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NATIONAL CAPITAL NEWS

Zion at Last Comes into Her Own.— New John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church Dedicated.

By NAPOLEON L. WYCHE.

The week beginning Sunday, December 13, 1914 was an occasion of much rejoicing among the colored people as well the Zionites of this city. This joyousness was caused by reopening of John Wesley church at its new home at 14th and Corcoran streets, N. W. The church is the most valuable church property owned by the colored people in this city, and being centrally located, is easily reached from all sections of the city. The location is ideal because there is no Methodist church in the neighborhood and plenty of home-buying, thrifty and intelligent Negroes surrounding the environments of the location. This is not only the greatest move that Zion has undertaken, in this the capital of the nation, but the greatest undertaking in the whole church.

The pastor, Dr. W. C. Brown, who spared no pains in this effort of securing this property and to whom praise will be ever given for the progressive and optimistic, christian spirit, manifested in the deal, preached the first sermon in the church. The weather, did not keep back the friends and members who wished to worship for the time in this new church. Rev. Brown is at all times a good, eloquent and logical preacher, but on this occasion excelled himself and made all present feel the effects of his sermon. The choir with 45 voices furnished music. Those seated on the program were Bishop A. Walters, Dr. J. E. Mason and Rev. W. H. Clinton.

Persons connected themselves with the church. Several subscriptions were given at this service among the subscribers were Bishop Walters, \$100. Mr. J. C. Overton, \$100, Hon. J. C. Dancy, \$25, Dr. J. Ed. Mason. There were several others who subscribed \$5.00 and less.

At 3:30 o'clock p. m., Bishop Alexander Walters dedicated this church to the worship of God after a sermon, which made all happy. The Bishop was in his usual happy strain, but seemed to be more so at this time, as he received dedicated and gave back to the membership this great church. Drs. Oliver, Cooper, Brown and J. Ed. Mason of Zion, and Drs. Watson and Hawkins of Bethel were seated on the rostrum.

At 7:45 o'clock p. m., the vested choir of John Wesley church one of the most famous choirs of the city, under the capable leadership of Prof. H. S. Fortune, rendered a song service. The voices were well trained and the manner in which it acquitted itself caused Bishop Walters to say that he had heard choirs all over the United States, but none compared with this one.

Every night during the week, the program committee had furnished entertainment for the members and friends of the church.

Judge W. L. Norris, of the Department of Justice, spoke on Monday night on the "Immortality of man." He had a fine audience to hear him; but owing to the weather not the crowded house that was anticipated.

Tuesday evening, the Baptist and other Denominational churches were represented.

Wednesday evening the Glee Club of Howard University, under the directorate of Mr. C. H. Wesley, gave a program that was fine and elated all who were fortunate in being present.

Thursday evening, Business Mens Night brought out a very good audience, Mr. S. W. Rutherford, secretary of the National Benefit Association, was master of the ceremonies. The speakers Messrs. J. W. Lewis, president of Industrial Savings Bank, Mr. S. W. Rutherford, Dr. Julian H. P. Coleman, and Dr. Logan Johnson. This meeting brought before the Negroes of the city the necessity of doing business and helping others of the race along this line.

Friday night, was Methodist night. Not only was Zion church well represented but nearly every church of Methodism was represented by their big guns.

Sunday morning, the Sunday school reopened with quite a few new members and visitors. Bro. Grant, the District Sunday school

superintendent, was present, and spoke, also Prof. S. M. Dudley, ex-supt. of Union Wesley, spoke of the great field the Sunday school covered and urged all to attend this important branch of the Christian Church.



NEW JOHN WESLEY CHURCH, CLINTON, D. C.

Sunday December 20, 1914, Dr. G. C. Clement, ex-pastor (proem) of Galbraith church and editor-manager of the Star of Zion, was the preacher for the morning services. He spoke of the inability of Bishop G. W. Clinton, who was to preach at 11:00 a. m., to be present at this time, but gave all good cheer when he said that Bishop Clinton would fill the engagement in January. Dr. Clements moral support was a great factor in the bargaining and purchasing of this new church property, and the whole membership welcomed him and was enthused with his sermon. He is always welcomed to come to the city and the churches that heard him while pastoring at Galbraith. Quite a number of people were among the membership both in the morning and evening when Dr. Clement again preached. Those who heard this master speak declared the sermon one of the best ever heard. It is the consensus of opinion that Dr. Clement will be made a Bishop in 1916. Let us hope for a more brilliant man cannot be given the sacred honor.

At 3:30 p. m., Dr. J. Ed. Mason, Financial Agent of Livingstone College, who had been with the pastor Rev. Brown from the opening, was the principal speaker at a mass meeting for men at this time. Despite the weather the church was well filled and Dr. Mason proved to all who had never heard him before that he is a great orator and a concise and eloquent speaker and Hon. J. C. Napier was Master of ceremonies at this service.

The church for the first week raised \$866.37 in cash, and \$242.00 in subscriptions, making an amount of \$1108.37 as well as supplementary reports to the same already reported. From all appearances we have every reason to be happy and thanking God we are.

Those directly interested in the sale of 18th St., property were the pastor Rev. W. C. Brown, C. P. Brooks, N. H. Armstead, N. L. Wyche, Dudley Banks and John W. Banks, trustees and S. M. Dudgey, F. F. Johnson C. Jeckson and G. R. Ringgold advisory Committee to the trustees, and Warren N. McDonald, church clerk whose photograph—appear in this issue also may be mentioned the various auxiliaries of the church, the brilliant attorney, Grand Master Wm. L. Houston, and scores of friends who aided the pastor, trustees and members in this movement.

John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church was organized as a society to worship God in the year of 1849 with

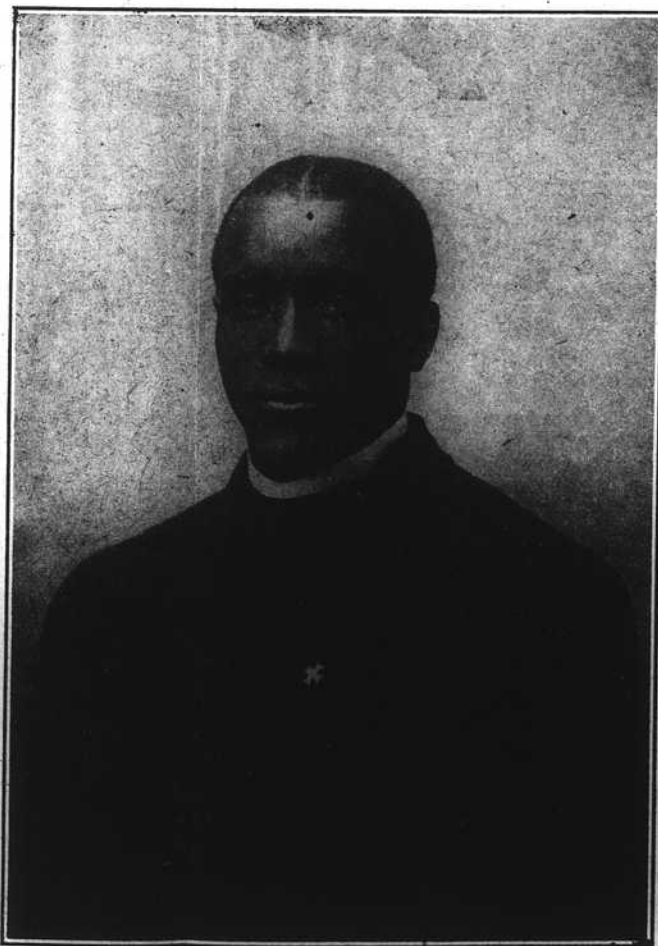
a few friends at the home of John Brent, Eighteenth and L. Streets. The society remained here for two years, and in that time it grew so rapidly that sponsors decided to organize a church. The society purchased property on Connecticut Avenue, for which they paid \$240, and erected a one-story-and-basement building at a cost of \$600. They moved to this property in 1851, and two years later erected another story, which remained in-

ert, J. J. Clinton, J. P. Thompson, S. T. Jones, J. B. Small and John Wesley Smith—all deceased. Bishop Smith's death was the last one to occur, and his funeral was conducted in this church.

The ministers who pastored in Connecticut Avenue were Revs. Abraham Coles, J. B. Trusty, N. F. Turpin, J. H. Hamer, H. F. Butler, Nathaniel Stubbs, Sampson Talbert, S. T. Jones, John V. Givens, S. T. Henry, G. W. Bosley, S. S. Wales,

until the church was sold. The remodeling and addition cost \$1,100. This property proved to be very valuable, as the city decided after many years to make it one of its most fashionable thoroughfares, and this property, bought for al-

J. W. Smith, J. P. Thompson, Jesse Cowles, W. A. Cypress, J. A. Williams, J. B. Small, B. J. Bolding, R. H. G. Dyson, D. H. Anderson, R. A. Fisher, J. J. Clinton and J. H. McMullen. Those who have pastor-



REV. W. C. BROWN, PASTOR OF JOHN WESLEY.

most a pittance, had advanced in value to an extent that the business interests offered a high price for it and it was sold. The church then bought on Eighteenth Street, under the pastorate of Dr. B. J. Bolding, in 1902. The Eighteenth Street property was bought from the Berean Baptist Church and remodeled, and John Wesley remained there until it decided to awake to its opportunities.

John Wesley Church has had at different times six pastors, who later were elected to the bishopric. These were Bishops Sampson Tal-

GREETINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

By BISHOP GEO. W. CLINTON, D. D.

Ministers and members of the Fourth Episcopal District, it gives me more than common delight to send you words of greeting and some suggestions which I hope will prove beneficial to you in your endeavors to perform the duties of the New Year to which we have been brought through the goodness and mercy of our gracious Heavenly Father.

The year which has just passed into history shall ever be memorable for its varied and notable happenings.

It was a year in which the Church passed through a very trying ordeal in both home and foreign fields.

Our Zion, like other branches of the Christian Church, experienced unusual struggle and more than ordinary strain.

The unexpected and large decrease in the price of cotton upon which so many of our people depend for their revenue, and the great European war which caused gloom and depression to overshadow the civilized world, and affected every interest in which the well being of humanity is concerned, caused a considerable fall off in our church finances, and tested the strength and stability of our institutions.

There is cause for rejoicing, however, that the grand old Church has successfully passed through the crucial ordeal, despite the unfavorable conditions above mentioned. Some of the Conferences of this district did well, others fell far below what was expected of them, and what might have been accomplished had all the pastors been more prompt and faithful in carrying out the resolutions of our Church at an early period in the year, and had some observed the rules of integrity in handling the funds after they were collected by them.

I wish to extend congratulations to all who did their full duty, and best wishes to all who endeavored to do their best.

The acquisition of new societies, the repairing and remodeling of old churches, the building of new churches, the reduction and canceling of debts prove that we have zealous and faithful pastors, loyal and devoted members. For all that you have done to strengthen and extend the borders of our Zion, and enlarge the Kingdom of our Redeemer. I give praise to God and extend congratulations to you.

And now, as we enter upon the work of the New year, let us all resolve to do more and better work along every line that will push forward the Campaign for the spiritual and general betterment of the people whose leaders and teachers we are.

I take pleasure in offering the following suggestions to all who are workers together with God in the Fourth Episcopal Dist.

1. That the pastor and membership plan early for a revival in every Church of the district.

2. That each pastor organize his forces and make the revival a subject of prayer and watch for a seasonable period for launching a protracted meeting. While organizing and planning pray, preach and urge every devout member to pray and work to the end that "the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" and men, women and children shall repent and be converted and have their sins blotted out."

3. Impress upon the people that the greatest need of the world, the most pressing need of each individual is deliverance from sin and a consciousness of right relations with God, that those who seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness will have all other good things added unto them." Pray for, work and expect a great revival.

4. Urge our members who are Christians, especially those who are heads of families to make Bible reading and family prayers with all members of the family present a daily practice.

5. Persuade our members and congregations to practice the go to Church Sunday plan a regular habit, and to be as punctual in attendance and to be systematic in giving even though the amount given may be small sometimes. System, regularity and faithfulness always

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