

**SOUTH NORFOLK.**

The work here is progressing slowly, but we trust surely. Since Conference seven very useful members have joined us, which increases our membership to fifty-three; most all of whom are deeply interested in the work and are laboring faithfully and sacrificing nobly to build up the Master's kingdom and more firmly establish His church among men. It seems that it is a delightful pleasure for some to contribute their service and of their means to the Lord's work. And the interest here is not confined to our membership alone, but from the pleasant and encouraging words which I hear from outside friends and the frequent visits which they make to our services seems to indicate that they too are interested in the work we are trying to do. We very much appreciate their interest.

The average attendance at all our services has increased more than one-third since we changed to the morning; and the change has also proven very beneficial to the Sunday-school. A deeper interest is manifested by all, and the attendance is much larger. We have now passed the 100 mark in enrollment, and the average attendance is good, especially if we take into account the amount of sickness in the community.

We are looking forward to Easter with a peculiar interest and pleasure because of the promise which Bro. Scholz has made to visit us then and take a part in our Easter service. A committee from the Sunday-school is arranging an appropriate program of music and recitation by the children, after which Bro. Scholz will speak. An Easter Offering will also be taken, and we sincerely hope it will be a liberal one; for our note in the Bank comes due on the 7th of April, and we are planning and working and hoping to be able to reduce the principal \$200.

J. O. Cox.

**HARRISONBURG LETTER.**

Winter with his cold and snow is with us. The weather has been very mild since Christmas until the last few days. Snow interrupted our service at Concord and Mayland last Sunday. The next morning the temperature was at zero.

We had the pleasure a few weeks ago of assisting Bro. Andes in a meeting at Mt. Olivet (R). It was a pleasure to be with those people again. It was our privilege to labor with them for two years. The meeting was well attended and a great deal of interest was manifested. Bro. Andes is well liked by the congregation and is doing a good work among them.

I went to Newport after the second Sunday in January but it rained me out until Saturday night. Bro. Andes came to my assistance and did some clear and forcible preaching which was greatly enjoyed by the church and community. The meeting continued for a week. We trust that the church was much revived. Six members were added to the roll.

We had a pleasant service at Bethlehem last Sunday. The occasion was our regular communion service, in which we used for the first time a beautiful silver communion set which was presented as a Christmas present to the church by a good sister who does her good deeds not for show and therefore does not wish her name published.

One statement in my other letter I wish to correct or rather to explain. The statement was in regard to Woodland church. I do not mean as my other letter would indicate that Woodland was dropped altogether because of the reduction in the appropriation from the Christian Missionary Association. I should have added, "Owing to a lack of interest on the part of the community." The church is unfortunate in its location, being situated right near two other churches. There is almost no hope of building a self-supporting congregation. The people in the community either belong or hold to one of the other churches. We expect to begin our protracted meeting at Concord, Feb. the 19th and at Mayland, March 3rd. We are hoping and praying for a good meeting at both points.

W. T. Walters,  
Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 1, 1907.

The man who loves God and walks with Him has no concern at all with death.—Houghton.

**PORTSMOUTH LETTER.**

We are constantly reminded that time waits for no man. It continues its steady march regardless of our wishes or plans. We have already closed the work of the first quarter of this conference year. I wonder if we have done a quarter of our work. Have we met all our obligations for the past quarter and laid our plans well for the year's work? What have we purposed to do for the salvation of men and all the different enterprises of the church? Have we thought about the earnestness with which we should seek the lost? I wonder if we as Christians are doing our duty along this lone? Recently a great meeting was held in Korea in ten days. It was a wonderful meeting. There were 1,120 public confessions of faith in Christ and this in a land that was totally heathen 20 years ago. The workers went from house to house carrying the message of truth and inviting the people to the meeting. The converts in Korea seek others. They are anxious to know how to lead men to Christ. There were 1,140 men that came to a training class which was announced for the purpose of training Christian workers. The most distant came 390 miles on foot, and it took 24 days to make the journey. The fire of God was evidently burning upon the altar of their hearts. The grand old gospel of Jesus Christ has not lost its power. When given possession of the hearts of men, it still sways them for righteousness and makes them seekers of the lost. Give the Gospel a larger place in your heart.

**Things of Interest.**

Larger congregations, decided increase in the attendance at Sunday school, a goodly number of new scholars enrolled, and also increased collections. Our Thanksgiving offering on the building fund amounted to \$287.41. We enjoyed a visit from Miss Alice True of Japan and raised for the Girl's School \$20. She was greeted by a packed house. We trust her visit among the Churches will do much good.

**Our Building Fund.**

It is growing but slowly. We have placed in this fund during the past year \$750 and the conference \$500, which gives us a total of \$1250 in the fund. At the Annual Conference \$300 was subscribed on this fund and the pastor was authorized to solicit funds throughout the conference. We wish to say that we are ready to receive subscriptions and cash for the building fund of the Portsmouth Christian Church and acknowledge same through the Sun. We must have at least a \$15,000 house and I would like to say a \$25,000 house, but, I reckon my faith is not strong enough for such an assertion. If we as a denomination are going to do aggressive work in the cities we must have well equipped houses of worship. If we are not willing to meet the needs, we had almost as well withdraw from the cities and leave them to others. Our best fields for real aggressive work are to be found in the cities today. Shall we as a denomination refuse to enter these fields, because they are hard and call for the expenditure of large sums of money? Where could we invest our money to greater advantage and profit? Think a moment Christian brethren! If you invest it in great business or commercial enterprises, it will pass to others as soon as you are gone and it may prove a curse to them, but if you invest it in the cause of Christ and the interests of His kingdom, it will continue to bless men after you are dead. In other words you will continue to work for the salvation of the world and day by day your heavenly reward will be increased. What we put in church edifices then shall stand as a monument for God in the earth and a credit to those who have given of their means. Why should it be so hard to get Christian people to invest largely in Christian enterprises? I want to say that we are expecting large help from the conference. We trust many individuals will open their hearts to give a large sum to the work. There are some who could easily give \$1000 or more; others who could give \$500 and still others who could give smaller sums. Brethren, let us have your subscription and we will arrange about the payments later. We are anxious to see our building fund grow. We want to raise the larger part of the money before we build. Who will help?

J. W. Harrell.

Feb. 4, 1907.

**NORFOLK LETTER.**

The Jamestown Exposition which will open here April 26th of this year, is a matter of vital importance not only to our local work, but to the work of the Christians throughout the world. The Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Disciples will each spend thousands of dollars by way of preparation for this event. In addition to what the local congregations are doing, their several state bodies,—and in one instance the national body—are taking up the work, and planning to make a great display on the exposition grounds. Our people have not as yet planned to do anything of that kind, and are not likely to. It is probably very much better that we have not. This is not because we are not as well able to do in proportion to our numbers as the others, but because there is something better we may do. A little more than seventeen years ago, Dr. C. J. Jones of sainted memory came here and began work as a Home Missionary. A little more than five years later he resigned his work, after having organized a church and given it such pastoral care that it grew from seven to three hundred and seventy-three members during his pastorate. The splendid house of worship which was also erected during that time, was called Memorial Christian Temple, as a memorial to the union of the Christians North and South. While the money was not quite all paid for this temple value at \$25,000, it was all provided for before Dr. Jones left. Later, under the efficient leadership of Dr. J. P. Barrett, the young church began to walk forth with the stride of a giant. Never before in the history of the Christians had a church been known to give a thousand dollars a year for Foreign Missions. Since 1900, she has not failed to send up more than that amount. During the last conference year her benevolence reached eighteen hundred and fifty dollars. In a short while we shall (God willing) open a mission Sunday school at Park Place, and later organize a church. That this too may become a church in which the North and the South may alike be interested, we feel that no more opportune time than this year of grace 1908 may be found. Pastors who visit the exposition will be expected to preach at this point; we shall be glad to have them keep us posted as to any of their Sunday school workers who may be visiting the big fair that they may be found, and their interest secured in this work. Our plans for the exposition period are such as to greatly facilitate this work of intermingling with the people from other sections. We shall soon issue a directory containing the names of persons who are arranging for lodgers. It has been our thought that by circulating these directories we could under a mutual service to our visitors and the members of our own congregation. Only members of our own congregation will have their names in the directory, so that those from a distance secure homes in this way may be assured of finding a stopping place with Christian people. People who are secured in this way will in time prove more companionable for our people than would entire strangers. The mutual interests this held by host and guest will be a gain in many ways. Our local people who will play the part of host have been urgently requested to exercise care in the matter of rates. On the one hand, if rates are too low, the guests as well as the members of the families where such guests are received will be exposed to the danger of associating with the vicious adventurers who are looking for cheap lodgings that they may have more to spend in debauchery. On the other hand we hope that the warnings against greed will be heeded, and no unkind advantages taken simply because they have the chance. Any correspondence on this subject, may be addressed to Dr. J. W. Manning, 1214 Bank of Commerce Building, Norfolk, Va.

At our regular Sunday night service last night, a wife and mother made the good confession. She was led to attend services only a short while ago through her little child attending Sunday school. We are hoping to hold a series of special meetings soon.

P. S. Sailer.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 4, 1907.

"Remember, it is looking downward that makes one dizzy."

The regular services have been held in all my churches, with the exception of the 4th Sunday in November, when the service at Pleasant Ridge was called in on account of revival meetings at Union Grove, which began on Friday evening before the 4th Sunday, and continued until the 1st Sunday in December. Rev. E. G. Kilgore, an evangelist of the M. E. Church, was with me until Thursday night, and did the preaching while he remained. Brother Kilgore is a consecrated preacher of the truth. He preached earnest sermons, which were seed sown in good ground.

The immediate and visible results were not as great as we might have hoped, but we believe permanent good was accomplished. Many who had become indifferent were awakened to a new sense of duty and obligation; the earnest and zealous were inspired with greater faith and zeal; sinners were brought to see their lost condition and sue for forgiveness of sins, and were made to rejoice in a Saviour's love. Seven united with the church. Manifestly the Lord was with us and gave us a glorious feast from His bountiful table.

One encouraging feature of the services in all my churches is the large congregations that attend when the weather is favorable. There is, from a human standpoint, nothing more inspiring to a young preacher than a well-filled house on the day appointed for worship. If the people could realize this they would make greater sacrifice to be present at the services and help the preacher by their presence.

Nothing new has developed in our work at High Point. Our people there seem anxious for us to commence building as soon as possible.

A gentleman, who is a member of the Baptist Church, told me that almost everybody would help us build. We want to commence work as soon as possible.

R. L. Williamson.

**TRUITT, ALA.**

We had a sweet service at New Hope last 4th Saturday and Sunday. The weather being inclement many were kept away from church, but those who attended enjoyed the service. The business of the church was transacted in harmony. The committees for the present year were appointed, and I trust we shall move smoothly onward with our work.

Last Saturday and Sunday we held our regular meeting here at Beulah, not many present Saturday on account of rain, but we had a good service.

A fine congregation greeted us on Sunday and the service was inspiring.

The Sunday school was well attended, the Ladies Aid Society held a successful session. I feel sure that good will be derived from our service held Sunday night. The prayer-meeting was deeply spiritual and much good was accomplished.

Let us rally our forces, better, and get ready for work for the year 1907.

God bless you all,  
G. D. Hunt.

**NOTICE, PASTORS.**

A meeting of resident pastors and preachers doing work in the bounds of Alamance Co. State of N. C. of all evangelical Denominations has been called to meet in Burlington, N. C. Feb. 26, at two P. M., Christian Church, for the purpose of organizing a Ministerial Association for the County of Alamance. It is hoped that all clergymen of the several denominations represented who can do so will be present and take part in the organization.

About half of the clergymen in the county are members of the Christian Church, and I sincerely hope those who may be interested in this move will attend the said meeting.

P. H. Fleming.

Within three months the Young Men's Christian Association has contracted with the Panama Canal Commission for the erection by the government of seven buildings in which, when completed, the 5,000 or more young Americans in Panama may receive instruction, entertainment, and helpful fellowship.