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THE CLEVELAND STAR, SHELBY, N. C.

TUESDAY, OCT. 14, 1924.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

REV. A. L. STANFORD TELLS OF HIS BUILDING PROGRAM IN SHELBY, N. C.

Gives History Of The Beginning Of The \$15,000 Parsonage And \$150,000 Church. Rooms And Equipment In Both Parsonage And Church.

(By Rev. A. L. Stanford, Pastor Central Methodist Church.)

When I came to Shelby in November, 1921 I found what could only be construed as a very promising field for service. The needs were imperative, the opportunities great but the equipment for doing the best work in Sunday school and church was wholly inadequate.

I immediately began studying the situation as carefully as I could hoping that we might arrive at a wise decision as to what ought to be done.

Parsonage Is Built First.

The parsonage was the first task undertaken. Believing that a church like this ought to have a better home for the pastor I called fifteen ladies together and told them that I wanted the women of our church to build a parsonage. After some discussion they unanimously decided to undertake the task. The following Sunday all of the women of our church were called together and being told what the smaller group had decided on they unanimously voted to build. A Building Committee was appointed, architect engaged and plans secured within six weeks.

Description Of Parsonage.

The actual work began in March and in July the home was finished

voted enthusiastically to build. That night a Building Committee was selected. They began functioning at once. They secured the services of an architect and in October ground was broken for the new church on what is easily one of the very best lots in Shelby.

Splendid Arrangement.

Our people have been loyal and as a result of their united effort what is undoubtedly one of the best arranged churches in the South is nearing completion. It is attractive, convenient, commodious. One ground floor is large book room, kitchen, three toilets, Cradle Roll department, beginners department, primary department. Halls for cloaks and hats and place for vacuum cleaner. All the dust from each department will be brought to this place. On the first floor auditorium, Men's Bible class room and office which can be thrown into auditorium giving a seating capacity of about 1,000. Also pastors study, Philathea class room, ladies parlor, library, superintendent office, from which telephones extend from every department in whole church.

Will Seat 1,200.

On the second floor is large Junior department, Intermediate department and Senior department. We can

Plyler Re-Elected Editor Of Advocate

Rev. T. A. Sikes is Again Named Business Manager—Board Pleased With Condition.

The board of publication which publishes the North Carolina Christian Advocate the official organ of the two Methodist conferences of the state, met in the editorial rooms of the Advocate Thursday afternoon to discuss the affairs of the publication for the past year and to make plans for the ensuing year.

Everything pertaining to the Advocate was found to be in a satisfactory condition. According to the reports at the meeting, the circulation and material of the publication has increased remarkably in the last 12 months. Rev. A. W. Plyler was re-elected editor and Rev. T. A. Sikes was re-elected business manager.

D. B. Coltrane, of Concord was re-elected president and Thomas C. Hoyle of Greensboro, was again named secretary of the board. Other members of the board at the meeting were Dr. W. P. Few and M. Bradshaw, of Durham, M. T. Llyler, of Raleigh, H. A. Page of Aberdeen, Frank Lambeth, of Thomasville, Dr. S. B. Turrentine and N. L. Eure, of Greensboro, Joseph G. Brown, of Raleigh, is the only member who was not present.

Pastor Stanford Has A Good Sense Of Humor

Preachers are usually considered a "dry lot," that is by the general run of people. However, there are excep-

ADVOCATE EDITOR SPEAKS OF CHURCH

Rev. A. W. Plyler, of Greensboro, editor of the North Carolina Christian Advocate, who with his family made a motor tour of Western Carolina during the summer, took occasion in the story of his jaunt to pay a tribute to Shelby Methodists regarding their new church and parsonage. Rev. Mr. Plyler writes "straight from the shoulder" in more ways than one, and his mention of the Central church and work here carried below is of more than passing interest to local people.

"At Shelby I happened to know where the new church is located and also where the parsonage is. That parsonage looks more like a millionaire's than a Methodist preacher's home. It is palatial in appearance.

"Rev. A. L. Stanford and the Shelby Methodists have reason to be proud of their new church. Standing as it does on the corner by the post-office and facing the beautiful court square, this elegant and imposing structure will not fail to attract the attention of all who pass that way. Rev. A. L. Stanford has led in a great piece of constructive work in building that church and parsonage in Shelby."

Just be plain decent, you don't have to be ethical. Some folks' test of a dry joke is that it be on a wet subject.

Good news is twice as good if you have someone to tell it to.

Officers Of Central And Building Body

In connection with this history of Central Methodist church as an organization in Shelby and the story of the building of the new parsonage and church under the pastorate of Rev. A. L. Stanford, it is interesting to record the names of the stewards, trustees and building committee:

Stewards—J. C. Smith, B. H. Kendall, W. H. Arey, J. N. Dellinger, W. L. Fanning, Dr. R. M. Gidney, P. L. Hennessy, C. R. Hoey, Mrs. B. C. Houser, F. L. Hoyle, George A. Hoyle, W. D. Lackey, J. D. Lineberger, Wm. Lineberger, John R. McClurd, D. Z. Newton, O. O. Palmer, J. F. Roberts, Roy Sisk, Z. J. Thompson, J. H. Grigg, W. C. Whisnant, C. S. Young, Thad C. Ford, D. D. Wilkins, O. S. Anthony, P. F. Grigg, J. O. Lutz, Mac Wilkins, G. R. Spencer, Dr. E. A. Houser.

Trustees—P. B. McMurry, Wm. Lineberger, J. F. Harris, R. L. Hendrick, J. H. Hull, J. A. Anthony, J. C. Smith.

Building committee—J. C. Smith, C. R. Hoey, J. F. Roberts, Z. J. Thompson, C. S. Young, Wm. Lineberger, George A. Hoyle.

Little And Son Build Central Methodist

The contractor for the Central Methodist church was the firm of J. P. Little and Son of Charlotte, which firm the building committee has found absolutely reliable and honest, always anxious to give a satisfactory job, both to the committee and to the architect. Since starting the Central Methodist church building in Shelby the first of 1924, the firm has closed the contract for a number of other Shelby jobs, which in itself is no better evidence of the satisfaction the firm has given locally. J. P. Little and Son now have under construction in Shelby the Masonic Temple which will cost when completed and furnished approximately \$150,000, the Lineberger-Suttle building of 5 store rooms to cost approximately \$65,000 the Sunday school addition to the Presbyterian church to cost about \$30,000 and a \$7,000 residence for county solicitor Chas. A. Burrus.

All of these jobs total about \$300,000 and construction work is being carried on simultaneously. Competent construction foremen are in charge of the jobs and indications are that Little and Son have established a reputation on the Central Methodist church which will win for them much favor in Western North Carolina.

Statesville After Next Conference

Statesville—Broad Street Methodist church, Statesville, has unanimously voted to invite the next session of the Western North Carolina conference to meet with this congregation. The invitation will be extended by the pastor, Rev. John W. Moore at the approaching session of the conference to be held in Greensboro.

The year closing very auspiciously for the Broad Street church, 18 new members having been added during the past twelve months. A very successful revival was held recently by Dr. Ashley Chappell, pastor of the Central Methodist church, Asheville, and the spiritual condition of the congregation is fine.

Not only the Broad Street congregation, but the people of Statesville, as a whole, regret exceedingly that Rev. John W. Moore, the universally beloved pastor for the past four years is leaving this Fall. During the four years of his pastorate here, 415 have joined the church, the membership now ranking among the largest and most liberal in the Western North Carolina conference.

Bottle Of Wine Is Cause Of Loss To Methodist History

A bottle of wine, proved itself harmful in more ways than as a beverage when it caused the loss of the historical records of the Central Methodist church building at Shelby. When the old church was sold to J. E. Webb, the cornerstone was removed and the contents opened, but lo and behold, all of the record were illegible because the wine had fermented in the course of years and saturated the other contents of the sealed box. The records were, therefore, so rotten by dampness and age that even the Bible could not be opened. None of the records placed there when the building was erected were in any sort of state of preservation.

What does a dash before a sentence is finished mean?

I know a couple of guys that tried that, and it meant a few years more of hard labor.

Small Boy: Pa, what did prehistoric monsters look like?

Father: I don't remember. Ask your mother.

NEW METHODIST CHURCH A MODEL IN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Will Cost When Completed \$140,000. Ideal In Arrangement. Auditorium Seats 1,000. Has \$8,000 Pipe Organ. 60 Sunday School Rooms.

(By Lee B. Weathers.)

The new Central Methodist church which is nearing completion in Shelby under the pastorate of that beloved minister Rev. A. L. Stanford, famed in his denomination as builder, will cost when equipped \$140,000 and is without a doubt one of the most convenient in arrangement of any church in North Carolina. It is a credit to Shelby and a tribute to Methodism not only in Shelby and Cleveland county, but to North Carolina.

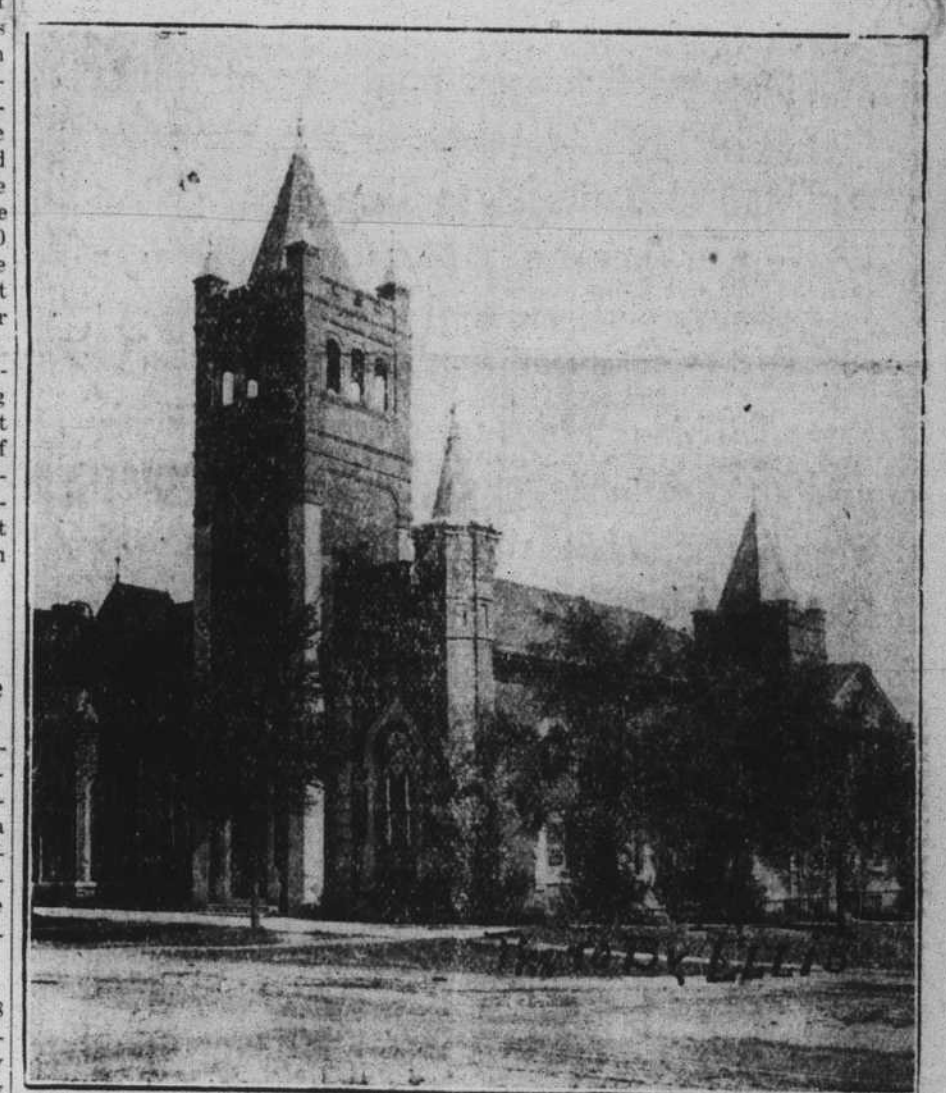
The Gothic style of architecture is used in the building which adorns the northeast corner of the beautiful court square at the corner of Washington and Marion streets and overlooks the principal streets and business section of the town. It has been under construction since January 1st when J. P. Little and Son of Charlotte were awarded the contract by the building committee. While the work has been rushed along, it will be from 30 to 60 days from the date of this paper before the congregation actually worships in the new structure. Several delays were encountered in material, but the building itself is finished and the equipment is being added as rapidly as it arrives.

The structure is of brick and steel construction, terra cotta tile roof, partition are large and comfortable with from one to two solid walls between each department so there is no interruption by the noise. Each room has stationary chairs, blackboards and maps while there are a half dozen pianos for use of teacher and pupils. A telephone system has been installed, connecting every Sunday school with the superintendent's office, so that the superintendent and secretary can be in instant communication with the teachers. In collecting the records of attendance and contributions, the telephone system facilitates matters greatly, making it unnecessary for the secretary-treasurer to disturb the teachers at their work.

Two Scriptural References.

Of course the building has steam heat with two large boilers, one to heat one side of the building and the other the opposite side. The ventilation is perfect in the auditorium and Sunday school department, while there are a number of toilets and rest rooms, cloak rooms and coal bins.

Carved in the granite keystone over the middle entrance is a reference to John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."



THE OLD CENTRAL CHURCH.

One of the landmarks of Shelby's historic "court square" that as other things had to give away to progress. The old building in its day was considered an outstanding edifice—but compare "the old and the new."

Flemish bond style of outside wall, three stories high including the basement which extends the length and breadth of the building. The main auditorium has a seating capacity of 1,000 while there are 60 different Sunday school rooms to accommodate the Sunday school which is graded perfectly in accordance with the approved methods of the Sunday school board.

\$8,000 Pipe Organ.

To the rear of the pulpit, will be installed a mammoth pipe organ that is costing \$8,000 and is said to be the most improved instrument of its kind on the market. It will play as softly as a whisper or the organist can make the thundering sounds of the clouds or the roar and roll of the ocean waves.

Sixty Class Rooms.

But coming back to the Sunday school department of which William Lineberger is superintendent. Mr. Lineberger is an energetic business man who has worked marvels with the school since he took charge six years ago. He can do more because he is busy and when he undertakes anything for the good of the school, he goes about it in a hustling, business-like manner and selects busy men and women as his co-workers. The church membership is 675 and the interest is keen. Since Rev. A. L. Stanford came to the pastorate, the membership rapidly ran up to this splendid record. The Sunday school has an enrollment larger than this when the cradle roll and home departments are included. The class rooms in the Sunday school de-

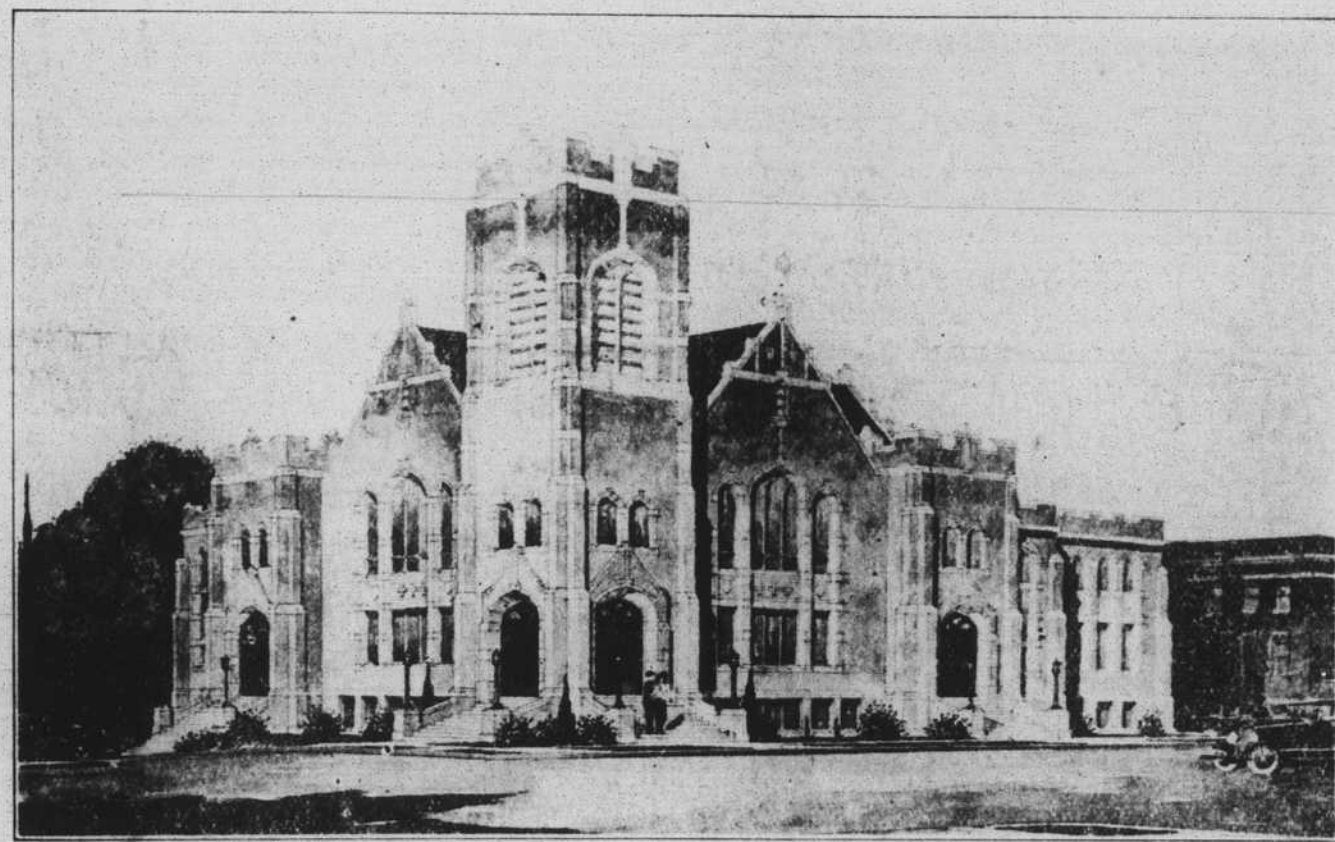
partment are large and comfortable with from one to two solid walls between each department so there is no interruption by the noise. Each room has stationary chairs, blackboards and maps while there are a half dozen pianos for use of teacher and pupils.

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THE NEW \$140,000 CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH EDIFICE

This handsome structure, on Shelby, on Shelby's "courtsquare" and the corner of Washington and Marion streets, is considered one of the most beautiful small town church structures in the entire country. Modern in every respect it will stand as a tribute to a building pastor and a hustling congregation.

and handsomely furnished and since that time this pastor has been occupying one of the most comfortable and convenient homes to be found anywhere.

The building consists of a reception hall, sun parlor, dining room, bed rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, pantry, bath room, back porch and terrace porch. Up stairs there are four bed rooms, bath room, linen closet and sewing room. The house is brick veneered. Also a double garage was built, banks terraced, garden inclosed with wire fence, flowers planted and the place presents a most attractive appearance. For this handsome parsonage easily worth \$15,000 the credit is largely due the ladies of our church. They have wrought worthily and well and the pastors who shall serve in the years to come will call them blessed.

Beginning Of Church.

The next outstanding need was a church. Our Sunday school and congregations grew until the present church was inadequate. So on the first Sunday night in May, 1923 the official board was called together after service. The purpose of this meeting was made known by the pastor. In a few words I told them that I felt that the time had come when we ought to launch a new church enterprise. They discussed it freely and being men of vision, loyally and grit they voted to bring the matter before the congregation on the following Sunday morning for final decision as to what course we should pursue. The next Sunday morning in the presence of a large congregation I preached from the text, "Let us go over at once and possess it for we are well able to overcome it." The Spirit of the Lord was present and owned the service. The congregation was told of the action of the Official Board on the previous Sunday night and after some interesting discussion the congregation

easily care for 1,200 in Sunday school—more if necessary. The building when complete will cost about \$150,000. The church and lot will be approximately \$200,000.

Few charges will be so well equipped with parsonage and church as Central Shelby. I must desist from saying more lest some other pastor will be a candidate for my job.



Rev. A. L. Stanford

The wide-awake pastor that builds a church on almost every charge. He builds his congregation through service and then builds a church to accommodate them.

Clerk: "Do you want a room for 25c or 50c?"

Stranger: "What's the difference?"

Clerk: "Well, we put a rat trap in the 50c room."

tions—witty exceptions—and Rev. A. L. Stanford is an exception, an entertaining one at times. His wit is of the "ten-second" variety and the "joshing" usually given ministers always finds a master of repartee in the Central pastor. An incident sometime back before the Wesley Bible class is an example.

The fame of Hon. Clyde R. Hoey, former congressman, as a Bible class teacher, has spread over the entire state and numerous people come from afar to hear him lecture before his "4c class of 200 men and young men.

Sometimes entire classes from other towns are guests of the local class. Several Sundays back the Cliffside class in body was present to hear Mr. Hoey. The teacher was welcoming the visitors and for the class was inviting them out for dinner. Rev. Mr. Stanford happened to be in the room at the time and at the end of the welcome spoke up: "Yessir, boys, I would be glad to take five or six of you down to my home for dinner, but you see my wife is with her father." Rev. Mr. Stanford has never been married.

God's Budget System.

N. C. Christian Advocate.

God made the first application of the "budget system" in His decision of our time to give us one day a week for rest and worship. How can we make the accomplishments of that seventh of our lives as real as any other seventh. The church service has for centuries aided the solution of that problem; but just as in school work, regular attendance is required for satisfactory results.

With the greatest work of all the ages to accomplish in a very few short years, Jesus was a regular church attendant. He finished His work. Though He dies four our sins, He rose again. Shall we not follow his example in the use of the day and find com-

American Woman Roughly Treated By Canton Police

Mrs. Harvey L. Decker, an American and wife of the manager of the Canton City Transportation company, Saturday was subjected to rough handling, jostling and jeering and finally to detention in a police station cell by 20 Chinese policemen of Canton, China.

Mrs. Decker, who is in delicate health, had gone to police station in connection with a demand for payment of a police tax alleged to be due from her husband on the ground that he is engaged in business in Canton. Mrs. Decker was arguing she and her husband should be exempted from the police tax because the Canton City Transportation company is a foreign corporation when some of the police thrust a revolver against her side, dragged her out of her motor car and carried her into a barred cell.

Mrs. Decker endeavored to communicate with the American consul general but was prevented by police officials until after nearly two hours of molestation her husband was informed of her predicament and invoked the assistance of the American consul who went to the police station and obtained her release.

Some sections are now witnessing a three-cornered feud between prohibition officers, bootleggers and high-jackers. The high-jacker holds up and robs the bootlegger and the enforcement officers are after both. Several innocent citizens have been shot recently by being mistaken for one or the other. All of them are entirely too handy with their pistols.

munion with Him where His people gather at the trying place, and then go out to live Christ?