

## Churches and Religious Organizations.



### OUR RELIGIOUS ATMOSPHERE.

The people of DeLand are moral and religious. Twelve churches minister to their spiritual needs. These churches are filled every Lord's day with worshippers during the tourist season and college terms; have settled pastors, and have all the usual departments of church work under energetic management. Talmage is reported to have said that if he were blindfolded and taken to the churches of any community, and then allowed to inspect the buildings, he could from their character and condition give a correct estimate of the culture of the people. Judged from this standpoint the people of DeLand would certainly stand high, for the church buildings and their interior furnishings are far above the average of places of a similar size. A visitor on a Sunday morning, when listening to the cultured singing of the choir and on seeing the well-dressed congregation of any one of our larger churches, might easily imagine himself in one of the church edifices of our great cities. It's an advantage in a growing town to have a variety of churches, so that new comers can, as soon as they arrive, come into touch with the denomination of their choice. If you should settle in DeLand, and you can in all probability be gratified in this respect, as the following denominations have good church buildings and organized churches: Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Episcopal, Methodist, (North and South), and Presbyterian.

#### FIRST BAPTIST.

October 31, 1880, the DeLand Baptist church was organized with thirteen members. Their first care was to erect a suitable place of worship, and on April 23 ground was broken for a new church. Rev. A. L. Farr, of San Mateo, was called to the pastorate September 18th of the same year. Sunday, April 16th, was a great day for the Baptists of DeLand, for on that date the new church was dedicated free of debt. In 1894 after a lapse of twelve years, the progressive city of DeLand had grown to such an extent that the question of a more commodious church building became a pressing one, and the amount necessary to erect a fine brick building was quickly pledged. The great freeze, from which we have come to date every important event in Florida, ruined many of the members of this flourishing church, with the consequence that a debt of \$4,700 was left on the new building. For a number of years this debt was a great burden. In the fall of 1905 the whole amount with all accruing interest was raised, and thus the First Baptist church is free from debt once more. It has also a beautiful parsonage worth \$3,000, a devoted membership of over 250 persons, a fine Sunday school and a flourishing B. Y. P. U.

The DeLand Baptist church is the

mother of John B. Stetson University. Dr. Fenner came to DeLand from Western New York, and opened a private school in the prayer room of the Baptist church. It prospered, and after his death, the pastor of the church continued the work. From that small beginning has grown the great John B. Stetson University.

#### ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL.

St. Barnabus Episcopal church is a neat edifice on the corner of Clara and Wisconsin avenues, noted for its beautiful interior. It was built in 1883. Rev. Mr. Wolseley was the first rector, Rev. C. F. A. Beilby the second. Among the well known clergymen in charge of this parish have been Rev. Father Huntington, O. H. C., and Rev. Henry W. Little. The present rector is the Rev. Campbell Gray, son of the bishop of Southern Florida. The parish has a handsome rectory. Frequent services are held, with good congregations. The parish has about seventy resident communicants.

#### THE BOULEVARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Church of Christ, of DeLand, Florida, was organized March 11th, 1883. The following were charter members:

E. B., Wm. J., Edw. C. and Chas. S. McPherson; John Julia and Lizzie Pearse, L. H. and Julia Anderson, J. G., Cornelia H. and Martha D. Owen; Claude D., Benjamin and Joseph Gailbreath; Mrs. A. H. Jackson, W. W. Alcott.

F. J. Longdon, Jr., was the church's first pastor, called in June, 1883. After an efficient service of ten years, he was succeeded by Wm. W. Frost. Within one year Elder Frost resigned from the pastorate of the church to become Professor of English Literature in Stetson University, DeLand. In February, 1905, the present pastor, C. Prentice Parker, was called to the field. In December he was recalled by the church for a period ending June 1st, 1907.

The church occupies a small, but commodious brick building in the twelfth century English chapel style. Its public services are interesting, and its people locally celebrated for their large-hearted social qualities. Regular services are held at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sundays, summer and winter. Also morning Sunday School and evening Y. P. S. C. E. sessions. Mid-week prayer meeting Wednesday at 7:30 P. M.

The church looks forward to an effective season of work during the year 1906. The "stranger within the gates," from far or near, never fails to receive a warm welcome.

#### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN.

This church was organized by the Rev. Gilbert Gordon, July 2, 1882, with twenty-four members. The first pastor was Rev. J. W. Shearer, from 1883

to 1885. Then was called and installed the Rev. H. W. Gelston, who served the church fifteen years. From 1901 to 1905 the church was ministered to by temporary supplies.

On September 6, 1905, the church called the Rev. B. B. Knapp to the pastorate, who was regularly installed November 23, by the Presbytery of St. Johns. In 1888 the present church edifice was dedicated, which is well appointed and centrally located on Woodland Boulevard. The manse is just completed. The working force is stable and well defined: Session; Board of Trustees; Sabbath school; Y. P. S. C. E., both Senior and Junior; Woman's Missionary society and Ladies' Aid society. The aim of the church is to be a factor in the life of the city, as well also as a force for righteousness in the activities of men.

#### GRACE METHODIST EPISCOPAL.

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church South, is located on Rich Avenue, near the Boulevard.

In 1897 a permanent organization of this congregation was effected, although services of one sort or another had been held for years previous to this date, under the circuit plan. Rev. Eugene A. Harrison, A. B., was appointed pastor at DeLand, in 1897, and under his wise administration foundations were laid which were soon crowned with the successful instituting of what is now Grace Church. After the expiration of his full pastoral term, he was succeeded by Rev. Jno. E. Mickler, A. B. During Mr. Mickler's pastorate every interest of the Church was advanced.

The present pastor, Rev. R. L. Honiker, came to the work Jan. 1, 1905.

From a small beginning, the church has grown to spiritual influence and power in the community. The pulpit has been filled by devout men and scholarly ministers, whose godly counsel and admonitions have been heard and followed by a loyal and loving people.

The Sunday School, Epworth League and Women's Missionary Societies are faithful helpers in carrying forward the work of the church.

The church property—neat and inviting—well, warmed and lighted, and free of debt, is admirably adapted to its uses.

A generous and warm-hearted people stand ready to welcome residents and visitors to all the public services.

Come in: Rest: Pray!

#### FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

The First M. E. Church of DeLand was organized by Rev. J. T. Lewton, then presiding Elder of St. Johns district on Sunday Aug. 1st 1880.

The following named were received by letter on that day. Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Austin, Dr. and Mrs. Voorhis, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Kirk, and Miss Addie Hinkle, (who later married Mr. O. J. Hill.)

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Miller were received on probation.

Brother Lewton was appointed to the charge, in connection with Orange City in 1882.

The Baptists had completed their church, and kindly invited us to worship in their building, which invitation we accepted, meeting on Sunday afternoons at three o'clock.

The church was begun in the Spring of 1882, and by the next Conference in January, was near completion, being dedicated February 23rd 1883. Rev. E. T. Curnick of New Albany, Ind. preaching the sermon.

Brother Lewton worked faithfully for this church, both as its pastor and Presiding Elder, and always had its best interests at heart.

Indeed he gave the best years of his life to the upbuilding of God's church and cause in Florida laboring for years in the St. Johns Conference, when members were few, and compensation small, only giving up the work when health failed him, and he could work no longer. All honor to such brave good men!

Later on as the church grew stronger, a comfortable house of nine rooms was built for a parsonage in rear of the church on Howry ave.

In January 1886, M. S. Leele was appointed to supply this charge, and re-appointed in 1887. He has left on record the following: "At this date, May 4th 1887 which is my 53rd birthday, I am able to record for the church, temporal and spiritual success, and for myself spiritual prosperity. Never loved any church more truly, was never more kindly sustained."

The church was enlarged and greatly improved, under the pastorate of Rev. Addyman Smith in 1903, has about seventy members, and is served at present, by the Rev. W. E. Dean lately from Iowa.

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Catholics had no stated place of worship until 1884, when their present edifice was erected. It was dedicated in April of that year by Right Reverend John Moore, Bishop of St. Augustine, and given the name of St. Peter. It was ministered to for a time by Father Kenney, but in 1885 Father Foley took the congregation under his care, and through his able leadership the church made advance in many directions. He remained eight years, when his health was sufficiently restored to admit of his returning to Maryland. After Father Foley's departure the church had no regular pastor, but was supplied from the Palatka parish, until November, 1904, when Rev. M. F. Curley was made pastor of the church. He is power. The church is being strengthened and built up spiritually under his able leadership.

#### DESIRABLE PROPERTY.

You may buy one of the handsomest ten acres in Florida with good, comfortable house, barn, tenant house and fruit and shade trees, all piped with a very superior water from a rock spring for \$1,250.

See illustration on page 4. Three other houses with large lots for \$400, \$500 and \$550. See cuts elsewhere. Call on or address.

W. C. CANNON,  
DeLand, Fla.

