

AMONG THE CHURCHES

Speaks at Methodist Church

In the absence of the pastor, Mr. J. E. S. Thorpe filled the pulpit at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning, and spoke in part as follows:

Mr. Vick has very kindly invited me to speak a few words to you in his absence. Reared as I was in the Protestant Episcopal Church, the question of a layman addressing a church congregation is somewhat of a revelation to me.

I do not recall ever having attended service in any other than the Episcopal Church until I came South, and I must say that, among other reasons for being glad that I came South, this one of realizing the democracy existing in the Methodist Church, in itself gives much satisfaction.

There does not exist in my Church the opportunity, as it does here, for a feeling of community interest between pastor and congregation. Whether it is the continuation of the impression gained during childhood of the stately robes worn during service by the ministers, and the less stately though, nevertheless, distinct garb worn as street clothes, which deters one from approaching their pastor freely, I hesitate to say; but whatever causes it there does exist a certain barrier between the Episcopal shepherd and his flock.

I have often wondered, since the Inter-Church movement started, if this idea will not in time work out to the benefit of all.

Certainly, if the several denominations will make up their minds to enter into frank open discussion of the movement, even if it does not immediately result in a consolidation, it will be a step towards it.

John Wesley must have appreciated something of this kind when, in 1740, he drew away from the Church of England and formed the Methodist Church, and later found that, after all, when people have faith founded on the same Savior, that the intervening details could not be very diverse.

How much more efficient, and productive of so much more satisfactory results, it would be, if the efforts of the several denominations, with services differing only in details, should combine their individual strength to spread the Gospel throughout the world, and at the

same time retain those elements which are necessary.

Personally, I feel as much at home in the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian Churches as I do in the Episcopal, and I feel certain the same statement applies to the Lutheran, though I have not had the pleasure of attending service in the Lutheran Church.

I trust that some satisfactory solution will be worked out by the able people who are fostering this new movement, to the end that even closer co-operation than now exists may be affected.

The present condition of the world calls for an united effort to combat the ever-increasing evil. If the forces for evil and against good are combining, there is no surer way for the forces for good to combat this than to unite.

Unrest is the result of evil thoughts getting the upper hand. Evil thoughts find no fertile fields within the influence of the Church. Consequently, we deduce that if unrest is on the increase, Church influence must be temporarily on the decline. This indicates a bad state of affairs, and every means must be used to destroy it.

What is true of the world at large, is true of Badin. I know of no influence for good stronger than the Church, and I hope that every member of this and the other Churches in Badin will work to spread this influence among the greatest number of people.

With the high degree of intelligence among the people here, this should not be a difficult task. We have with us as law-abiding, God-fearing people as one could wish for, and in most cases it is merely a question of appealing to these good instincts to swell the congregations.

It is necessary to have large congregations in regular attendance for many reasons.

Attendance at Church is one of the outward signs of Christ-loving and obeying people. It is also very essential from the standpoint of meeting the many obligations thrust upon the Church. And last, but in no wise least, you owe it to your pastor. It is due him for the many sacrifices he makes for you, and the only means you have of showing your appreciation of his efforts. You should study ways and means of helping him, and

consequently yourselves, and not force the whole burden on his shoulders.

Your Pastor is human, as are we, and needs encouragement as we do. If you don't come to him on Sunday, he naturally feels that you don't appreciate his efforts.

You have everything here that is desired, and it is yours to make of it as you will; and I know that you are going to do your best.

Remember that the town is dependent on the Churches for its spiritual welfare, and without this it cannot attain the end we seek.

This congregation has demonstrated what it can do under adverse circumstances, and if the same effort is applied with the advantages it now possesses, wonders can be accomplished.

Remember the words of St. John, when resisting the evil spirit aligned against him he said—

"Put on the whole armor of God that ye may withstand the wiles of the devil."

Baptist Briefs

July 19 to 23 is "Mobile School" week for the Baptists of North Carolina. Mount Gilead School is the nearest one to us. Newton, Wingate, Mooresville, High Point, Shelby, and North Wilkesboro are about the next nearest. Let everyone who can, attend some one of the schools. Pastor Arnette will teach in the Mobile School at Chowan College, Murfreesboro, N. C. His lectures will be on the "Acts of the Apostles."

The Churches of the Stanly Baptist Association have decided to enter upon a "Simultaneous Evangelistic Campaign," beginning the week following the second Sunday in August. The First Baptist Church will fall in line, and Dr. Q. C. Davis, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Albemarle, will do the preaching.

Let us pray much and work faithfully for our meeting following the second Sunday in August. Practically every church in our Association is to have a meeting that week. What a week that ought to be for the kingdom!

Directed by Bro. Thomas C. Shepard, the "clean-up" work about our new church is making progress, and pleases the "All-Seeing Eye" as well as the passer-by.

Our Sunday School is doing splendidly, especially in the matter of collections. We do not believe any school in the land gives much more per capita.