newton performs his first wedding. Groom is 19 years old; bride is 17.

flict, evil and falsity. His flame@ is one of pure, white light. . . He is the light of the world. Where there is darkness, His light will conquer . . . Warmth is love. His great love for each of us only wants the best for us.

"We are only required to ask for his light.

"IS the WICK of YOUR SOUL LIT? if so 'Ye are the Light of the







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