

## Religious Groups Welcome Minister At Union Service

### Rev. S. J. Starnes Enters Upon Duties As Pastor Methodist Church

Rev. S. J. Starnes, a prominent figure in the Methodist conference for the past fifteen years, entered upon his new duties as pastor of the local Methodist church last Sunday, the several religious groups welcoming him at a union service held that evening. Rev. John L. Goff, pastor of the local Christian church; Rev. James H. Smith, Baptist minister; Rev. J. W. Hardy, of the Church of the Advent; and Rev. Z. T. Piephoff, Presbyterian minister, participated in the service, and the several denominations were well represented despite unfavorable weather conditions. Rev. B. Duke Critcher, a member of the conference and a son of a leading member of the local church, was also present for the service.

Choosing his text from the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John, and the seventeenth verse, "For their sake I sanctify myself that they might sanctify themselves and know the truth," the new pastor delivered a strong and forceful sermon, after expressing a full appreciation for the warm and brotherly welcome accorded him and his family.

Stressing a spiritual consecration, Rev. Starnes declared that when the principles of Jesus predominate, the individual becomes a new creature and old things become new. "Truth is the greatest need of the world today," he said in challenging everyone to live his very best that a more abundant life may be enjoyed. "In this complex world, man can solve the problems through the principles of Christ, and it is the business of the Christian to set standards for the world and not to follow the standards of the world. Success in life is not by accident; it comes as a result of consecration to the things in which we are engaged."

Declaring that the home is looking to the church and school to handle the religious training of youth, the minister said, "Only as God is incorporated in the home can that home have a successful life." He added that parents must consecrate themselves to that task and send their children out prepared for a useful service. "Don't treat that task lightly, for success attends those who earnestly consecrate themselves to their tasks," Mr. Starnes pointing out that the neglect of religious training of youth and the failure of the parent and school to consecrate themselves to their tasks is offering a new danger.

In conclusion, the minister said, "We should be willing to sanctify ourselves to insure a future for our children."

## Bear Hunts Again Claim Attention

Bear hunting, almost relegated to the background by the nimble sportsman in recent years in this county, is again in the limelight, reports stating that the old Dymond City area has been crowded by hunters and dogs during the past several week-ends. Quite a few shirt-tails have been expertly trimmed and six bruins have fallen victims of the gun in three hunts to date.

Losing his shirt-tail a little over two weeks ago, Hunter Mendenhall arranged with the washerwoman to have the same shirt ready for the next hunt. The loss of two shirt-tails was just too much.

Sheriff Phipps and Murray Bimbo, of Greensboro, were down last week-end to get a prisoner and while in the county they did a little bear hunting out Dymond City way. The officer saw a big bruin fighting the dogs, but fearful of hitting the dogs the sheriff did not shoot. The bear, weighing more than 300 pounds, was killed by Charles Moore a short time later. Sheriff Phipps was reported to have traded a hunting coat for the animal's hide. The officer and Mr. Bimbo, an old schoolmate of Warren H. Biggs at Oak Ridge about a half century ago, greatly enjoyed their hunt in the county and plan to return.

## Suit Started For Opening Up Alley Back Of Hotel

Suit was started in the Martin County Superior court last Saturday by Coburn and Coburn, town attorneys, for opening an alley between the Simpson property on Smithwick Street and the Geo. Reynolds Hotel.

A right-of-way has been deeded to the town by the owners of the remainder of the property over which the alley will cross.

## Aged Colored Woman Is Buried Here On Sunday

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon in the Disciples (colored) church on East Main street for Lizzie Ashley, respected colored citizen. A native of Craven County, she had made her home here for more than 35 years. She was 74 years old.

## Thanksgiving Holiday Will Not Be Observed Uniformly

The uniform observance of Thanksgiving as a holiday is out of the question this year in this and other states where the governors deemed it unwise to upset the football schedules and proclaim a day of thanksgiving to coincide with the one proclaimed by the president a short time ago. As a result some will enjoy a holiday on Thursday of this week, others will continue their usual activities this Thursday and enjoy a holiday on Thursday of next week, and still others will enjoy this Thursday and the following Thursday as holidays.

Local business, while admitting the President's Thanksgiving has its advantages and that a delayed holiday will hardly do more than upset the football schedules, will, for the most part, observe Thursday of next week

as a holiday and offer thanks for the untold blessings enjoyed during the past twelve months.

A double holiday is scheduled for workers in most federal-state offices, including the WPA and Farm Security Administration. Thursday of this week will be observed by the forces of the Williamston postoffice. Other business houses and the Martin Superior court will continue activities according to State schedule.

While it is certain no mail deliveries will be effected in the rural communities, Postmaster L. T. Fowden stated that it might be possible the other departments in the local office will continue their activities this Thursday and observe Thursday of next week as the day for returning thanks to the Almighty.

### MASS MEETING

Hundreds of Martin County farmers are expected to attend a mass meeting in the county courthouse on Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock, when R. C. Holland, president of the North Carolina Peanut Stabilization Cooperative, explains a proposed program for peanuts for 1940. R. G. Arnold, southeastern director of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will also address the meeting.

A special invitation is being issued to all farmers to attend the meeting. "The meeting is an important one," J. P. Woodard, secretary of the county farm bureau, said in announcing the speakers for the event.

## Superior Court In Special Term For Trial Civil Cases

### Jesse Ben Roberson Granted Divorce Based on Two Years' Separation

Convening a two weeks term of Martin County Superior court here yesterday morning, Judge Luther Hamilton, of Morehead City, brought the calendar up to date in a very short time and ordered a recess in the early afternoon, the proceedings of the day attracting comparatively small crowds. At one time, the spectators numbered less than a dozen and the county bar was represented by hardly half its members. There were no high spots in the proceedings for the day, three of the four cases called having been settled by agreement.

The complicated Close case, centering around a dozen or more litigants and involving property of no great value, was compromised, but no judgment was entered immediately in the action.

Jesse Ben Roberson, Robersonville citizen who was nearly killed by his son as a result of a mother-son plot there a little over two years ago, was granted an absolute divorce in his case against Annie Purvis Roberson. The action was based on two years of separation. Mrs. Roberson who was sentenced to prison for a term of five to seven years by Judge Walter Bone in the Martin Superior court in September, 1937, did not contest the action. It is understood that she had planned to apply to the court for alimony, but that feature was not mentioned during the trial of the case Monday.

A judgment by agreement was entered in the case of L. S. Thomas against F. M. Bennett, administratrix the plaintiff taking nothing.

A compromise was noted in the case of Annie G. Powell against R. L. Smith and others, the plaintiff receiving nothing.

The docket today carries no case of particular interest, but there was a sizable crowd present for the proceedings.

## Highway Accident Record

While the soldier on the European war front is enjoying a certain amount of safety, the motorist in Martin County continues to ride with destruction close on his trail. During the week ending Sunday midnight, the accident record continued to grow in the county, incomplete reports recording four accidents, four injured, one possibly seriously and a property damage estimated at \$605. Fortunately death did not hit the trail of motorists in this county, but reports state that the grim reaper was busy on the highways in other sections of the State.

Wet pavements added to the danger surrounding the traveler, an unofficial report stating that a car skidded and in less than a second three persons were injured and two cars wrecked.

A glance at the property loss on the highways shows that the property damage already this year is a fourth as much as the town of Williamston tax levy. The figure does not take into consideration the loss of human life, if human life can be valued, and the cost of hospitalization and doctors' services.

A comparison of records for the week ending last Sunday and for the year prior to that time follows:

	Accidents	Injured	Killed	Property Damage
Week ending Nov. 19	4	4	0	\$605.00
Prior Period	58	53	8	\$11,105.00
TOTALS	62	57	8	\$11,710.00

## Series Of Accidents Reported in County During the Weekend

### Norfolk Resident Badly Hurt In Wreck Near Here Sunday Night

Four persons were hurt, one seriously, and a considerable property damage resulted in a series of automobile accidents in this section over the week-end. Suffering severe cuts on her head and chest injuries, Mrs. Francis Jordan, of 3412 Colonial Avenue, Norfolk, is confined to the Brown Community Hospital here, reports from the institution today indicating that while she is expected to recover her condition was serious. Mr. Morgan while slightly bruised and shocked is getting along all right. James W. Martin, Jr., of 530 Virginia Avenue, Norfolk, driver of the car in which the Morgans were riding, was discharged from the hospital this morning after receiving treatment for a head injury and shock.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Madison, of Washington City and Norfolk, riding in a second car, were slightly bruised but their injuries did not need medical treatment.

Driving toward Williamston from Washington, Mr. Madison was forced to stop when his car ran out of gas at the Station farm about two miles from here. It was raining and he could hardly tell how far to drive off the hard surface on to the shoulder. He had started to reach for his flashlight when the Martin car struck and knocked the car down the road about 15 feet. Martin explained that he was driving about 45 miles an hour as he approached the Madison car, that when he saw the stalled car he was meeting another car and that when he applied the brake his car skidded and tore into the Madison machine. The Martin car made a complete turn and skidded into the ditch, pinning Mrs. Morgan underneath a front wheel. Several men lifted the car off her. First reports stated that a third car figured in the accident, but Patrolman W. E. Saunders explained that there were only two. Damage to the two cars was estimated to be in excess of \$400.

Las Saturday night the cars of Dallas Williams, of Hamilton, and Shep Roebuck, of Williamston, crashed on West Main Street here. No one was hurt but the Williams car was damaged possibly as much as \$40. Damage to the Roebuck car was negligible.

Later that night Thurman Williams, colored man, blinded by the lights of an approaching car as he rounded the bend just before reaching the river bridge, sideswiped and tore down the concrete railing on his right side, swerved to the left and tore through the railing, the car almost going off the bridge. William James, a brother, had his arm cut by spare tire, but the driver and two other brothers were not injured. The body of the car was wrecked, officers estimating the damage to be in excess of \$150.

## Bishop Darst Will Visit Local Church

### By REV. J. W. HARDY, Rector Church of the Advent

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Darst, of Wilmington, will be in Williamston and the county this week-end for his annual visit. He will arrive Friday for a three-day stay with us. We are quite fortunate to have Bishop Darst for this length of time, since he has many demands at this time of the year.

In January, he celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina. During this time he has held many outstanding positions in the national church and at present is one of the most popular bishops in the Episcopal church.

He has served his diocese well in every respect, having placed his hands in confirmation upon the heads of over 7,000 persons during his full bishopric. Today, he is recognized as one of the best preachers in the church.

Bishop Darst will preach at the Church of the Advent at 7:30 Friday night. He will preach again at 11 o'clock Sunday morning and administer the solemn rites of confirmation and baptism. He will preach at Holy Trinity Mission, Bear Grass, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock and at St. Martin's, Hamilton, at 7:30 Sunday night. Everyone is cordially invited to hear the bishop.

## Cotton Ginnings Small In The County To Date

Once a million-dollar crop, old King Cotton has gradually dwindled in importance in this county until today he holds a rating about equal to the collard, a vegetable that is more or less common to eastern North Carolina.

Unofficial gin reports show that only 380 bales of the lint had been turned out by gins in this county up to the first of this month. Comparative figures are not available, but the record this year is believed to constitute a new low for this county.

## Local Tobacco Market Closes Next Tuesday

### Prices Hold Firm As End of Another Season Approaches

The Williamston Tobacco Market will close the season next Tuesday, November 28, the board of trade, in fixing the date, explaining that sales would go forward as usual that day.

While the market has already established an all-time poundage record, the season will not be entered in the records as the most successful one. However, when the large crop is taken into consideration the average price is not so terribly disappointing.

That the market has had a successful season is evidenced in the comparison of poundages sold last year with those sold this season. While there was an estimated increase of 35 per cent in the crop this year over last, the local market sales reflect an increase of 40 per cent. Some few other markets will approximate that record, but for the belt as a whole the average increase will fall under that figure.

Looking at the financial side of the ledger for the two seasons, the local market will have paid out by the close next Tuesday between \$50,000 and \$60,000 more dollars than were received by the growers last year. To get that higher figure, the farmers had to grow nearly four million pounds more of the golden leaf than the amount produced last season.

Up until last week-end, the local market had sold 10,154,854 pounds for \$1,515,204, a resulting average of about 15 cents for the season. These figures compare with those of last season as follows: 6,228,526 pound for \$1,473,046.40, a resulting average of \$23.65.

Sales on the market yesterday and today were firm, several individual farmers stating that their sales were equally as high as any during the season. Unfavorable weather held sales to a low figure, but warehousemen point out that virtually all the tobacco has been marketed in this area, and that the suspension of sales next Tuesday will hardly cause any inconvenience to farmers in this immediate territory. However, fairly sizable sales are expected through next Tuesday when the curtain is dropped.

Tracing the modern development of the South, the film then portrays a world of change, with giant cities and growing towns. Rising industries are shown, based on the vast natural resources. The underlying aim of Cotton was King."

Of the first settlers, it says "They opened up a wilderness. Hill and tableland—and every kind of soil, sandy loams, and clay loams, soils of many colors—yellow, red and black. Every kind of land for any kind of crop, and no frost half the year. A young land and a great people, hardy resourceful and proud."

The film then traces the development of the great agricultural empire of the South. "In 1793, six thousand bales of cotton, Whitney invents the gin—two, five, ten million bales—from the heart of the South. And Cotton was King."

Tracing the modern development of the South, the film then portrays a world of change, with giant cities and growing towns. Rising industries are shown, based on the vast natural resources. The underlying aim of Cotton was King."

## Two Slightly Hurt In Car Accident Near Nashville

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Mizelle, of Windsor, were slightly hurt in an automobile accident between Spring Hope and Nashville Monday afternoon when their car was struck by another machine entering the highway from a side road. They were bruised and painfully but not badly when their car went out of control and turned over two or three times. Damage to the car will exceed \$200. After receiving medical attention in Nashville, Mr. and Mrs. Mizelle continued home. Mrs. Mizelle is the former Miss Alvereta Weaver, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weaver of Williamston.

The driver of the second car pleaded guilty of reckless driving.

## Committees Are Dishing Out The 1940 Tobacco Allotments

Martin County soil conservation program committees—local and county—started yesterday upon the huge task of determining individual allotments for 1940 tobacco farmers. At a late hour yesterday the task in the first township had not been completed, reports from the agricultural building indicating that it will require the committees possibly two weeks or more to go over and study all the records and assign quotas. It is hardly likely that the quotas will be available for the individual growers before about the middle of next month.

Committeemen just recently elected and serving for the first time, were seen scratching their heads yesterday as they pondered the records. With urgent requests for increases on the one hand and no extra acreage to offer on the other hand, they appeared quite puzzled in some instances. Each contract is receiving

## Health Department Seeks Cooperation In Disease Control

### Urges Parents and Others To Report Communicable Diseases Promptly

Diphtheria, scarlet fever, whooping cough, measles and the other contagious diseases can be effectively prevented by the wholesome cooperation of the people of the community where these diseases are likely to break out. It is no disgrace to develop disease of any nature, but it is a disgrace to any community to allow their children to become infected when specific preventives are known. It is the first duty of the parents of infected children to report that disease to the health department, if they have the best wishes of their neighbors at heart.

There have been several specific instances in this county when an epidemic of some communicable disease has run rampant because of a failure to report the disease because other people did not report their cases. This was probably due to the effect that their children would have to miss a week or two of school. If the first case had been reported and preventives measures taken one child might have had to miss a few weeks of school, whereas the whole school became infected and 40 to 100 children had to miss a few weeks each. It is not only sound economy to keep the infected children at home, but the possible disability and death of several children in a community is indeed a tragic thing.

The health department asks the complete cooperation of all parents in the county in eliminating contagious diseases within our boundaries. This can best be done by reporting any and all cases of infectious diseases early, because no health department, state or local, can effectively prevent or control diseases, without knowledge of when, where and under what conditions cases are occurring. We offer these simple suggestions to ridding us of contagious diseases:

1. If a child becomes sick, call a physician immediately. Many serious illnesses can be prevented by starting proper treatment at once.
2. If a communicable disease is suspected report this at once to the health department, or ask your physician to do it. Other members of your family may become infected if you wait too long.
3. Do not allow children who have contacted a contagious disease to go to school. Keep sick children at home.
4. Cooperate in the control of these diseases by carrying out the helpful suggestions given you by the health department.
5. Information is readily obtainable about all diseases from the health department. Pamphlets on any disease will be given you on request.

## Tax Collections Soar Under Levy

Personal property tax collections in this county are climbing daily to new records under the threat of forced levy and subsequent sale at auction of various personal holdings.

Scheduling a second sale in the county yesterday, the officer appeared on the scene without a single article for hungry bidders to bid on. Levying on a dozen or more automobiles and other types of personal property during the past two weeks, the collectors explained that the owners had squared the tax accounts and held the property off the auction block at the last minute. It was the second time in recent weeks that the collector had schedule a sale and the property owners had beat the bidders to the auction block. The drive, apparently armed with biting teeth this year, is being continued in various townships, the collector's office preparing yesterday a long list of personal property accounts against which he will take action within the next few days.

Asked for a report on personal property collections to date, the collector said yesterday that he had been so busy taking in the cash that he had not found time to count it. On the real estate side of the ledger, delinquent taxpayers are squaring their accounts and heading off the sheriff's sale on the first Monday in next month.

Reports from the county auditor, J. Sam Getsinger, collections for the current tax year are coming in fairly rapidly.