

Churches On Ecusta Charge Are Thriving

In a quiet, unheralded manner, our churches go about their mission of making the community a better place in which to live. In order to focus attention on the work the churches and their pastors in this section are doing, *The Echo* is inaugurating in this issue a series of articles and pictures depicting the invaluable part these institutions play in the building and maintaining of a good community.

The two churches chosen to begin the series—English Chapel and Oak Grove Methodist—were selected for several reasons. First, the churches are rural churches, and no one can contest the fact that rural churches are not a vital factor in the religious life of America. The two churches also comprise what is known as the Ecusta Charge and are located near the plant, English Chapel in Pisgah National Forest and Oak Grove on the Boyleston Road near the entrance to Camp Sapphire.

Rev. W. C. Clarke, a native of Central, N. C., has been in the ministry since 1923, and is in his third year as pastor of the two churches. The progress the churches are making is notable. The Oak Grove church is making plans to build a new church building in the near future and a new parsonage for the Ecusta charge is another immediate objective of the two congregations.

Before coming to the Ecusta Charge, Rev. Clarke served churches at Weaverville, Hot Springs, Saluda, and several parishes in eastern North Carolina. His wife is the former Miss Irene Holcombe, and she has a Master's degree in music from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y. She teaches music in the high school at Weaverville where the

Clarkes are making their home at the present.

Among the leaders at English Chapel are Chester West, Vernon Neill, Rufus Guffee, Perry Davis, Mrs. Carl Hamby, Mrs. Allan Vaughn, and Mrs. Furman Cansler while J. H. Dickson Jr., P. C. DeBrabant, Paul Smith, W. Dent Auvil, J. W. McCormick, Mrs. Thomas Hargis, Jr., Mrs. P. G. Norman, J. W. Siniard, and Mrs. Joe Siniard hold responsible positions in the Oak Grove church. Many of these are connected with our companies.

The membership of English Chapel is 47 and Oak Grove has 113 on its church roll. The Oak Grove church celebrated its 100th anniversary last September and English Chapel was founded 80 years ago.



Above, Rev. W. C. Clarke; below, Oak Grove Church

