

## Hundreds Gather at Opening of the New \$90,000 M. E. Church in Asheboro

### House Warming Held Last Friday Night When Members and Friends Gather.

### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES MARK THE GATHERING

### First Sermon Was Preached in New Church Last Sunday—Methodists Rejoice.

Last Friday night, December 18th, a year and forty hours since the Methodists of Asheboro and their friends gathered at the site of the new church to take part in the impressive ceremonies attendant upon the laying of the cornerstone, these same Methodist Episcopal church members and their scores of friends gathered to participate in a house warming in the finished building. Not all of the more than five hundred members of the church were there last Friday night to rejoice in the opening of the new \$90,000 edifice on the corner of North Fayetteville and Salisbury streets, but all were there who were not prevented by something over which they had no control, and what was lacking in number of Methodists was made up by Christian people of other denominations of the town who came to rejoice with their brother Christians.

It was an occasion long to be remembered by the Christian people of Asheboro. All the worry and the work and the waiting which the members of the church and the various committees having charge of the construction work were forgotten in this hour of rejoicing. They came together in good fellowship and to show that they were not the only people to be glad, a large portion of the population of the town turned out to extend the warm hand of fellowship.

Mrs. Sulton B. Stedman presided at the magnificent new pipe organ at the ceremonies held in the main auditorium, which, although large, was made to appear inadequate by the crowd of happy people who jammed it full Friday night. Rev. W. H. Willis, the pastor, who has been tireless in his efforts to see the new church an accomplished fact, presided.

The spacious main auditorium rang with the refrain from "All Hail The Power of Jesus' Name" and again to the notes of "Joy To The World," both of which were sung by the choir and congregation.

Mrs. W. A. Underwood read Dr. T. C. Walker's historical sketch of Asheboro Methodism which appears in this issue and which every member of the church should read and cut out for future reference.

Rev. A. W. Plyler, a former pastor of the church, and the man who was instrumental in the building of the old church structure, was there and responded in his usual pleasing and effective way to call of Mr. Willis. He told of the building of the old church and related many incidents of his pastorate in Asheboro. It was very gratifying to this beloved pastor to see the church in Asheboro grow to its present proportions and to be present on the occasion of the house warming in the new church. Ministers of the town, Rev. J. E. Pritchard, of the M. P. church, Rev. C. L. Gregory, of the Friends church, and Rev. Cotran G. Smith, of the Presbyterian, also expressed their appreciation of the new church building and extended their congratulations to the M. E. denomination. Rev. B. E. Morris, pastor of the Baptist church, was unavoidably prevented from being present.

Following the exercises in the main auditorium, the congregation was dismissed and instructed to take a look over the new church and to hear Miss Nannie Bull's junior choir in the basement. Judging from the rapt attention with which the people who filled every available seat in the Sunday school room listened to the exercises, Miss Bull's junior choir was not the least of the attractions on the program.

At every Sunday school room teachers greeted their students and the guests. All the rooms were included in the inspection tour, including the boiler room and the kitchen.

Refreshments, consisting of sandwiches and coffee, were served by the ladies of the church. Following the refreshments all joined in singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds."

Sunday morning the first sermon was preached in the new church. Mr. Willis took as his subject "The Perfumed House," taking his text from that beautiful incident related in the Bible in which Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with the box of alabaster. Just as the perfume of the alabaster and the great love of Mary for the Saviour filled the room in which Jesus and his disciples sat in Bethany, just so, said Mr. Willis, did the perfume of the great love of the Christian people of Asheboro fill the spacious auditorium of the new church, a building dedicated to God.

Just as the church was crowded Friday night, it was filled again Sunday morning, this time just a year from the date of the laying of the cornerstone. Every seat was filled and chairs had to be brought from the Sunday school rooms to accommodate the members of the church and their friends who gathered in attendance of 327 pupils. Every officer and teacher of the school was present.

The special musical program at the church Sunday night closed a memorable in the history of the M. E. church.

## NOT SPACE FOR ALL OF SANTA CLAUS LETTERS

### Santa's Little Friends Responded Wholeheartedly to Invitation to Write Santa.

A number of Santa Claus letters so kindly sent in to The Courier by Santa's many little friends throughout the county will not be published this year on account of the lack of time to set them in type. Then, too, many of our little friends waited until the last minute and their letters could not be published in time for Santa to get them through The Courier.

In order that Santa may be advised as to what his little friends want for themselves and for little brother and sister we are mailing them direct to Old Santa with the suggestion that he bring each of his little friends and ours just what they have asked for. The Courier is grateful for the response of its little friends to the invitation to write to Santa Claus. Last week about ten columns of these letters were published and this week a few. But there are ten columns more that will not be gotten in for the reasons assigned above.

## THERE WILL BE CHRISTMAS CHEER IN THIS FARM HOME

Not long ago a story appeared in the papers of the State telling how a farmer with his family all in his Ford car came to Burlington to do Christmas shopping. His total wealth for the festive occasion was \$10. He unfortunately got into a wreck which cost him \$10, the only money he had. Therefore, he and his family had to return home with no hopes for any Christmas cheer for the children.

The identity of the farmer was not learned. A number of people in the State reading of the plight of the family began to inquire as to their identity. Police officers and others in Burlington got busy and found out their names. Now, the children will be made happy by a visit from Santa Claus, for the farmer has been reimbursed for his loss. Dozens of people sent checks for \$10, all being anxious that his children should have Christmas cheer along with the other children of the country.

## RECENT RAINS BREAK DROUGHT

### However, Rainfall Is Still Far Below the Average for the Month of December.

The prolonged drought which has held Randolph county in its grasp for the past several months and which has affected the water supply for Asheboro as well as the springs and wells in the country has been definitely broken during the past several days by abundant rains. According to the figures given out by Rev. J. E. Pritchard, who measures the rainfall for his own pleasure and whose figures are always available for the press, the rainfall on Saturday night, Dec. 19, amounted to .50 of an inch while on Monday, the 21st, the rainfall amounted to .70 of an inch. These, together with other light rains during the month, brought the total up to 1.62 inches as against an average for the first 21 days of December of 2.56 inches. The average for the month of December in this section is 3.91 inches, so while the rains have been ample for the present we are still short a considerable amount for the month.

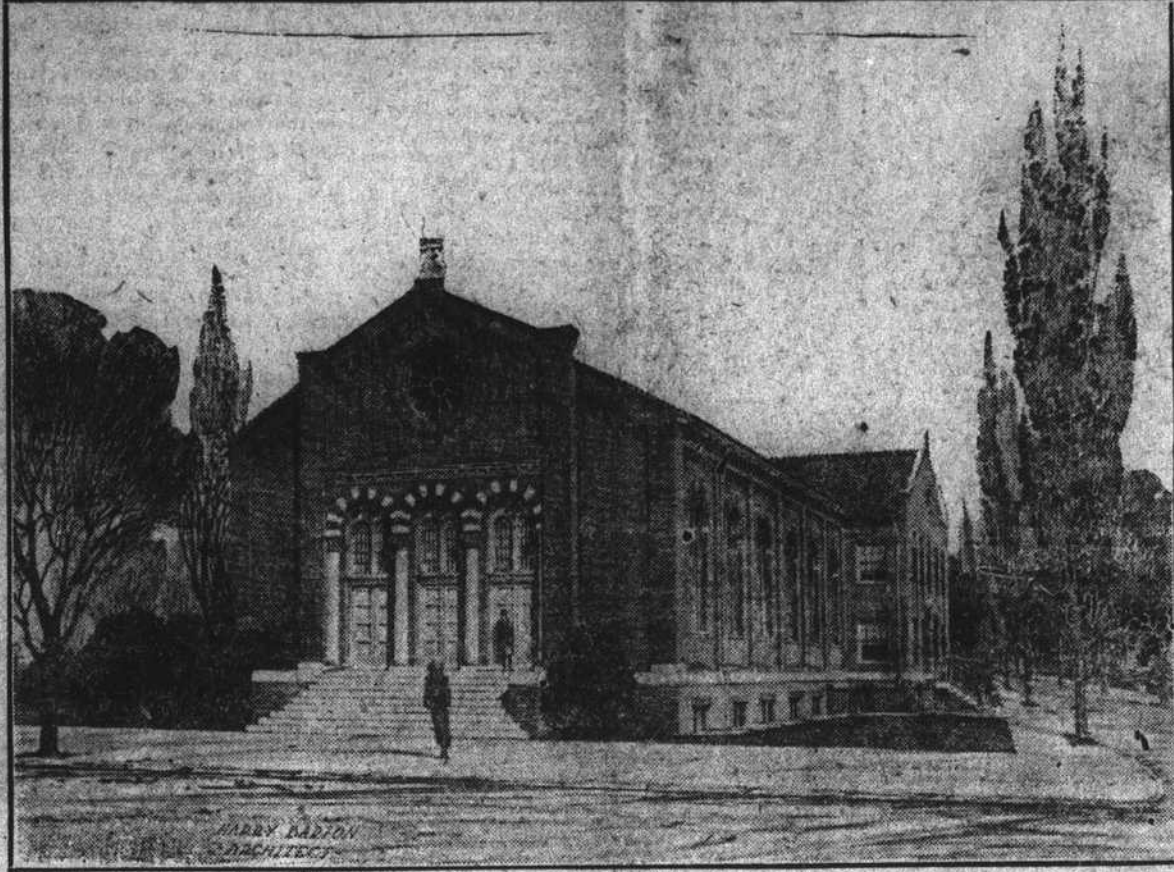
Mr. Pritchard states that according to the figures furnished him by the U. S. Weather Bureau, at Raleigh, as taken from the record kept at Randleman for the past twenty years, the rainfall remains practically the same for the months of December, January and February while there is a slight increase in March. The heaviest rainfall comes in July with an average of 5.99 inches while the lightest is in November with a fall of 2.08 inches.

## OLD M. E. CHURCH BUILDING



The special musical program at the church Sunday night closed a memorable in the history of the M. E. church.

## The New \$90,000 Methodist Episcopal Church, South, At Asheboro



—The Wm. A. Roberts Film Co.

## W. E. KEARNS, OF FARMER, IS DEAD

### End Came Suddenly Monday From Cerebral Hemorrhage—Found at Barn.

One of the sad deaths recorded this week is that of Mr. W. E. Kearns, of Farmer, Monday morning from a cerebral hemorrhage. Mr. Kearns, apparently in the best of health, left his home about 8 o'clock Monday morning to go to Marvin Hammond's, a mile and a half distant, on a business errand. As he did not return at noon time, Mr. Kearns' wife suspected he and Mr. Hammond had gone on a business trip. Late in the afternoon, since her husband had not yet returned, Mrs. Kearns made inquiry at the Hammond's home and learned that Mr. Kearns had left the place at about 11 o'clock for home.

A neighborhood search was instituted which resulted in the finding of Mr. Kearns lying dead near his own barn. The physician's verdict was that he had died suddenly from a cerebral hemorrhage.

Mr. Kearns was fifty years of age. He was married to Miss Clarinda Ellington about 23 years ago and to this union there are two children, Mrs. R. F. Brackin, of Farmer, and Mr. Neal Kearns, of High Point. Surviving also are two brothers, J. O. Kearns, of Farmer, and I. S. Kearns, of Florida; and one sister, Mrs. Roland Kearns, of Caraway.

Funeral services were conducted yesterday at Concord church, Farmer, by Rev. G. W. Clay. A large number of relatives and friends gathered to pay respect to a beloved friend and highly esteemed citizen.

## WILLIAM TROY WARD DIED AT MILLBORO SATURDAY

### Was 71 Years of Age and Long a Prominent Farmer—Brother of J. B. Ward, of Asheboro.

William Troy Ward, aged 71, died at his home near Millboro Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, following an illness which lasted almost three years. He had long been a prominent farmer of his community and had always taken an active part in the affairs of his county.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Alice Baldwin, of Millboro; a son, John Ward, of Morganton; eight grandchildren; five brothers, Arthur Ward, of Elon College; John B. Ward, of Asheboro; Abraham and O. P. Ward, of Liberty; Michael Ward, of Millboro; and a sister, Mrs. Bennie Ward, of Greensboro.

The funeral services were held from Gray's Chapel Methodist Protestant church Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock and interment was made in the church cemetery.

## By Team Work and Individual Effort The Asheboro Episcopal Methodists Build Church

The report of C. C. Cranford, treasurer of the building committee of the new Methodist Episcopal church, in Asheboro, shows the total cost of the church, its fixtures and furnishings, amounts to \$92,580.94. This sum, when the members of the church consider what they have for their money in the way of material things, not counting the satisfaction of the spiritual, is considered well spent. The new church is one of the finest, if not the finest, of its size in the State. Every department of church work is taken care of in a manner that is befitting to larger churches and congregations in larger towns.

All members and officers of the church have worked diligently to make the church an accomplished fact. They have not spared money, time or effort. Individual members in many instances have gone beyond team work and have made individual donations worthy of record. Each Sunday school class, unless furnished by some individual, contributed to furnishing its individual room. The

## WISTER PRESNELL DIES FROM FRACTURED SKULL

### Fell Out of Truck on High Point Road and Was Fatally Injured—Funeral Sunday.

Wister Presnell, son of Mrs. Callie Presnell and the late Wiley Presnell, of the Seagrove community, died in Memorial hospital, Asheboro, Saturday as a result of injuries sustained Friday morning when he fell from a truck on the Asheboro-High Point road about nine miles south of High Point.

Mr. Presnell was riding on the seat by the side of his brother Fitzhugh, who was driving, when he noticed that the radiator cap was about to come off. He climbed out on the fender to tighten the cap and as he was screwing it in place his hat blew off. He threw up his hand to catch his hat, lost his balance and fell to the asphalt fracturing his skull and sustaining other injuries from which there was no hope of recovery. He was brought to Memorial hospital, Asheboro, for treatment.

Mr. Presnell was 31 years of age and unmarried. He resided with his widowed mother and was engaged in farming. In addition to his mother, he is survived by two brothers, Fitzhugh and Dewitt, and two sisters, Mrs. Melvin Pierce and Mrs. Vernon Chriscos, all of this county. The funeral service was conducted at New Hope church last Sunday.

## RANDLEMAN YOUTH IS VICTIM OF ACCIDENT

Another victim of the many automobile accidents in the county in the past few days is Mr. Shields Dicks, of Randleman, who is in Memorial hospital suffering from injuries sustained in an accident at Seagrove Saturday. Mr. Dicks and his brother were in a roadster driving north toward Asheboro when the accident occurred at the railway crossing just north of the town. The car in making the curve across which the railway runs followed the rails, throwing Mr. Dicks out of the car. He sustained injuries on his head and body. His brother was not injured.

## Miss Anna Gregson Married

Mr. W. J. Gregson, of Spero, announces the marriage of his daughter, Miss Anna, to Mr. Homer A. Lourel, the event taking place at Newlano, La., on November 26. The young couple will make their home at that place.

Mr. Gregson is spending the winter at Newlano and other points in Louisiana.

Frank A. Munsey, aged 71, who rose from farmer boy to one of the biggest publishers in the world, died at a hospital in New York Tuesday from peritonitis.

## M. L. WINNINGHAM DEAD AT AGE 67

### End Came Last Friday at His Home Near Central Falls—Long Prominent Citizen.

Malpheus Ludolph Winningham, aged 67, one of the county's best citizens, died at his home near Central Falls last Friday afternoon following an illness of about a year. The end was not unexpected since Mr. Winningham's condition had been critical for the past two months.

In 1880 Mr. Winningham was married to Miss Emma Rothella York, who survives him. He is also survived by one brother, K. L. Winningham, of near Asheboro; and by six children, who are Mrs. W. I. Myrick, of Troy; Mrs. Charles W. Reeder, of Asheboro; James R. Winningham, of Atlanta, Ga.; John B. Winningham, of Asheville; Artemus B. Winningham, of Central Falls; and Amos R. Winningham, of Okeechobee, Fla.

Mr. Winningham had lived in Randolph county all his life and was known and respected by a large circle of friends. He was a good farmer and a progressive citizen. To an unusual degree he saw the humorous side of life and this fact made him the center of attraction in whatever company of people he happened to be in.

About a year ago Mr. Winningham suffered a stroke of paralysis and since then had been in feeble health. About two months ago he suffered another stroke and since that time his condition had been critical.

The funeral service was conducted at Giles' Chapel M. P. church by Rev. J. F. Pritchard, pastor of the M. P. church, in Asheboro, assisted by Rev. G. H. Hill, on Sunday morning, December 20th, at 11 o'clock, and burial was in the cemetery nearby. A large number of people from this and surrounding sections were present to pay tribute to the memory of this splendid citizen.

## G. T. TOWNSEND IS HELD UP AT POINT OF GUN

### Was Cutting Holly Boughs When Confronted by Armed Men and Forced to Run.

Held up at the point of a gun, cursed and abused and told to run for his life was the experience of G. T. Townsend, citizen of Liberty, Sunday afternoon while he was cutting a piece of holly from a tree in the woods in the southern edge of Guilford county. Townsend had stopped his car in which were his wife and children and had proceeded a short distance in the woods to get some holly for Christmas when he was confronted by three armed men, who asked him his business.

He was cursed and abused, according to his statement, and ordered to walk for some distance through the woods before the armed men and then told to run. This he proceeded to do and ran straight for his car at that time about a mile and a half away.

Greensboro officers Monday arrested Charlie Clapp, young white man of the community, and he was identified as being one of the trio by Mr. Townsend. Mr. Clapp, however, denies the charge.

## NEARLY 2000 BALES OF COTTON GINNED IN CO.

Report from J. S. Ridge, special agent for the Department of Commerce, shows that to date there have been ginned in Randolph county 1,995 bales of cotton of the 1925 crop. Last year at the same date 1,568 bales of the 1924 crop had been ginned.

Expect City Delivery  
Thomasville is expecting to get its next improvement free city mail delivery. The city manager and the other town officials have begun the direction of the work of numbering the houses in town. A number of streets have been improved recently. The new postoffice building is expected to be ready by Feb. 1st, next.

## Promised Improvements On Highways 70 and 75 Will Mean Much to Randolph

### THIS CHRISTMAS BEST SINCE THE WORLD WAR

### Peace on Earth, Except in Isolated Instances—America Prosperous This Year.

Every indication is that this will be the best Christmas this old world has experienced since the beginning of the great war, if not the best in the history of time. Old Santa Claus when he makes his rounds this Christmas with his reindeer and sleigh will find America "wearing the top hat and patent leather pumps of prosperity in jaunty style." The situation on the Old Continent is somewhat improved.

France is still bothered with the decline of the franc. England has the unemployed problem on her hands. But with the signing of the Locarno pacts there is a spirit of peace in the air that overshadows all these troubles and holds out encouragement for the Yuletide season.

The traditional Christmas dinners are being prepared all over the world. The call of home has been heard and days ago the homeward trek started. From fireside to community hearth the call of Christmas is evidenced in an unparalleled effort to carry the spirit to others not so fortunate. Preparations have been made to carry the cheer of the holiday season to the needy, the poor, the forgotten inmate and the waif. The Hand of Charity has gone deep into the pockets this Christmas.

Peace on earth hovers over the earth except in a few isolated instances. It is a season of the year when hearts are warmed and old animosities are forgotten in the spirit of good will and fellowship.

## SKULL IS FRACTURED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT

Mr. M. G. Maner, of Asheboro, sustained painful and somewhat serious injuries last Saturday when a car in which he was riding on the Coleridge road left the road when the driver, Roy Yates, lost control of it, and ran into a tree. Mr. Maner suffered a fractured skull, wrenched arm and other injuries. Yates was not hurt. Mr. Maner was brought to Memorial hospital, Asheboro, for treatment and was later removed to his home.

## LEE WOOD DIES FROM INJURIES

### Died Last Friday and Funeral Held Sunday—Was One of Best Bricklayers.

Funeral services of the late E. L. Wood, who died December 18th from injuries received in an automobile accident, were conducted at Mt. Lebanon M. P. church, Randleman, last Sunday morning.

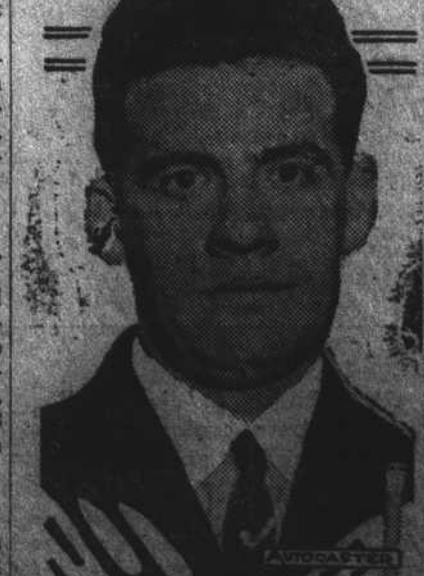
Mr. Wood was 75 years of age. He is survived by his two sons, W. O. Wood, of Lexington, and A. L. Wood, of Hamlet; and by three daughters, Mrs. W. C. Henley, of Morehead City, Mrs. C. H. Spencer, of Hamlet, and Mrs. John Cook, of Randleman.

The tragic death of this excellent citizen cast a pall over the town where his entire life was spent, and the large gathering of friends and the elegant and numerous floral offerings attested the respect and esteem in which he was held.

Mr. Wood had a wide reputation as a bricklayer, and his services were in constant demand. In his prime he was known to lay no less than 2500 bricks in a day of ten hours, a record rarely, if ever, matched. He built the large brick storehouse belonging to the late E. A. Moffitt, of Asheboro, years ago, and was connected with the construction of almost every other large brick storehouse in the county.

The county deprecates the loss of this useful citizen and splendid man.

## New Cue Champ



Here is Edward Borenman, Seagrove cue sensation whose skill wrested the World's Billiard Crown from the brow of young John Sheaffer. This is the same crown that Willie Allege held for many years. They met!

### Present Plans Call for More Paving on 70 and Completion of 75 to County Line.

### WILL OPEN UP SOME OF COUNTY'S BEST SECTIONS

### Elwood Cox Says Contract Will Be Let at Next Letting of Bids by Commission.

Assurance from Frank Page, State Highway Commissioner, that Route 70 would be paved all the way from Asheboro to the Moore county line and Route 75 built and topped off from Asheboro to the Davidson county line, and the additional assurance from J. Elwood Cox, fifth district commissioner, that these contracts would be let at the next letting of contracts, caused a feeling of satisfaction and pleasure in the county last week.

Route 70 has already been paved from Asheboro to the county home and the contractors are at work and have been for the past several months building the road from Seagrove to the county home. The best that had been expected on this stretch of road was sand clay treated with an oil dressing. Now the assurance that the road will be paved makes the people of the county who are good roads enthusiasts almost jubilant. It had appeared that the county would get little hard surface except those roads which served as feeders for Greensboro and High Point.

Assurance that Route 75 will be built from Asheboro to the Davidson county line is no less interesting and reassuring than that which is in store for 70. This central highway from Raleigh across the State is one of the most important roads in the State. People of the counties traversed have long known this and an organization as well as individuals have been working for the past several months for this highway. At last, it seems that the highway commission has been convinced that the completion of this route is of paramount importance. Already through a loan to the highway commission it had been rebuilt from Asheboro to the Chatham county line. To the west Davidson county commissioners had loaned a large sum of money to the commission with the understanding that a large share of it should be spent on 75. Other parts of the route have also had attention.

The building of this route, which its advocates say, should be hard surfaced, and which will probably be done at some stage in the commission's work, will not only furnish a bee line across the State and make Raleigh and other points east many miles nearer the growing towns and cities in the central and western part of the State, but also will relieve the congestion on No. 10, and last, but not least, open up one of the most prosperous sections of Piedmont North Carolina, a section whose potentialities cannot be estimated by the present generation.

Certainly, so far as roads are concerned, roads that are to be built by the State highway commission, Randolph county is getting some very interesting Christmas news. When these roads are completed, intersecting as they do at Asheboro, this town should be the beneficiary of some of that additional prosperity which good roads bring to any town or city lying along the route. The river towns should also come in for their share of the additional business and civic development.

## NORTH CAROLINA AGAIN LEADS IN AUTO DEATHS

Thirty-nine persons were killed in the South last week in automobile accidents and 227 others suffered varying degrees of injury. Some of these are expected to die.

North Carolina with seven deaths led all the Southern States while Georgia had the largest number of injuries, 49. There were 39 injured in this State. Florida and Mississippi reported 2 deaths each.

## M. P. CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

On next Sunday morning, Dec. 27, the pastor, Rev. J. E. Pritchard, will preach a new year's sermon. It is earnestly hoped that there will be a goodly number present to receive suggestions for starting the year in the best possible manner. There will be no evening service as the congregation will join the congregation of the M. E. church in their new church building.

A beautiful pageant setting forth the ideal of Christmas as given in story and song was rendered by the young people of the church last Sunday evening under the direction of Miss Kate Bulla. Solo parts were taken by Mrs. Hal Walker and Miss Maude Lee Spoon. An offering was taken for the various Boards of the church.

## CLARK-PIERCE

Miss Sirona Pierce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Pierce, of Asheboro, was married Saturday, Dec. 19th, at the home of J. A. Neighbors, the officiating justice of the peace, to Mr. Roy Clark, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Clark, of Greensboro. The bride was given in marriage by her father and had in her train several bridesmaids.