

St. Augustine's Record

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

May 27, 1936

To the Trustees of St. Augustine's College
Gentlemen:

During the past year, the sixty-ninth annual session of the Institution, there has been a total enrollment of 325 students including 38 in the St. Agnes Training School for Nurses and 15 in the Bishop Tuttle School for Church and Welfare Workers. This represents an increase of about 10% over the enrollment of last year. About 50% of the students come from North Carolina. The remainder come from 25 states and 3 foreign countries. There are representatives from such distant points as Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Michigan, Quebec and the Virgin Islands.

The aim of the college as expressed in its charter is to train teachers and otherwise provide for the education and elevation of the Negro people in North Carolina and elsewhere in the United States. From the days of its founding this objective has been consistently pursued in connection with the development of our Negro Church work.

It is gratifying to realize that the mission of St. Augustine's as a Church College is meeting with the approval of many who are familiar with its work. In the April issue of the *Spirit of Missions*, Dr. Theodore Wedel, our National Secretary for College work, in a short article about St. Augustine's writes:

"One would have to travel far to find a Church College which more fully lives up to its name than does St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Christian teaching and practice are woven into the college life in a surprisingly effective way. The Chapel service is inspiring."

He goes on to make other observations concerning the need and value of the educational program which we are emphasizing that should be of interest to all who are genuinely interested in our Negro work.

As in past years the facilities of the college have been offered for numerous meetings and conferences such as the State Public Welfare Institute for Negro Workers, the Crown and Sceptre Scholarship Society, Extension classes for Teachers, several Federal Relief projects and as usual, the Annual St. Augustine's Conference for Clergy and Church Workers, including a Young People's Conference.

In our Church life we have continued to emphasize the ideals of the Forward Movement and have made liberal use of its literature. Fifteen were confirmed by the Bishop. The Easter Communion was the largest in our history as was the Lenten offering for Missions which amounted to about \$375.00.

Such Church organizations as the Woman's Auxiliary, both Senior and Junior Branches, the Laymen's League, the Altar Guild and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew have continued to function well. We are also making each year an effort to keep in contact with those who have been confirmed in recent years in the College Chapel by sending them a Lenten letter and suggesting Passion Sunday as a day for attending a Communion Service and renewing the promises of their confirmation. In the college department which has been making steady growth emphasis is being placed on individual guidance through a system of personal advisers. We note with satisfaction that the Dean of the College, Charles H. Boyer is this year celebrating the fortieth anniversary of his connection with St. Augustine's. We wish to congratulate him on his many years of faithful service in which he has upheld high standards for the Institution.

The extra-curricular activities have continued to develop. The Choral and Dramatic clubs have done well while in athletics we have continued our efforts to increase interest and participation in more varied forms of physical exercise and lessen the traditional emphasis on intercollegiate competition especially in football. One of our students made an especially brilliant record in track events.

A Student Council has been organized and encouraged to prepare itself for really useful functioning. It is hoped that it will develop into a valuable feature of our student life. The graduating college class has made a gift of a handsome stone seat for the campus. The Alumni Association has been showing new signs of vigor and enthusiasm. It is engaged in an effort to raise a Loan Fund for deserving students. A live and wise organization can do much to help the college.

Through aid received from the General Education Board as the result of efforts of the American Church Institute for Negroes the College has been able to add to its science equipment and to purchase additional books for the Library. This is one bright spot in what is a rather gloomy financial outlook. We are becoming more and more painfully aware of the fact that the College cannot be adequately maintained or developed on its present income. We are trying to operate on an appropriation from the National Church through the American Church Institute for Negroes that has been reduced practically 50% in the past four years. Unless by a restoration in our appropriation, by additional endowment, or by both, our operating income is substantially increased the College will continue to lack financial stability and its slow but steady decline is inevitable. I believe that some plans should be formulated looking toward definite action to increase sub-

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