

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

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A UNIQUE CHURCH.

From The Charlotte Observer.

Probably the most unique church in all of America is to be found in North Carolina. Greensboro is its home and "The Church-by-the-Side-of-the-Road" is its name. It has been the talk of the country and the results of its endeavors are being closely watched, not only by church people and church workers but by those interested in social work and community work, for this church in reality is a community church, and it indulges in community endeavors and attempts to bring its parishioners closer to the church and closer to one another. That it has succeeded is evidenced by the fact that when it took up this work, it was about to perish for want of a congregation. Now it has one of the most flourishing fields in the State.

In 1904, it was the Bessemer Avenue Presbyterian church and had been founded for the express purpose of serving the community which had grown up around an old finishing mill. Shortly, however, the mill closed down and the congregation drifted to other fields and the church was left high and dry.

Owing to the strategic position of the church, however, it was decided by the Presbyterian ministers that it should remain where it was and accordingly the matter was laid before the Presbytery. A committee was sent to look the situation over and it agreed with the ministers. Then it was moved to a site on North Elm Street where it became the North Elm Presbyterian church.

At this time about half a dozen families had moved to that portion of the city and had allied themselves with this struggling church. From then on it kept growing until soon the congregation exceeded the capacity of the little church.

The congregation then began to look for a still newer and larger site, and finally got one just a short distance off North Elm Street. The lot fronted 300 feet on Second Street running through to Third with a similar frontage on that street. On one side was Carolina Avenue, 600 feet, and the same distance on the other side is Virginia Avenue. Thus, the lot was 300 by 600 feet.

When the lot was laid out and the church building placed, it was found that there was ample room for a lot of activities never before undertaken by a Greensboro church. Accordingly provision was made on the back side of the lot for a most excellent baseball diamond and a full size baseball and football field. Between the church building and this athletic field are the courts for tennis, basket ball and volley ball. Between the church building and Carolina Avenue is the playground which is being equipped with the best, most modern equipment obtainable. A short distance west of the church building is to be a wading pool for the smaller children and across a grass court a little farther west is to be an out-door swimming pool with locker rooms and shower baths. The margin of the entire strip around the lot will be planted with lines of red oak trees. It will be one of the beauty spots of Greensboro besides a great community asset. All of these recreational facilities together with the services of a community nurse will be open to the public, to anybody who wishes to use them, subject to such regulations as may be necessary to safeguard them from abuses. Playgrounds, athletic fields, etc., will be adequately supervised.

Besides its athletic activities, the church has a herd of "community cows" which are loaned

out from time to time to needy families with which every church comes in contact. These herds are kept in the best of condition in collaboration with the city and health departments. This one feature probably has attracted more nation wide attention than any other activity it had undertaken.

The pastor, Rev. Wade C. Smith, is one of the most indefatigable workers in the cause of the church and he, along with A. W. McAllister, who is credited with being the originator of the idea upon which the church is run, are given credit for the bigger part of its success. Mr. McAllister is a well known insurance man of Greensboro.

Mr. Smith, before going to Greensboro, was editor of Onward, the Presbyterian young people's paper, published in Richmond, and came to be pastor of the church even before he had been ordained as a Presbyterian minister. One prominent Presbyterian cleric defined him as "the most versatile man I have ever known."

Mr. Smith himself probably sums up the church and what it is better than anyone else could do it. In his own words:

It is not an institutional church. It is like any other church. It is an ordinary church with a definite community program.

The church has a four acre lot, 300 by 600 feet, a double block fronting on four streets. The church regards this lot as its most valuable asset. There was the usual temptation in the outset to put everything in an imposing church building, but it was wisely decided that there were other things of greater importance and that less pretentious buildings would suffice temporarily.

The church lot contains, besides the temporary buildings, that is the church proper, men's hut, and young people's hut, the following: a fully equipped supervised playground and athletic field, which includes two excellent tennis courts, playground apparatus and an ample baseball and football field combined. A playground director is employed for all his time, and he also renders valuable assistance in other departments of the work of the church.

A community nurse is employed all her time.

A night school.

A home nursing class.

A community herd, consisting of, at present, three community cows. The cows are rented at \$1 per week to families with children, but no cow. Community cow No. 1 furnishes milk for a family in which there are eight children. Community cow No. 2, six children, and community cow No. 3, five children. The \$1 per week accumulates for the purchase of other cows.

The church is endeavoring to minister to the existing community needs. The result is that it has become the center of the recreational and social as well as the spiritual interest of the community.

The spiritual is the dominant note of the church, to which everything else is made contributory. This is the evidence:

Every department of the church organized for evangelistic work.

Increase in membership in two and one-half years from 34 to 230.

Family altars established in 42 homes out of a total of 88, and 100 tithe of nearly 50 per cent of the church membership.

This church has expressed its aims or purposes in the following terms:

"The all-inclusive aim of this church is the spiritual aim. A

church must be spiritual first and foremost and forever. A second aim is that the Christian life of this church shall be a full life, an abundant life; and that it may become not only the religious but the social and recreational center of the community in which it is located; and that it may be an uninterrupted influence, a constant well-spring of happiness by being a going concern seven days in the week, continuously active and helpful, serving God and man. A third aim is to be a friendly church, a democratic church, a church of common ground upon which men and women can meet as equals before their common Lord, a church whose standard of precedence shall be neither worldly goods nor so-called social position but that of Christian character, and service."

This reason is given for the adoption of the name: "The Church-by-the-Side-of-the-Road."

We know that there was at least one who deserved to be called the Friend of Man and that he lived by the side of the road. We know that best Friend of man went about doing good, healing the sick, restoring his sight to Blind Bartemaus, all by the side of the road. He bade the multitude sit down in companies and He ministered to them by the wayside. His house was by the side of the road. He went from place to place, by the well, the mountainside, the roadside. His church was by the side of the road. And as we labor together for the extension of God's kingdom on earth, let it be our concern and our prayer continually that our church may be so filled with the spirit of Christ, may have such an atmosphere of friendliness and helpfulness; may radiate such genuine, whole-hearted neighborliness and kindness that it may be in very truth "The Church-by-the-side-of-the-Road."

and religious zeal. He makes the people sing.

The party went to Rice church on May the 11th and continued there through the 17th. The interest was duplicated there in the old gospel being given a new setting as only Dr. Mayle can give it. So many said at each of the fields visited: "I never heard the gospel so powerfully preached." At Rice more than 20 persons professed faith in Jesus Christ. Twelve decided to join the Baptist church, two went to the Methodist church and six joined the Presbyterian church.

The interest was at white heat on Sunday night when the services closed. The people were anxious for the meeting to continue another week, but Rev. Mayle had to leave for the General Assembly at Columbus, Ohio.

The prayers of the people will follow this man of God, and they will all will delight the news of his early return to each of the fields visited.

W. C. H.

ST. JAMES CHURCH GREENSBORO.

By Mrs. W. J. Jones, Reporter.

Sunday, May 24, was observed as Woman's Day in the church. Mr. Charles H. Ireland (white) was the speaker for the morning services. Mr. Ireland's subject was "A Dream." His address was beautiful, very picturesque and full of instruction. An appreciative audience listened to Mr. Ireland, and each one gave him a warm handshake of welcome as he left and invited him to come again.

A special program was arranged for "Woman's Day." Mrs. Chas. Walker and Mrs. Walker (white) gave talks to the ladies during the evening. Mrs. C. K. Brown gave an instrumental selection. The Female Quartette rendered a beautiful selection. This movement goes forward to aid in the 2000 ft. Drive in the interest of the church as a whole. The Day was a very successful one.

Mrs. Edna Hunter and Mrs. Pearl Jordan will give a House Party on Friday evening in the interest of the "Drive." All are asked to be present.

Mrs. Edna Hunter, of Asheville, entertained the Ladies' Aid Society on last Thursday. Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

Mrs. A. S. Alexander entertained on Thursday past. It was a business meeting. A number of ladies were present. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served.

The Christian Endeavor Society is progressing nicely. I think that their motto must be "Unity," for they pull together so well. Too much praise cannot be given these young people.

A Birthday Party was given May 18th for Mr. Edward Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Jones, 317 N. Beech St. There were 42 young people present and many were the gifts. The home was beautifully decorated with fern and white and pink carnations. Miss Blanche Taylor and Miss Marguerite Diffay served at the punch bowl.

Mr. R. L. Smith, of Durham, was a visitor in our church on Sunday.

Mrs. G. Andrew Bridges was called to her home a few days ago on account of the death of her brother, Mr. Ralph Wade, of Wilkesboro. Miss Clara Wade stopped over with her sister in passing through.

Prof. I. M. Martin, of Richmond, Va., passed through the city last week enroute to Gastonia. It is rumored that Gastonia is to be his new home.

REV. MAYLE CONDUCTS EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

Mr. Editor:

Kindly give publicity to the following news: Evangelistic services conducted at each of Rev. W. C. Hargrave's churches in Tennessee.

The Synodical Evangelist, Rev. W. W. Mayle, Synod of East Tennessee, came to the St. Luke church, April the 20th, and continued in services there until April the 29th. It was in a true sense a revival; but it was more. Christians were aroused from a state of lukewarmness and indifference to a state of spiritual fervor and activity in the Master's vineyard, and sinners yielded themselves to the reign and rulership of Jesus Christ.

Nineteen persons ranging in age from seven years to thirty-five, professed faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Thirteen were admitted to full membership in the St. Luke church and six went to the Methodist church.

From St. Luke the evangelistic party came to the Bethel church and opened a campaign April 29th and continued to May 9th. The power and demonstration of the Spirit could be witnessed here as at the other church. Eleven persons made profession of their faith in our common Lord and Master. Nine of these joined Bethel church. One each went to the Methodist and Baptist churches.

A special feature of the services at St. Luke and Bethel was the meetings held for children in the afternoon, two days each week. These services were largely attended by the youth of the community, with a sprinkling of older persons in the audience. Another feature of the services was the singing which was conducted by Prof. S. H. Buchanan, who is filling a needed place in the program of the evangelist. Prof. Buchanan is full of life,

FROM WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

Dear Mr. Editor—Very seldom any publicity is given concerning the activities of our churches and schools West of the Mississippi River. But allow me to state that the churches and schools are progressing in this part of the moral vineyard.

It was my privilege to visit the field of Rev. H. M. Stinson, D. D., on the first Sunday of this month (May) at Cotton Plant and to preach the annual sermon to the graduating class of Cotton Plant Academy. The weather was ideal for the occasion, and the people of Cotton Plant and vicinity took advantage of the same. On the morning of the date mentioned, at 11 o'clock, the church was filled to its utmost capacity by eager hearers. Such an audience was a source of inspiration. The appearance of the graduating class, seated on the front pew, was indicative of rare school training. And we were told that every member of the class is a member of some church. The music rendered by the choir was above the ordinary, and added much to the inspiration of the services.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock the Christian Endeavor Society rendered a program, and was addressed by Mrs. E. C. Harris, of Little Rock, Ark. As her custom is, she entertained the society and visitors with edifying remarks which provoked loud applause.

The night services were largely attended, and as much enthusiasm was exhibited as was during the morning services.

On Monday night the Primary children appeared on the scene. Each child performed his part well, and reflected credit on the teachers and school.

Tuesday night was a high night. It was occupied with drama and music by the advanced pupils. This program came up to the expectation of those who know the past record of the school.

On Wednesday night a musical program consisting of violin and piano music was rendered by the music classes. Permit me to say: it was fine enough to charm the most savage ear.

So much for what has been said respecting the above, which was simply preliminary.

Now comes the real night—graduating night. This sounded big to those who were successful in reaching this mile post. Although the programs of the other nights were fine, the program of the graduating class was the finest on Thursday night. The orations and essays were as fine as any we have heard on similar occasions. To hear them would make one predict a bright future for every one of the class who has come thus far on the intellectual and moral race course of life.

Another thing significant about the class: The whole class is so stimulated that it expects to toil still upward on the ladder which it has built, round by round, until it reaches the heights which great men have reached and kept.

Rev. E. C. Haines, D. D., of Little Rock, delivered the annual address. It was appropriate and eloquent, and also contained food for thought.

Rev. Dr. Stinson and his co-teachers are doing a telling work at Cotton Plant. On each night mentioned above the school auditorium was crowded. The school is progressing along the lines of literary and industrial pursuits. The enrollment of the last scholastic year was larger than ever. The literary and industrial training which Rev. Stinson received at J. C. S. (Biddle) University peculiarly fits him for the field in which he is

laboring so assiduously. May he and his faculty live long to render service to humanity.

G. E. CAESAR,
Little Rock, Ark.

TWENTY-ONE STATES HAVE CHOSEN DELEGATES TO N. A. A. C. P. DENVER CONFERENCE.

Night Pageant and Daytime Parade to Open Sessions.

Delegates from 21 States have already been appointed to attend the 16th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Denver, Colorado, June 24-30 inclusive. The States already represented are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming. Delegates' credentials are now being sent out by the National Office.

The list of prominent speakers who are to address the gathering is constantly being increased, the latest additions being Representative Leonidas C. Dyer, sponsor in Congress of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Editor of The Crisis; Mrs. Florence Kelley, Secretary of the National Consumers' League; Dr. George W. Lucas, President of the New Orleans Branch, N. A. A. C. P.; and Scipio A. Jones, of Little Rock, Arkansas, who will give a complete account of the court victories won by the N. A. A. C. P. in the Arkansas peonage cases.

A preliminary list of speakers and their subjects at the N. A. A. C. P. Conference with important additions to be made in Denver: Address of the Rev. Judge Ben B. Lindsey: Will probably refer to his recent victory over the Klan.

Ex-Governor William E. Sweet, of Colorado.

Clarence Darrow of Chicago.

Prof. H. Adolphus Miller, of Ohio State University: "Science vs. Pseudo-Science on the Race Question."

Representative L. C. Dyer, of Missouri: "Should Be Amended to Eliminate Filibustering."

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, of New York: "Modern Industrialism and the Negro."

Scipio A. Jones, of Little Rock: "The Arkansas Fight Against Residential Segregation."

Charles Edward Russell, of Washington, D. C.

William Pickens, Field Secretary N. A. A. C. P.

James Weldon Johnson: National Secretary N. A. A. C. P.

On the night of Tuesday, June 23, a pageant of welcome is to be staged in the Denver Municipal Auditorium, and on the afternoon of June 28, a parade will be held in the Streets of Denver with floats and decorated automobiles and banners. The opening mass meeting of the Conference occurs the night of June 24.

An appropriation of \$250 toward the expenses has been made by the City Council of Denver with the concurrence of Mayor Stapleton.

All delegates and visitors to the Conference are urged to send their names at once to the N. A. A. C. P. National Office, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, in order that suitable accommodations may be arranged.

Subscribers who owe the paper are asked to send in their subscriptions without further delay. The paper is in urgent need of the money due.