

CHURCH LIFE IN BADIN

Four Well Organized and Growing Churches; Two New Buildings under Erection,
Another Soon to Be Started; Three Resident Pastors

WITH the rapid growth of the town of BADIN industrially and commercially, some time elapsed before the Christian people could be awakened to their opportunity, but with two handsome brick churches now nearing completion, and another soon to be started, the Church life rivals the growth of the town in other ways. BADIN, N. C., is as well churched as any city of its size in the whole country, having four well organized and growing congregations. When the town was started, there was only one small country church—the old Ebenezer Baptist Church, of a long and useful history. Now there are, besides, the Methodist, the Presbyterian, and the Lutheran Churches; and in the colored village, the A. M. E. Zion and the First Baptist Church.

The old Ebenezer Baptist Church, endeavoring to keep pace with rapid growth of the town materially, has under construction a splendid brick edifice, which recently, at the cornerstone laying, passed into history as the First Baptist Church of Badin. (See cut.) Rev. J. M. Arnette is the present pastor, and Mr. E. F. Smith the superintendent of the Sunday School. When the new church is finished and fully equipped, with a large auditorium and Sunday School rooms, it will be a credit not only to BADIN but to a city of much larger size.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized three years ago, and now regularly worships in the Badin Theater, but is also building a new and handsome brick church, on the corner of Hickory and Pine Streets. It is also to be equipped with Sunday School rooms and modern conveniences, and will have a great opportunity to minister to the spiritual needs of BADIN. Rev. E. W. Vick is the present pastor, and Mr. F. E. Street is superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Presbyterian Church was organized March 18, 1917, and now has over a hundred members. The Church worships for the present in the School Building, but expects to

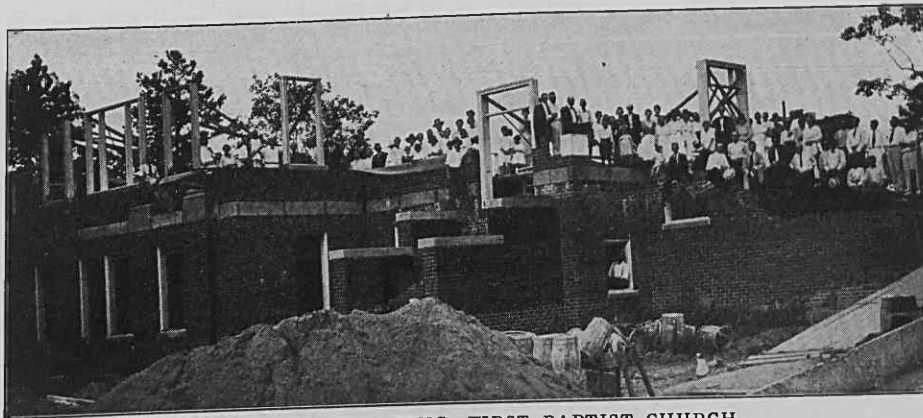
be in its building soon, on the lot at the intersection of Falls Road and Spruce Street. It plans to erect a comfortable and adequate church. Rev. T. G. Tate is the present pastor, and Mr. W. M. Erwin is superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Lutheran Church holds services twice a month in the afternoon, in the Community Building. Rev. N. D. Bodie, of Thomasville, N. C., is the present pastor, and has a loyal congregation. Mr. B. A. Miller is the superintendent of the Sunday School.

BADIN spiritually is trying to keep pace with the rapid strides of the place commercially and industrially. The company and its employees believe that adequate and comfortable houses of worship are necessary to the well-being and contentment of the people. Religious services are held every Sunday morning and evening in three churches, besides two services in the afternoon each month by the Lutherans; four Sunday schools are maintained, and all newcomers and prospective residents as well as others are invited to cast in their lot with one of these churches. People of all or no denomination are welcomed, and full liberty of conscience will be accorded. The careful observer will find progressive, earnest, and faithful workers in all these churches, who are full of zeal for the kingdom of God and the betterment of the town.

There is considerably more musical talent in BADIN than in the average town of its size; perhaps due to the cosmopolitan make-up of its inhabitants, which is utilized by the various choirs, and good singing has become an attractive and vital part of the worship.

In the near future, we confidently expect to see four attractive and comfortable churches open their doors on Sunday to the throngs of worshippers, which will speak well for the progressive and earnest spirit of this coming metropolis of North Carolina, whose citizens might justly boast that they are "citizens of no mean city."



CORNERSTONE LAYING—FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH