

HOW LINEBERGER, A BUSINESS MAN BUILT A GREAT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In Six Years He Brought Central Methodist Sunday School From 150 To 500 Attendance With Average Collection Of \$60.00. How He Put Business Methods In The School.

(By Lee B. Weathers.)

Six years ago Wm. Lineberger was made superintendent of the Central Methodist Sunday school (because the pastor could not get any one else to serve) so Mr. Lineberger says. Before Mr. Lineberger was elected, the pastor, Rev. C. A. Wood was acting as superintendent. Mr. Lineberger got busy, studied and had dreams of a real Sunday school. He went over the work with the pastor and the pastor encouraged him.

A training course for Sunday school workers was to be held at Lake Junaluska that summer. The pastor, Mr. Lineberger and 13 others went to Junaluska and came home with their heads full of ideas. He called O. V. Woosley, conference secretary, Miss Womack his assistant and Miss Kennedy to Shelby to go over the proposition of organizing a departmental Sunday school.

These conference and Sunday school workers came and the local Sunday school workers met with them. It was decided at that meeting to organize.

Three departments were organized: the beginners, primary and juniors. Grading the pupils was done and the work started. Partitions were torn out, rooms made, equipment purchased (against the wishes of many) but the school began to grow, interest was aroused, and in these six years the school has grown from an average attendance of 160 to nearly 500, with 741 on roll including the cradle roll and home department.

At no time during this six years has the Sunday school put on any contests. Securing members is left with each class and department, which has proven to be the best way with the Sunday school. The growth has been steady and the average attendance is fine.

We give below the growth of the Central Methodist Sunday school for 30 years:

30 years ago 77 present, offering 33 cents.
20 years ago, 109 present, offering \$1.62.
10 years ago, 123 present, offering \$4.23.
6 years ago, 180 present, offering \$5.82.

Today the Sunday school has 741 on roll, including cradle roll and home department. Average attendance nearly 500. Average offering \$60.62 Sunday this year.

This record shows that a properly organized and graded Sunday school is the right way. This school is thoroughly organized, having seven departments meeting in their own rooms having their own equipment, including pianos, officers, teachers, etc.

It is an inspiration to go through this Sunday school and observe the fine work being done by the workers.

Mr. Lineberger doesn't take any credit for this growth, but says it is due to the most efficient Sunday school workers to be found. Men and women who are deeply interested in the Christian welfare of the boys and girls. Yet Mr. Lineberger has given Sunday school work much time and



Wm. Lineberger.

A busy business man who takes time enough to be superintendent of the Sunday school at Central church, which his efforts largely built up.

thought. He says six years ago that a Sunday school needed a business

end, and this business end was worked out and put into effect and the results have been that the Sunday school has outgrown its present quarters and is now meeting all over the old church plant and city hall where a class of men meet 248 strong. The Sunday school's finances are in good shape, having an offering of \$3,000 or more a year and yet money is not mentioned before the Sunday school. The superintendent says when a Sunday school is properly organized and the right teaching is done, there is no need to worry about money, for it will come along as the school grows.

Mr. Lineberger says if you want good Sunday school workers, select busy folks, folks who work. The busier they are, the more work they can do, and will do.

Lineberger a Busy Man.

Much credit is due Mr. O. V. Woosley, conference secretary, Miss Womack and Miss Virginia Jenkins for the organization and growth of Central Methodist Sunday school. It is the team work that makes a Sunday school what it should be. The superintendent says that he has worked himself out of a job, by having met a well organized school. Everybody has their job and they do it well.

While the Sunday school has grown under Mr. Lineberger's leadership he has been actively engaged in many other things, being a member of the board of stewards, a trustee, member of building committee also secretary, treasurer of this committee member of conference Sunday school board, trustee Davenport college, director in Methodist Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He is always on the firing line in the different church activities, yet while he finds time for church work, he is active in many business enterprises, being active president of the Cleveland Bank and Trust company, Cleveland Building and Loan association, the Paragon and Arcade Furniture company's and secretary and treasurer and general manager of the Shelby Creamery company. He is also active in the Home Building and Shelby Real Estate companies and other enterprises.

He gives the following officers and teachers with their co-workers whose names are mentioned here as credit for the growth and work being done in the Sunday school.

Officers and Teachers

General officers: Rev. A. L. Stanford, pastor; Wm. Lineberger, superintendent; Fred Baber, assistant superintendent; L. E. Ligon, secretary; L. L. Hennessy, treasurer; Mrs. D. Z. Newton, organist.

Young people, adult department: Mrs. J. A. Anthony, superintendent; Teachers: Mrs. C. F. Sherrill, C. R. Hoey, D. Z. Newton, Chas. A. Burrus.

Intermediates, Senior department:

Mrs. C. R. Hoey, superintendent; Miss Lucy Harmon, secretary and treasurer. Teachers: Mrs. Paul Wootton, Mrs. Iva Erwin Alexander, Mrs. Hugh Betrick, J. H. Grigg, Harry M. Davis.

Junior department: Mrs. M. P. Coley, superintendent; Jack Palmer, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Chas. A. Burrus, organist.

Teachers: Mrs. W. A. Abernethy, Mrs. Wilbur Baber, Mrs. Grover Beam, Miss Bessie Clark, R. E. Lutz, J. O. Lutz, Thad Ford, Rush Thompson.

Primary department: Mrs. Talmadge Gardner, superintendent; Miss Mary Gidney, assistant superintendent; Mrs. W. F. Roberson, secretary and treasurer.

Teachers: Miss Vera Bennett, Miss Mary Hardy, Mrs. C. S. New, Mrs. O. E. Ford, Mrs. Flora Clark, Mrs. J. H. Hull, Mrs. Frank Sanders, Miss Verta Hendrick, Miss Fay Dellinger.

Beginners department: Mrs. P. L. Hennessy, superintendent; Mrs. John R. McClure, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. T. J. Babington, organist.

Teachers: Mrs. J. O. Lutz, Mrs. Thad Ford.

Cradle Roll: Mrs. Ina Sisk Forney, superintendent; Mrs. Z. J. Thompson, teacher.

Home department: Mrs. J. H. Grigg, superintendent.

In the new church the Sunday school will have rooms for the following departments: cradle roll, beginners, primary, junior, intermediate, senior, young people, adult departments.

There are 4 to 10 class rooms in each department in addition to assembly rooms.

A fine workable building for a departmental Sunday school. Arrangements are such that the entire Sunday school can be brought to the church auditorium in 2 or 3 minutes, each department having a separate entrance to enter and can be called by telephone.

Each department opens and closes in its own rooms. Worship periods very interesting, suitable for the different ages.

Men's Class.

The men's class has grown in six years from a membership of 12 to 248 with an average attendance around 165 many times 200 or more present. Hon. Clyde R. Hoey, is the teacher, Walter Fanning, president; Kemp Kendall, vice president; Oliver Anthony secretary, and Evans Shull, treasurer. Ward Arvey is at the head of the membership committee and a live wire always on the job with new ideas. It is often said: "Look out Ward Arvey and his co-workers will get you."

This class will have a room in the new church large enough to accommodate 300 or more members.

An enthusiast is one who makes the best of it when he gets the worst of it.

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