

The Atlantic Messenger.

EDITOR:

HIGHT C. MOORE, New Bern, N. C.

A monthly Baptist newspaper started in May, 1899, as the organ of the Atlantic Association; twice enlarged and improved within a year; in January, 1902, its field was so extended as to embrace the "Baptist Destitute" of about twenty counties in Eastern North Carolina, the territory lying mainly in the bounds of the Atlantic, Neuse, Wilmington, and Tar River Associations.

Terms of Subscription:

Single copies, each, .25 cts. per year, 25 copies to one address, \$3 per year, 100 copies to one address, \$10 per year.

Entered at New Bern, N. C., as second-class mail matter.

ORDINATION OF REV. S. E. GARNER.

By request of the church at Pollocksville, of which he is a member and the pastor, Rev. S. E. Garner was ordained in the First Baptist Church of New Bern on Thursday evening, March 13, 1902.

The presbytery consisted of Hight C. Moore, J. A. McKaughan, B. W. Spilman and J. P. Spence. After examination of the candidate relative to his conversion, call to the ministry and views of doctrine, it was voted unanimously to proceed with the ordination.

In the services of ordination the sermon was preached by Rev. J. A. McKaughan and the charge delivered by Rev. B. W. Spilman. By prayer and the laying on of hands, after Scriptural example, Bro. Garner was initiated into the full work of the gospel ministry. For several months Bro. Garner has had charge of our Jones county field. It is a pleasure to know that he is getting the work well in hand and that the prospects are brightening for our churches, in that section.

FROM ONSLOW TO WILMINGTON.

We think that no pastor in the service of our State Board has proven a more faithful and effective missionary worker than Rev. C. B. Paul, native of Carteret county, graduate of Wake Forest College, pastor and teacher in several of these eastern counties, and for the past few years the tireless and popular pastor of the churches in our Onslow field. Knowing well the spirit of our people, being thoroughly consecrated to his work and bringing into it a splendid working knowledge of Bible truth and Baptist principles, he has known where and when to work to the best advantage. With a will he has wrought and results are abundant.

Not long since he received a hearty call to the Southside church in Wilmington. The honor came unsought and really it was hard for him to think of leaving the Onslow field, but after the most earnest consideration he decided to accept the call. So Onslow loses and Southside gains. It is gratifying that Bro. Paul remains in our eastern work to which he is so well adapted. He goes to Southside the first of May. To the brotherhood there we heartily commend him and pray that their united labors may be blessed abundantly.

MEETING AT MAYSVILLE.

On the fourth Sunday in March pastor S. E. Garner began a meeting in Maysville. He was assisted the week following by Rev. M. P. Davis, of Snow Hill. Services were held twice a day, the attendance was good, and the interest was fine. There were seven or eight professions of faith; two were received in the church and others are expected to write soon. The brethren are also expecting some important accessions by letter in the near future.

We hear that the meeting was

the best in the history of the church. More confidence is expressed in the hopefulness of our cause and the prospects are more radiant than heretofore. It is a pleasure to know that Bro. Garner is getting a good hold on the work and the people. We hope his ministry will be largely blessed in the Jones county field.

THE ATLANTIC UNION.

Few delegates attended from a distance—the people were busy and the weather unfavorable—yet a half dozen churches were represented and five preachers were present; and the Union was by no means a failure, much as some of us feared it before hand.

The introductory sermon on Friday evening, by Rev. C. B. Paul of Swansboro, was both interesting and edifying. The devotional exercises Saturday morning were conducted by Rev. J. R. Taylor, of Bayboro. The Union then formally organized with Bro. Thos. J. Mitchell in the chair and Bro. Garrett L. Vinson as clerk. Reports were made from the various fields. An exceedingly fine paper was presented by Prof. J. Paul Spence on Aged Ministers' Relief which so impressed the Union that by unanimous vote its publication in the MESSENGER was requested. The morning session closed with a paper by the editor of this paper on the Study of the Bible.

At the evening session two important topics were considered. First, our new school at Morehead City was the theme of two interesting speeches by brethren A. D. Ward and J. C. Whitty. Then the subject of Foreign Missions was ably discussed by Rev. J. A. McKaughan.

On Sunday various pulpits in the city were occupied with great acceptability by members of the Union.

The next session will be held June 27-29 at Davis Shore, Rev. J. A. McKaughan, to preach the introductory sermon. A suitable program for the occasion will be prepared by brethren McKaughan, Whitty and Gaskins.

A CHURCH BUILDER ON BUILDING CHURCHES.

Rev. C. B. Paul, Swansboro.

Dear Bro. Moore:—We are moving along about as usual. The fact that we are not losing ground is encouraging when we take into consideration the hard times during the past year. At no time since I came on this field have the calls for money been more urgent and persistent than during the last few months. Before we recovered from the strain of building our churches the Lord laid upon our hearts the necessity of building a parsonage. From a human standpoint this seemed utterly impossible yet after praying earnestly over the matter and remembering how often God had cleared the way for us when all was darkness we launched forth and he has not forsaken us a single moment.

From my experience in church building since I came on the Onslow field I have learned a few things that may be of service to young brethren who have such work to do, and if they will pardon my seeming forwardness, I will offer a few suggestions that may be of service in our future work.

I would say that the first thing we should consider is whether or not God wants and needs a Baptist church in certain communities. Baptist churches with no preaching are no credit either to Christ or the denomination.

This being settled the next important step as it suggests itself to me, is its location. Much more depends upon this than we sometimes think. We should remem-

ber we are building for the future as well as the present. Some churches have been greatly crippled in their work by not being properly located.

Another thing that cannot be too greatly emphasized is the deed to the land upon which the church is to be built.

The often repeated saying "You can get the deed anytime" has caused no little trouble in many instances. Be sure the deed will hold the land in any emergency and have it registered before the building is begun. The trustees should be the best men in the community and the majority of them, at least, members of Baptist churches. Your building committee should be the most intelligent and energetic to be had, and your secretary and treasurer men or women who will keep the business straight. Having these things arranged, go to work; don't wait until you have all the money in hand before you begin. Bro. Whitty's assertion, at the Union, that churches were not built that way, is my experience exactly. Go to work. It is God's house and He will see that you get the proper help, and this does not mean that He will shoulder His axe and cut the trees nor nail on weatherboarding. Cromwell's motto: "Put your trust in God and keep your powder dry" is a good one for God's people to adopt in doing His work. God did not roll back the waters of the Red Sea until the people had got to it, neither can we expect Him to help us until we get to the point where we can't help ourselves.

Now some brother may say that these suggestions are all good when the conditions are such that we can get good men for the positions mentioned but what is one to do on a mission field when these men and help are not to be had? My answer would be go ahead and don't be afraid of work. Sometimes we must be building committee, secretary, treasurer and everything else at the same time, but never give up. The work may need just such sacrifices on your part to impress the genuineness of christianity on the unconverted.

The last and most important thing of all is to do every item of our work upon business principles. It is a lamentable fact that so few of us know anything about business principles in connection with our Master's work. In soliciting help for our churches we sometimes fail to keep any record either of the amount collected and from whom, or the amount paid out and for what. It is true that it makes one feel good to know that the brethren have such confidence in us that they do not require such things, but should the intimation begin to be whispered around that the money collected cannot be accounted for, that good feeling and we part company very quickly. The best way to retain the confidence of the brethren is to keep a strict account of what we do. To neglect this is to put in jeopardy our honesty.

THE NEUSE UNION.

The inclemency of weather was a hindrance in the beginning. In spite of rain a small congregation met Friday night and heard the introductory sermon by Rev. J. B. Newton. Saturday morning a temporary organization was effected by calling Bro. W. E. Sutton to the chair and Rev. J. B. Jackson to act as Secretary. Several good talks were made on "Our Duty to Evangelize and How to do it." It was made manifest that above every consideration of doctrinal training, &c., was the duty to lead men to know Christ as a real personal Savior. Ministers and laymen were advised to lay this matter on their hearts as a

real God-inspired burden. The best way to effect it is to live the benefits of it. Preach with reference to it as a constant theme, and personally and from house to house press this matter right to the hearts of men. Again, much of this work can be done by parents training it into their children at home. How this writer longs to see an evangelical spirit fasten hold of our churches and preachers. The churches will catch the Spirit when the preachers have fired them with it.

The permanent organization was effected in the afternoon by electing Bro. L. R. Varser, of Kinston, Moderator for the year, Rev. J. B. Jackson, of Goldsboro, Secretary, Bro. A. G. Cox, of Winterville, Treasurer. These officers are well known to most of the readers of the MESSENGER, except Bro. Varser. He is a young lawyer who has recently located in Kinston. We feel profoundly grateful to have a consecrated Christian lawyer in our section who will find time to attend our meetings and show how a good lawyer at the bar may be at the same time a live active Christian. I am happy to commend such a man to you if you have legal work to do. He will be as faithful to your trust as he will be to the good cause he is serving for his Master.

The afternoon of Saturday was given to the Colportage Work and Temperance. Bro. C. W. Blanchard made a statement of the condition and work of the Neuse Baptist Colportage Association. Let every pastor who would like to handle these books in Eastern N. C., write to L. R. Varser, Kinston, N. C., our new secretary and treasurer, for information and terms.

Rev. W. L. Bilbro, of Ayden, made a telling address on temperance, followed by the Pitt County War Horse of this cause, Bro. A. G. Cox.

At night an Educational Mass Meeting was held by Prof. G. E. Lineberry, of Winterville, and Rev. C. W. Blanchard, from Eastern North Carolina. Much good was done by the addresses and lasting enthusiasm was created for Winterville High School. Prof. Lineberry is not only a prince of teachers but he knows how to stir a congregation in an address. These rallies are needed in every community in the State.

After the Sunday School work by Bro. H. B. Parker, of Goldsboro, in the early morning hour, the balance of the day, was given to evangelistic work. Rev. C. W. Blanchard preached at eleven o'clock, Rev. W. L. Bilbro at 3 p. m. and Rev. J. B. Jackson at night. A great crowd from every where thronged the church and grove and it is believed that good was effected for all time to come. It was much to be regretted that some of our efficient workers and pastors were not present. They all had good excuses I suppose, but it has a serious effect on the work. Our advancement in the Mission work of this part of the State depends so much upon the influences put afloat at the fifth Sunday meetings.

Next Session is to be held with Second Church, Goldsboro, fifth Sunday in June, Friday and Saturday before.

B.

NEW BERN—FIRST CHURCH.

Rev. Hight C. Moore, New Bern.

We have had three valued accessions during the month: Miss Olivia Metts from the the First Church of Wilmington and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Foss from the Lee Street church in Baltimore. Each is heartily welcomed to our fellowship and work.

Mrs. Johnnis Bailey was granted a letter to unite with the Baptist Church of Georgetown, S. C. We commend her to the brotherhood there.

The visit of Rev. J. B. Boone in the interest of the orphanage was much enjoyed. The collection amounted to \$70. This was in addition to the regular monthly offering in Sunday School and special offerings Thanksgiving and Christmas. The orphanage lies near to the hearts of our people.

It was a pleasure to open our doors for the ordination of Rev. S. E. Garner, of Pollocksville. Further notice of the service appears elsewhere in this paper.

The Union was held with us and the few who came were cordially received. Our chief regret was that the brethren and sisters could not attend in large numbers. Yet the meeting was to us one of interest and profit.

The regular services move on with a somewhat quickened interest as the weather becomes more favorable. The Sunbeams have already raised \$12 this year. About fifty are attending the personal workers' meeting on Tuesday evenings. The W. M. S. held an extra service during week of self-denial and made a liberal offering. The Sunday School rose to the 155 mark and we are hoping to improve upon that attendance before the extremely warm weather comes on.

Another month concludes the fourth year of the present pastorate. Happy indeed have been these years and all too swiftly they have sped away.

"How softly fall the foot of Time That only treads on flowers!"

F. M. Simmons. A. D. Ward.

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