

Africo-American Presbyterian

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

VOL. L. CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1928. NO. 31.

STATE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION ARE WORKING TO IMPROVE SYSTEMS

By Leo. M. Favrot
Of the North Carolina Department of Education, in The Norfolk Journal and Guide.

It is gratifying to record the fact that practically all State departments of education in the South are systematically working on State programs for the improvement of Negro education. Attention has already been called to divisions of Negro education in State departments. In the beginning none of these divisions were financed by the States, even in part. Now, however, some of the States are sharing in paying the cost of these divisions. The State of North Carolina is now spending from State funds nearly \$20,000 a year on its division of Negro education. The present trend in State departments, however, is to have every division of the State department and every field worker concerned about the welfare and improvement of Negro schools as well as white schools.

The State Superintendents are seriously concerned about the shortage of adequately educated and trained Negro teachers. In some States, notably North Carolina, the State is providing training teachers in private institutions, in addition to providing for the training of teachers in State institutions. In other States, the training of teachers on a high school level is used as a temporary expedient in an effort to raise the level of scholarship and professional training in backward counties. Florida has supplied a special State fund to help finance the work. In Virginia, serious thought is being given to the advisability of offering one year of intensive teachers' training following high school graduation in a few selected high schools, while in Arkansas, State school officials are turning their minds to the feasibility of establishing in two or three sections of the State branches of the State institution, at Pine Bluff in order to supply a sufficient number of centers for training elementary teachers. Thus definite planning and constructive thought in this field are rapidly supplanting the former go-as-you-please and indifferent attitude.

In the matter of providing public funds from State sources to help bear the expenses of county supervision, Maryland does not stand alone. Virginia contributes from State funds annually for the support of the Jeanes county agents, a larger amount than is supplied by the Jeanes Fund, while North Carolina supplies from State sources nearly as much as the Jeanes Fund. Tennessee pays from State Funds one-third of the salary of the Jeanes Agents in counties. Recent legislation in Alabama provides State funds for the salaries of county supervisors to be apportioned under such limitations as to insure adequate service where the need is greatest. Some counties will qualify for a Negro county supervisor the first year. Mississippi needs only a slight change in its law, a change which it is contemplated will be made at the current session of the legislature, to enable several counties now needing and desiring the services of Negro county school supervisors, to employ them.

In the field of secondary education, too, the outlook is brighter than it has ever been. Mention has made of the effort to accredit and standardize Negro high schools. In States where State aid is high schools is given, Negro high schools are sharing each year to an increasing extent in this fund. State funds are available in Georgia and Alabama to assist in the development of at least one high school in each county. In Texas and

Oklahoma provisions under State law for the high school education of Negro children are such as to insure ample opportunities for children completing the elementary grades in both city and country.

It is far from the purpose here to leave the impression that Negro public education has attained high goals or achieved notable ends. There are high points of progress, but it is only too true that in many sections of the South almost nothing has been done to make Negro schools better. Other sections are only beginning to awaken to the needs in Negro education. Nearly everywhere school revenues are inadequate, often pitifully so. In numbers of places public sentiment is still woefully indifferent. But notwithstanding these adverse conditions, there are significant indications of genuine interest and constructive effort and these indications are found at points of strategic importance. Along with the active county and city superintendents leadership in State departments of education is a growing local leadership in the offices of county and city superintendents, and an increasingly able and efficient number of Negro educational leaders laboring and sacrificing unceasingly in behalf of the advancement of the Negro children. Each passing year leaves stronger evidence of an increasing purpose to bring about, through a growing spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation, a system of Negro public education in the South worthy of American enterprise and perseverance.—The Bulletin.

CATAWBA SCHOOL OF METHODS NOTES

By Frank C. Shirley

A steady stream of registrations is pouring into headquarters. The prospects were never brighter for a large and representative delegation. Many of the leading churches of the Synod that have always had large delegations to the School of Methods are this year surpassing their former record. For instance, Calvary church, of Wilson, N. C., has already registered 15 delegates and the prospects are bright for additional delegates. Brooklyn church in Charlotte has registered 5 delegates representing as many organizations in the church. Blandonia at Sanford sends 7 registrations and asks for additional cards to register others.

The Boys' Camp project is shaping up fine. Our only regret is that we must limit the number because of the limited equipment that we have at our disposal. Among the churches that will have representatives at the Camp are Biddleville, Calvary, Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn, Blandonia, Timothy Darling, St. James, Holbrook Street and Davie St.

Our Convention music has been fine in the past, but this year it promises to be better than ever. Dr. Long, the musical director, with the assistance of Mrs. B. G. McMillan, of Sanford, is planning for the Convention an excellent musical program. All those who play string or wind instruments are requested to bring them when they come so they can join in with the Convention orchestra.

(Continued on page 2)

CENSUS OF RELIGIOUS BODIES-1926

African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Washington, D. C., July 19, 1928.—The Department of Commerce announces that, according to the returns received, there were in the United States 2,466 churches of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1926, with 456,813 members, as compared with 2,716 churches and 257,169 members reported in 1916. The difference in membership between 1926 and 1916 does not represent an actual growth in this denomination, as furnished on the same basis. At the data for both periods was not the census of 1926, all members including all baptized persons were reported, and in 1916 a large number of pastors reported only "dollar money" members.

The total expenditures for 1926, as reported by 2,464 churches, amounted to \$4,757,066, including \$4,091,023 for current expenses and improvements, \$662,993 for benevolences, missions, etc., and \$3,050 not classified. The total expenditures reported by 2,641 churches in 1916 were \$1,700,737. The value of church edifices (including furniture and equipment), as reported by 2,370 churches for 1926, was \$18,515,723 which may be compared with \$7,591,393 reported by 2,475 churches in 1916.

Of the 2,466 churches reporting in 1926, 650 were located in urban territory (incorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more) and 1,816 were in rural areas. Of the total membership, 193,926 were in the urban churches and 262,887 in the rural churches; and of the total expenditures 649 churches reported \$2,576,570 and 1,815 rural churches, \$2,180,496. The value of church property reported by 615 urban churches was \$13,451,618 and that reported by 1,755 rural churches was \$5,064,105.

Sunday schools were reported by 2,429 churches of this denomination in 1926, with 45,087 officers and teachers and 267,141 scholars. The number of officers and teachers in the Sunday schools as reported for 1916 was 18,982 and the number of scholars, 135,102.

MARKING TIME AT HOT SPRINGS, ARK.

Though our work has been afflicted for some time with manifest neglect and indifference of its membership, valiant efforts are being put forth to infuse new life and enthusiasm in its corporate being. Outside of the hearty cooperation of Dr. and Mrs. Mebane and two faithful women the minister has no other dependable assistance for constructive plans for the church's progress. True it is that financial conditions are distressing at this time of the year, but there is abundant opportunity for more industrial life, manifest interest and active co-operation in the welfare of the church. The members of every other church, excepting ours and the Episcopal church, are busily entertaining in one way or another, raising funds for their expense budget. This "grand pair" seem perfectly satisfied with their names and the boast of help from their Boards.

Just now money is being raised to repair the church building, especially in the necessary roofing, so as to make it fit for service. At present, through the courtesy of Dr. Mebane, our services are held in the school building. The response to the needy call is very slow and feeble.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Thom with Misses Stinson and Mayle, en-

route to Camden, Ark., for evangelistic meetings, were guests for a night of Dr. and Mrs. Mebane. The occasion brought forth many pleasant memories of past associations from their deep recesses.

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Savage are here enjoying the benefit of these medicinal baths. Mrs. Stinson, of Pine Bluff, is in our midst also for similar benefit. They acknowledge and indicate that they are manifest of their improved health.

A few days ago a lively company of graduates and students with another assembled around a heavily laden table of delectable, relishable and palatable foods, in commemoration of Dr. Mebane's birthday. Knowing the impropriety of such, the public does not expect the writer to say which anniversary it was. Wit, humor and pleasant memories of memorable pastimes in school and various church assemblies punctuated the celebration with pleasurable delight.

The several schools were represented as follows: Lincoln—Mrs. Savage, Mebane and the writer; Johnson C. Smith, Mr. Alvin Caviness; Scotia—Mesdames Mebane, Stinson and Riddell; and Barber College for Women—Miss Thelma Christmas, still a student. Mrs. Mary Chambers, aunt of Mr. Caviness, completed the happy circle. The outstanding picture of the group was the "Lincolmites" who dove-tailed each other in their educational careers. Dr. Savage finished leaving Dr. Mebane, and he, in due process of time, finished, leaving the writer.

C. H. UGAMS.

YOUNG PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS MAKING GOOD

It was my pleasure while attending the Ministers' Conference at Hampton Institute, Virginia, a few weeks ago, to make a few side trips to visit my old college friends, being accompanied by Mrs. Murray and D. Talmage, Jr., dreams of long ago are now being fulfilled because while in college we often talked about the future—how we were to visit each other in our big churches, and look back over our college days. However, I might say that these days are just a little different from what we thought they would be.

Our first visit was at Norfolk, Va., where we spent a few days in the home of Prof. and Mrs. J. R. Dungee, Sr., and Rev. and Mrs. F. D. Nance. Rev. Nance is the successful pastor of our church in Norfolk, and is pushing Presbyterianism to the front because Norfolk is truly a Baptist city. Mrs. Nance is a splendid young woman and is deeply interested in church work and is sparing no pains to make her husband's ministry a success.

From Norfolk we journeyed to Newport News, Va., where we spent a most delightful week in the lovely home of Rev. and Mrs. J. Metz Rollins. Rev. Metz is pastoring my ideal of a church—not only the beautiful building, but the fine Christlike spirit that prevails throughout the entire membership. It was said by one of the leaders at the Hampton Conference that the educated layman is a great hindrance to the church. While some of the brethren said amen! some of us thought otherwise. Rev. Rollins' session is constituted of educated laymen, and these men are working with whole heart and mind for the development and progress of the church. Rev. Rollins is wonderfully blessed in having a wife who is intensely interested in his work.

From Newport News we journeyed to Washington, D. C., where we spent another delightful and happy week because we

were at home with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Pearson, the parents of Mrs. Murray. They are very influential members of Tabor Presbyterian church, of which Rev. R. A. Fairley is pastor.

Rev. Fairley preached for three years in the Y. M. C. A. building after leaving the seminary to a very small membership, not becoming discouraged he labored on with faith in his work; so today they are worshipping in a beautiful brick structure with a membership of more than two hundred. He, too, is blessed with having a splendid wife, who is assisting him in his life's work. All of these young ministers are making good, doing much to spread Presbyterianism on their respective fields.

D. T. MURRAY.

Harbison College, Irmo, S. C.

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WINS AWARD.

Denver, Colo., July 24, 1928.—The Glenarm Y. M. C. A. School, the only Vacation Bible School for colored children in the Presbytery, won highest award in the recent exercises held in the fashionable Central Presbyterian church after a four weeks' period during which time more than forty schools were conducted under the supervision of the Commission on Christian Education.

The work of two pupils, brother and sister, Vera and Harrison Duncan, attracted the attention of the director, Miss Esther Von Reuceau and the other instructors of the various schools. Both young people made perfect score in the difficult memory exercises covering the whole scope of work of the school, consisting of Bible verses, songs and patriotic exercises, together with creditable attendance and deportment records. This showing was noteworthy in view of the fact that few of the schools produced a single perfect entry in the competition, and the successful contestants were awarded a handsome token as the gift of the Presbytery.

The Glenarm School won second place in the track and field meet, being defeated by only one point at the annual outing held at City Park.

HOLMES CHAPEL CHURCH, MONTICELLO, ARK.

It has been some time since the readers of the Africo-American Presbyterian have heard from us at Monticello, Ark.

Since our great Church this year is emphasizing evangelism, we thought some might be interested to know how our field has been affected by the spirit. Dr. Sandy Thom did not get to us at Monticello, but we had with us Rev. W. W. Mayle, who conducted evangelistic services in the evenings, while Rev. C. N. Shropshire held Daily Vacation Bible School in the day. We closed up this period of Bible School and evangelistic meetings with communion services on July 22. We baptized 6 persons and had 15 additions to the membership of the church.

Most of these members came to us through the influence of our mission work. Our church has done school work in this community 40 years and the field is whitening to harvest.

The church and school work hand in hand; they live for each other. We have a live, energetic, growing Sabbath school. We want you to rejoice with us for this ingathering of souls, and May the Lord add others, for the future is still encouraging for us. Pray for us at Monticello, Ark.

Yours in His name,
MRS. W. H. CARROLL.

HIGH POINT CHURCH CELEBRATES THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASTOR.

The 5th anniversary of Rev. C. A. Washington as pastor of Cherry Street Presbyterian church at High Point is being celebrated with exercises which began Sunday, July 29th, and will continue through Monday evening, August 6th. The program follows:

Sunday, July 29th, 11 A. M. Annual Sermon.
Music, Cherry Street. Combined choirs.

Sunday, July 29th, 3:30 P. M. Deacons, Deaconesses and Pastor's afternoon.

Church Street Presbyterian church and choir, Salisbury, N. C. Rev. J. M. Moton preaches.

Monday Night, July 30th. Elders' Night.

Brooks Memorial M. E. church and choir. Rev. W. E. Hairston preaches.

Tuesday Night, July 31st.

Deacons' Night.
St. James Presbyterian church and choir. Rev. H. C. Miller preaches.

Wednesday Night, August 1. Superintendent of Sunday School.

Morris Chapel M. E. church and choir. Rev. W. L. Ash preaches.

Thursday Night, August 2nd. The C. E. Society and the Guild Society.

The Second Congregational church and choir. Rev. J. A. Bobber preaches.

Friday Night, August 3rd.

Ladies' Missionary Society.
St. Stevens A. M. E. Zion church and choir.

Rev. C. W. Carver preaches.
Sunday, August 5th, 11 A. M. Sermon by the pastor.

Sunday, August 5th, 3:30 P. M. Pastors' and Deaconesses' Afternoon.

Grace Presbyterian church, of Winston-Salem, and Shady Side Presbyterian church, of Lexington, and congregations and choirs. Rev. Dr. J. A. Bonner, of Grace church, preaches. Rev. Dr. W. J. Rankin, pastor of Shady Side, will read the Scripture and pray.

We are extending an invitation to all the churches in the city of High Point to come and worship with us in all of the services.

Monday Night, August 6th.

A reception will be given at the church for all the members of the church and our friends. The roll of the members of the church will be called at the reception. All services at night begin at 8 o'clock P. M.

Officers:

W. M. Torrence, Clerk of Session.

Deacons—D. N. Moore, W. M. Paige, A. Carpenter, W. L. McCain, Chairman; Theo. Boger, Treasurer; A. Snipe, Secretary.

Elders—H. R. Keno, C. W. Robinson, C. R. Robinson, Dr. L. L. Campbell, Andrew Stevenson, L. B. Kearns, A. R. Graham.

Deaconesses—Mrs. W. M. Torrence, Mrs. A. Carpenter, Mrs. L. Simson, Mrs. W. H. Saunders, Mrs. A. Stevenson.

Presidents of Auxiliary—Mrs. W. M. Paige, the Guild Society; Mrs. L. Simpson, The Ladies' Missionary Society.

Mrs. Daisy Alexander, Christian Endeavor.

Elder L. L. Campbell, Chairman of Program Committee.

Rev. C. A. Washington, Pastor.
Dr. J. C. Morgan, Supt.

The church has raised seven thousand fourteen dollars and twenty-six cents during the present administration. One hundred and twenty members have been added to the church. There have been only five deaths in the five years Rev. Washington has been here, and twelve officers have been ordained.

Pray that God will continue to bless these good people and that we may have more courage, more faith to work.