

Interdenominational Sunday School lesson

An Expanding Fellowship Acts 2:43 to 6:7

The lesson given for today's study is again taken from the book of Acts. It is a continuing study of the establishment of the first New Testament church in Jerusalem, how it was empowered, and how it grew and expanded. Last week's lesson, concerning the events on the day of Pentecost, closed with Peter's invitation for men to repent and be baptized. Three thousand people responded and were added to the church. The scripture text provided for our lesson this week gives some interesting insight into the early church and its activities. Read the entire text, Acts 2:43-6:7, some exciting events took place. The crippled beggar at the gate Beautiful was healed. Peter and John were brought

before the Sanhedrin on charges. Ananias and Sapphira tried to deceive the church and paid a terrible price. The Apostles were arrested and put in jail. It was a church inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit, directed by Christ, and zealous in the spreading of the Gospel. One of the writers for the Standard Publishing Co. tells the story about a man who once stopped by a minister's study to discuss with him the possibility of becoming a church member. As the discussion progressed, the man expressed his desire to unite with the church. Pleased, the minister asked, "Now that you decided, in which area would you like to serve?" "Oh, I'm not interested in anything like that," he replied, "I just want to join the church." The minister patiently

explained that every member had some kind of work in the church. Visiting, teaching, singing in the choir, etc., but we try to have a job for everyone. "I didn't know it was this kind of church," interrupted the man, "I believe I will visit some other churches before making a decision." The minister smiled as he replied, "This is the Church of the Savior. Perhaps the church you are looking for is the church of the heavenly rest. It is down the street beside the cemetery." I'm afraid that this man represents the attitude of many church members today. It's called salvation without responsibility.

The Beginning of the Church Acts 2:43-47

Acts 2:43 relates that "Fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles." The word "fear" might better be interpreted "awe". These first century Christians were not frightened, they were preaching and teaching boldly, even in the face of peril. Marvelous things were happening.

While we are not told what they were, we know that the Apostles were performing many miracles of healing. Probably both the Christians and the non-Christians were impressed alike. Verse 44 relates, "And all that believed were together, and had all things in common." By now the Christians numbered in the thousands. Many from foreign lands had journeyed to Jerusalem for the

feast of Pentecost observance, became believers and stayed on. Many local believers were poor and had little substance, perhaps some even had lost their jobs over becoming a disciple, but those who had possessions and goods sold these and brought the money in so that all would share as every man had need. What happened, in a nutshell, is that Christian love set in. Peoples' troubles can't exist long where love abounds.

A Problem in the Church Acts 6:1-7

As usual, from time to time a problem arises in a church congregation. Most often it happens in a church which is experiencing growing pains. This is what happened in the new church at

Jerusalem. The complaint was that the Greek widows were being neglected in favor of the Jewish widows. They were not being ministered to equally. Apparently the Apostles were spending nearly all of their time in the Gospel work. Again the problem was quickly solved. There should be no big problems in Christ's churches. His love and grace is sufficient for all problems. They simply chose seven men from among the disciples. We note; however, that the seven chosen were men of faith and of the Holy Spirit. Where would our churches be today were it not for the multitude of believers, full of faith and the Holy Spirit, doing the work of the Lord?

Lesson based on International Sunday School Lessons by the Lesson Committee.

Church news

Bethany United Methodist Church continues to observe Lent with special services of worship. On March 20, Coy Harbeson will again preach. The service begins at 11 A.M. and the public is cordially invited.

Mr. Harbeson, a certified lay speaker, delivered the sermon at Bethany on February 20. He and his wife, Brenda, are participating in the church's No Silent Pulpit during Lent. Their exciting ministry will encourage laity in their spiritual growth.

The **Lighthouse**, an interdenominational Christian Outreach Center, will present two movies, "The Enemy" and "The Little Lost Boat", on Friday night.

"The Enemy", a film on dealing with Satan, is geared for the older youth viewing audience. It will be shown downstairs at 7:30 P.M.

Also at 7:30 P.M. upstairs, "The Little Lost Boat", will be shown. This film is recommended for youth 12 and under.

On Saturday, night, "The Singing Nelms", a gospel singing group will perform at 7:30 P.M.

The Lighthouse is located on Church St. in Elizabeth City. It is open to people of all ages, especially youth.

Recreation in the form of pool, foosball, ping-pong and table games are provided upstairs and is open Wednesday thru Sunday except during worship services.

Admission is free and the public is invited to attend.

The Rev. Quinton Jordan will preach at the **Ellis Temple Baptist Church** Sunday at 12 P.M. for the trustees. The Spiritual Sensation will also sing at 3 P.M. for the ushers anniversary.

It's Back-The Gospel Singing Train will sing Saturday, March 19 at 7:30 P.M. at **Ryans Grove Baptist Church** in Edenton. Featured will be groups such as the Belvidere Male Chorus, Gates County Caravans, Perquimans Male Chorus, RBJ Singers of Sun-

bury, Halleluiah Gospel Chorus and the Ryans Grove Senior and Gospel Choirs.

The **First Baptist Church** will have Sunday School at 9:45 A.M. with superintendent R.B. Gibbs in charge. The morning worship will begin at 11 A.M. with the Rev. J.H. London preaching. The Senior Choir will sing under the direction of Sister Barbra Shannon, organist.

The Perquimans County Fellowship Union will meet Sunday night at 7 P.M. with the Melton Grove Baptist Church and the Pool's Grove Baptist Church with pastor Rev. Joseph L. Wills in charge. The Rev. J.W. Law is the host pastor with Rev. J.H. London, president.

The First Baptist Church Pastor's Aide Club will celebrate their anniversary Sunday, March 27 at 2 P.M. Rev. J.H. London, the pastor will be preaching. Sister Mattie Burk, the president invite all to attend.

"The Way of the Cross" will be presented on Palm Sunday, March 27 at 7:30 P.M. at **Hertford United Methodist Church** by the combined choirs and guests from other churches of the community under the direction of Miss Carolina Wright, organist-choir director. This inspiring musical and pageant tells again the wonderful story of Christ's sacrifice for us. Rev. Irving E. Cook, pastor, extends a cordial invitation for you to attend.



Mrs. Charles Bradford Robinson, Jr.

Stallings—Robinson vows spoken Jan. 22

Serena Angela Stallings and Charles Bradford Robinson, Jr. were married at 3 P.M. January 22 at Anderson Methodist Church. The Rev. Daniel M. Forbes of Mt. Olive, a former pastor of the bride officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Forehand of Hertford. The groom's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bradford Robinson, Sr. of Farmville.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her stepfather Melvin Forehand, the bride wore a formal length gown of polyester organza with lace medallions at the neckline and embroidered with seed pearls. The long sheer sleeves and skirt were complimented with matching lace. The gown extended into a chapel length train which was accented with matching lace.

Matron of honor was Mrs. E.C. Stallings, Jr. the bride's sister of Norfolk. She wore a floor length gown of misty mauve polyester with lace yoke and sleeves.

Bridemaids were Mrs. Ray Moore of Greenville and Miss Angela Robinson, sister of the groom of Farmville. They wore identical

gowns of wine polyester with lace yoke and sleeves.

The groom chose his father, Charles B. Robinson, Sr. as his best man. Usher was Ray Moore of Greenville.

The candles were lit by Chad Britt, nephew of the bride of Norfolk.

The pianist for the ceremony was Mrs. Gary Smith of Greenville. The groom's brother, Todd Robinson sang "Colour My World" and "Evergreen." The pianist played and sang "The Lord's Prayer".

Ring bearer was Gary Robinson, brother of the groom.

Mistress of ceremony was Mrs. Edgar Dail, aunt of the bride of Newport News.

The bride's parents hosted a reception at their home following the ceremony.

After a wedding trip to Williamsburg, the couple will reside in Greenville.

Courtesies

A rehearsal party at the home of the bride's parents.

A miscellaneous shower at Anderson Church Educational Building given by friends and relatives.

Local American Legion hosts meeting March 19

Wm. Paul Stallings 126th Hertford Am. Legion Auxiliary will host the First district meeting Saturday, March 19 at 9 A.M., registration meeting at 9:30 A.M. Mrs. Neal H. Davis (Christine) Dept. President will be guest speaker.

Davis has been a member of the auxiliary for many years and is a member of Beaver-Pittman Unit No. 115 in Kannapolis. She has served in all unit offices; on the district level as vice-president and president and as a division president for two terms.

This past year she led the department in a very successful drive for membership, being the 13th department to reach national goal.

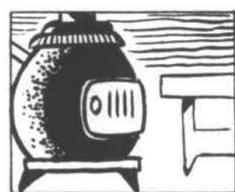
When serving as field service chairman for two years, she received a certificate from national for outstanding achievement.

Davis is eligible for membership through her husband Neal, who served in the naval air corp during WWII. Their only son, Steve, also served in the naval air corp and now lives with his wife and daughter

Mary Ann, in Raleigh. "M.A." will serve as "Miss Poppy" this year for the Dept. of N.C. Am. Legion Auxiliary.

She is a member of Central United Methodist in Concord. She is em-

ployed with Bruce Johnson Trucking Co. in Charlotte as a payroll supervisor. She also worked part-time with the City of Concord Parks and Recreation Dept. as the official score-keeper for softball leagues at Myers Park.



A pot-bellied stove can be an efficient source of heat if it's properly installed.

Board to meet

The Board of Directors of the Pettigrew Regional Library will meet on Monday, March 21, at 8 p.m. in the Tyrrell County Library in Columbia. The Board is composed of representatives from the four counties served by the Library: Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. Reports on spring activities in the Libraries will be discussed.

For Your Information Dear friends,

A mature husband and wife should discuss together what kind of work she, as a widow, might do to earn extra income — discuss what might be done with the house — discuss investments, savings, and insurance. It will make them both feel better — and draw them close together.

Respectfully,

Marian Sue Dill

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Cards of Thanks

The family of the late Julia E. Timberlake would like to express their sincere appreciation to their neighbors and friends for the lovely cards, food and visits. It is indeed a blessing to know those around us care. Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bryant and family

Many thanks to everyone who remembered me during my illness and hospitalization. They prayers, cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, and gifts were greatly appreciated. To each church, friend, neighbor and relative, I would like to say that your kindness and concern has meant so much to me and my family. May God bless each of you.

Sincerely,
Gay P. Lilley

A special thank you to each of you for your kindness and concern shown through prayers, cards, flowers and all other thoughtful deeds. Each and every thing you have done is so greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Eli Forehand

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with flowers, gifts, cards, visits, phone calls, and most of all for your prayers during my stay in Norfolk General Hospital and since my return home. May God bless each of you.

Laura Ward