

## The Presbyterian of the South

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## Church News

### VIRGINIA.

**Synod of Virginia:** The following special committees were appointed at the late meeting of the Synod of Virginia.

On a Campaign in Support of the Assembly for Three Million Dollars: W. S. Royster, R. M. Friend, H. W. Jackson, W. S. Rhoads, Wade C. Smith, F. T. McFaden, S. N. Hutchison. The moderator, Dr. J. C. Stewart, has appointed Mr. Wade C. Smith to be the chairman of this committee.

On Fund for Work in the Camps: S. W. Somerville, Rapidan, Va., chairman; F. S. Royster, J. Hoge Tyler, S. E. Caskie, H. B. Sproul, George B. Kennedy, B. B. Morgan, T. S. Williamson, James P. Smith, S. C.

**Richmond, Colored Mission:** The division of labor which was effected the first of October is proving very satisfactory. Mr. Edwin Wayland having supervision of the Sunday-school, Mr. Graham Campbell of the preaching service, Mr. Campbell Symons, of the Christian Endeavor Society and Misses Booth, Irwin and Perry of the sewing class. All departments present encouraging reports. It was with rare devotion that the teachers of the Sunday-school stuck to their task during the hot summer months, and they are to be commended for it. This has been a very happy fall for them because a number of the seminary men and Training School ladies have joined their ranks to help in the great work. As evidence of God's blessing upon our efforts we note an increased interest among the people, attested to by the fact that the average attendance of November is the highest that has been made during the last twelve months.

**Lexington:** By action of the session a congregational meeting was held November 25th, moderated by Rev. Dr. Howerton. The object was to take action in regard to our recent honored pastor, Rev. Dr. A. T. Graham, who was forced to resign on account of ill health. Elder Shannon stated the reasons for the proposed action, and on motion of Elder F. T. Glasgow it was proposed to pay Dr. Graham fifty dollars a month for twelve months. An amendment was offered to make it more than this, if more was subscribed. This like the motion, was promptly and unanimously adopted. In a few minutes the amount was slightly oversubscribed, to the great delight of the congrega-

tion, and the check for November was forwarded the next day. A. H.

**Lexington Presbytery** met in a called meeting at Staunton First church, November 21, 1917.

At the request of Rev. William Denham, on account of impaired health, the pastoral relation between him and Bethel church was dissolved, with much regret on the part of the Presbytery and the congregation, and the following resolutions by the congregation were presented and ordered placed upon the minutes of Presbytery:

Bethel Church, Oct. 28, 1917.

Whereas, our beloved pastor, Rev. William Denham, has asked us to unite with him in a request to Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relation, on the ground of his continued ill health;

Therefore resolved, That we, the congregation of Bethel church, do with great regret, accede to his request, and unite with him in asking Lexington Presbytery to dissolve the relation.

Be it further resolved:

First. That in taking this action, the congregation expresses its deep and unchanging affection for Mr. Denham, and its profound sympathy for him in his bodily suffering. We rejoice to know that his health is improving, and our earnest prayer is that he may soon be restored to bodily vigor and enabled to take up the work of the Lord again.

Second. We desire to put on record our great appreciation of the work of Mr. Denham amongst us. His labors, both as a preacher and as a pastor have been most acceptable to his people, and greatly owned and blessed of God in the upbuilding of this church.

We feel that never in the history of Bethel church has the work been more prosperous, and we record with gratitude to God the great advance which the church has made under his pastorate.

Third. We assure our beloved pastor that wherever he may go, he will be followed by the prayers of Bethel church, and that he will always have a warm place in our interests and hearts.

Rev. John B. Gordon was received from the Atlanta Presbytery and accepted calls to Augusta and Spring Hill churches, and the following commission was appointed to install him on the first Sabbath of December. Rev. A. M. Fraser, D. D., to preside and preach, &c.; Rev. D. N. Yarbrot to charge the pastor, and Rev. William C. White to charge the people, December 2nd, at 11 A. M., at Augusta church, with Elder H. O. Lambert, of Spring Hill church, with Rev. H. W. McLaughlin and Elder W. A. McCutchen, of Augusta, as alternate. At Spring Hill at 3 P. M., same day, Rev. D. N. Yarbrot to preside, preach, &c.; Rev. William C. White to charge the pastor, and Rev. A. M. Fraser, D. D., to charge the people. Same elder and alternates as above.

The commission appointed to organize a church on Sear's Hill reported the organization of the Staunton Third Presbyterian church. The church has twenty-one members, several others having been added since, and two elders, Mr. J. M. Gabbert and William J. Stover, and one deacon, S. W. Shiffett.

Rev. W. W. Sprouse accepted the call to become pastor (in connection with the Olivet church), and the following commission was appointed to install him: Rev. Holmes Rolston, D. D., to preside, preach, &c. Rev. J. E. Purcell, Jr., to charge the pastor, and Rev. William Emmitt Hudson to charge the people, and Elder A. J. Young, of Olivet. Rev. D. K. Walthall,

D. D., and Elder H. D. Peck, of Staunton First church, alternates.

Wm. C. White, S. C.

**Staunton:** The many friends of Rev. William H. Sheppard, D. D., formerly missionary to the Congo and now of Louisville, Ky., will be pained to learn of the serious illness of his mother, "Aunt Fanny" Sheppard, who for more than thirty years has been in charge of the famous Warm Springs bath house.

"Aunt Fanny" was paralyzed last week, and while more comfortable and able to articulate a little better, is still quite ill. Dr. Sheppard and his wife are both at her bedside. It is hoped that this illness will not be unto death, but that she will be spared to her family and friends and the Church.

**Stuart's Draft:** This church has granted its pastor, Rev. R. W. Boyd, a four months' leave of absence on account of ill health. Mr. Boyd was in the hospital last spring, and has never recovered his full health. It is hoped that his sojourn in the South may greatly benefit him. This little church was formed from a part of old Tinkling Spring church, and was named for one of its beloved former pastors, "Finley Memorial," for Rev. George W. Finley, D. D. The church is situated in a growing town, which is said to be the largest shipping point on the Norfolk and Western Railroad between Roanoke and Hagerstown. The church deserves much credit for the earnest work of its noble people. It undertook the entire support of its pastor from the first, and went to work to build a manse, which has been completed some time since, and with the help of the Presbytery has been entirely paid for.

**Staunton, Second:** This church has granted its pastor, Rev. William N. Scott, D. D., an extended leave of absence on account of ill health. Dr. Scott's health has not been first rate for some time, but it was thought that he was greatly improved, and he has been able to do his work in the pulpit and in visiting for some time. Dr. Scott is greatly beloved among his people, and has been an indefatigable worker. The doctor and his daughter, Miss Agnes, will spend several months in the South in hopes that both of them may be greatly strengthened. Rev. R. B. Eggleston, Ph. D., of Norfolk has been assisting Dr. Scott in a protracted meeting for some time, and much interest has been shown. It is reported that the church is trying to secure his services for the time during which the pastor will be absent, if Dr. Eggleston finds he can arrange to leave his field for that time.

**Cook's Creek:** Rev. J. E. Booker, D. D., preached here for the pastor, Rev. S. B. Hannah, and his services were greatly enjoyed on November 18th. Dr. Booker has been in Staunton for some time in connection with his work as superintendent of Home Missions of the Synod of Virginia.

**Mossy Creek:** Rev. F. J. Brook, Jr., of Gorman, W. Va., who has recently been called to this church, preached for them on the 18th of November, and the congregation was much pleased. Mr. Brook has not yet notified the church of his decision. This is an important field, and it is hoped he will accept.

**Bethel-Hebron:** Rev. William Emmitt Hudson, superintendent of Home Missions and Sunday-schools in Lexington Presbytery, who is always looking out for the interests of these causes, conducted very successful institutes at these churches on the 20th and 21st of November. He had with him Mr. R. E. Magill, the efficient secretary of Publication and Sunday-school Work, and Rev. Gilbert Glass,

D. D., superintendent of Sunday-school Work of the Assembly, and with these well known speakers and himself these institutes were very helpful indeed.

**Union Church, Churchville:** This church has recently elected three new deacons, Mr. Robert Kariofoe, Mr. Walker Dudley and Mr. Will Stickley and December 2nd has been appointed as the day for the ordination of these officers. Since the centennial celebration in July the church has been greatly enjoying the great improvements which have been made inside and out of this old church. The church is located on the top of a hill in the midst of a fine grove of ancient oaks, and is indeed "beautiful for situation." Rev. William C. White is the pastor, and Rev. W. Emmett Davis, of South Carolina, has been the assistant for the last three summers. Mr. Davis is now at Columbia Seminary, and will complete his course in the spring. His work as assistant was greatly blessed in this and Loch Willow churches.

**Hampden-Sidney:** The Sunday night services at Hampden-Sidney are under the auspices of the College Y. M. C. A. On the night of November 24th the students and the community had the opportunity of hearing the Rev. C. F. Rankin, recently called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church at Farmville. Mr. Rankin chose as his theme for the occasion, "The Signs of the Times." In the development of this theme he showed that we are living in a time of great sorrow, of change in society and government, and of world-wide opportunity. For such times, he said, we have need of unselfishness, breadth of horizon, a new, that is a living type of patriotism, and especially a more vital kind of Christian experience. He showed that in this day of crisis there is a challenge to patriotism and Christianity. He reached the climax of his discourse in the statement that what the world needs to-day, more than anything else, is the power of the living Christ.

Mr. Rankin spent his seminary days at Hampden-Sidney, and after a lapse of twenty years, expresses himself as delighted to be back at the old place and to renew his associations with the college and community.

Under the stimulating influence of the new pastor of College church, the Rev. E. G. Gammon, the Sabbath school is already beginning to show signs of renewed activity. Mr. P. T. Atkinson, recently appointed Sunday-school treasurer, is making plans for liberal and more intelligent giving on the part of the Sabbath school.

An interesting feature of the Sabbath school for some years has been the Christmas entertainment centering around an old-fashioned Christmas tree. A committee, consisting of Mr. George L. Walker, Miss Helen Booker and Mr. P. T. Atkinson has been appointed to make plans for the coming Christmas season.

**Waynesboro:** Our town has experienced a gracious outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. Rev. Burke Culpepper, one of the general evangelists of the M. E. church, South, his singer, Mr. Charles U. Robinson and his personal worker, Mr. George Tucker, have been laboring in our midst for nearly three weeks, and have proved a great blessing to our town. Mr. Culpepper is a preacher of remarkable dramatic power and presents the truths of the Scripture in a unique and compelling way. His messages will long be remembered and prove a blessing to many in our community. As a result of the meetings about one hundred have already united with the churches of our town, and quite a number more will yet follow. On last Sabbath