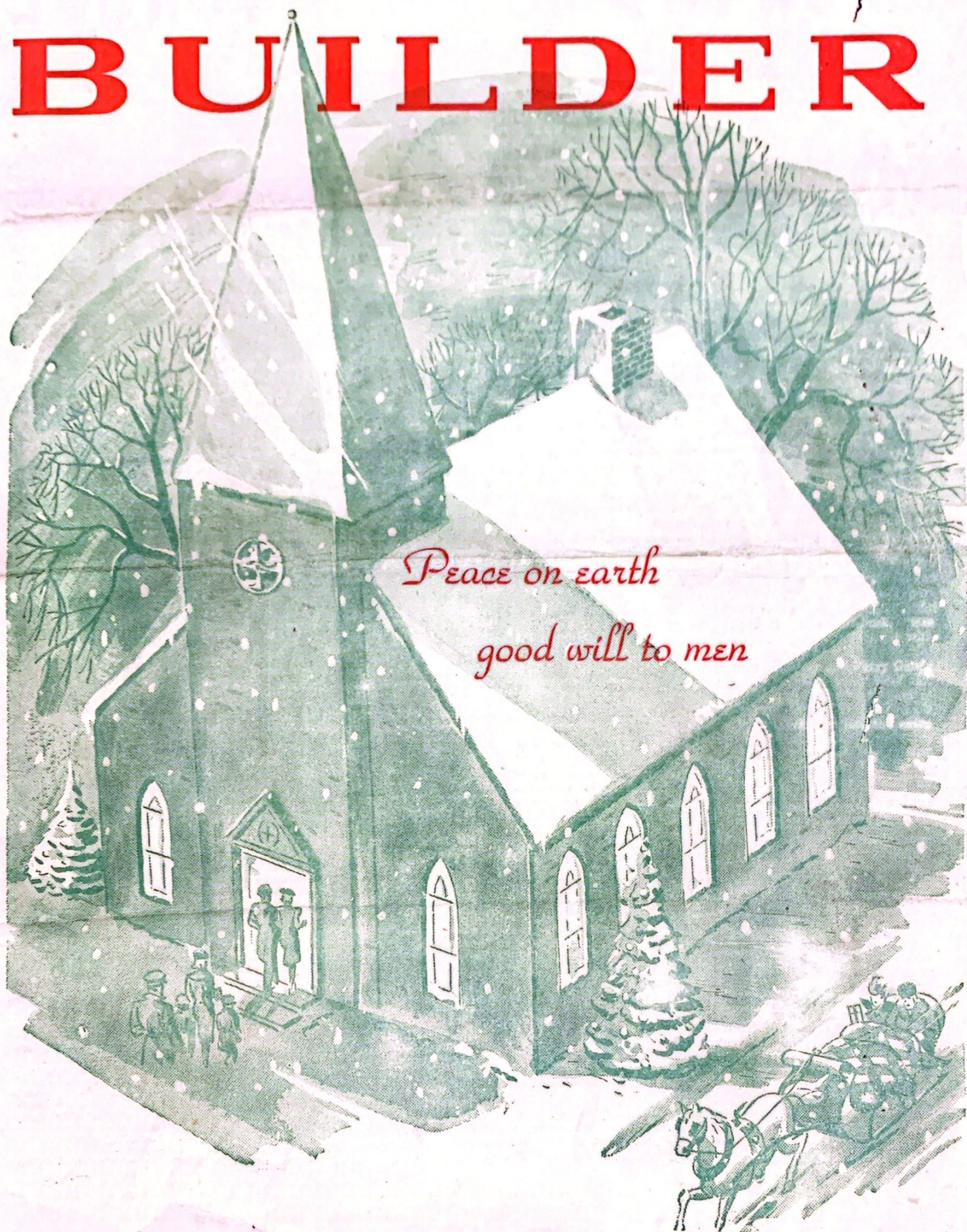


The South Carolina Conference - - -

BUILDER



*Peace on earth
good will to men*

EACH IN A COMMON TONGUE

By H. P. Robinson

Pilot asked Jesus: "What is truth?" He did not wait for an answer. The man most capable of answering who has ever lived was dismissed or interrupted before he had a chance to reply. He was the embodiment of all truth. His very act, word and deed was a medium of Gods revelation to man. Divinity was clothed upon with the humane form of a Galilean peasant, the son of a woman. The consolidation of all truth, the example of the way the essence and glory of the light was expressed in every beat of his pulse every throb of his heart and in the twitch of every muscle.

The scriptures testify of him. They tell of his magnificence from the remote ages of his timeless existence. And even today every anxious look into the sacred treasure vaults of scripture, reveals some new features of his personality. He is our approach to an understanding of God himself. And the avenues through which we may approach Deity by Jesus Christ are uncounted.

We must concede that it is impossible for the finite mind to comprehend Deity. In our infinity we employ anthropomorphic expressions of God and speak of his hands, feet, eyes, ears and thus gain a mental picture of God as a man.

There seems to be inately in man a basic desire to acquire truth to know the truth. This is a God given quality and through this medium men find God. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

It is impossible to separate God from the physical universe. God is not nature as some teach. He is only identified with nature. One cannot look at the hills, valleys, rivers and seas without seeing the touch of his hand the vast desert and landscape without beholding the imprint of his feet. In the broad sweep of creation there comes to us in the undertones, a message, speaking, forever testifying of the existence of a Prime Mover. Nature does not speak to us unintelligibly but rather in a universal tongue. And she not only tells us of the existence of such a being but tells us something of his nature. The flowers tell us that God loves beauty. The golden sunset tells us that he is a master artist. The greatness of the sea and the vastness of the golden canopy of the heaven's grandeur and variety are a part of His nature. The song birds speak unmistakably of his close identity with music.

I know very little about music, but there is interwoven into the very fiber of the existing universe a melody, a rhythm that had its

origin in the very heart of God and from His very finger tips there falls the strains of beautiful music as though a master musician were strumming the strings of a mighty instrument. God himself is time and eternities greatest musician. Stand on the sea shore and listen to melodies roll at your feet and rise upward to the sound-board of the heaven. It is God striking up a harmony from the bosom of a troubled sea. Listen to the wind as it mourns through the bows of the trees. That is nothing more than God pumping His great pipe organ while the trees beat time to the march of Jahovah across this fallen planet.

There are many kinds of music and if we will put our ears down to the earth we can hear the subterranean undertones of music that has the sound of a funeral march. It is true that the greater part of music has a note of pathos and mehoncholy. This is true because of the discord caused by sin in the beginning. Man is an emotional creature, and the deepest and most powerful emotion is that of sadness. This makes it possible for one to rise to the heights and sink to the depths through the appeal of music.

Among the first inventions were musical instruments, by the sons of Lamech. The history of music is interesting and unique. It has become a part of every phase of life. From birth to death there is no occasion that touches our life but that there is music which may be appropriately associated with it.

Music effects the emotions and moves the deepest in man. Music has been known to mold the political philosophy of nations for generations. To guide the pen of historians. To set the stage for war. Music has turned the course of the centuries. Its power has lifted the curse of slavery. And changed the law of Empires. It has done more to make men realize that they were created for a noble purpose than any other one element.

The days of slavery in Russia gave rise to great compositions of music. But it was written in the minor keys. Written by the slaves because of oppression. The negro spiritual of America was born during the days of slavery. It to is in the minor key. It is the song of the oppressed. To the time of the task masters last they formed a doleful tune. Upon the slave blocks of southern towns, and beneath the hot rays of the sun, toiling in the fields of cotton, bent low by the weight of sorrow and surlive existence the southern slave gave vent to a cry that was the expressions of the very cords of his soul and the throbs of his heart. That expression was a song,

a chant, a cry for freedom. It was a mourn for a lost heritage that from him had been robbed, by another.

Vogner of Germany, the musical plagiarizer did more to mould the thinking and set the stage for war than any other one man. His type of music was so interwoven into the very fiber of the German soul that they cared not to live if they could not rule. That accounted for the fanatical fighting of the Germans. The spirit of his music was to rule or die.

He was expelled from the brotherhood of musicians because he violated every ethical principal of the clan.

Music is a national language. It is an international art. Music transcends national boundaries and rises above racial prejudices.

Music teaches the truth that all men had a common Father, and are headed to a common destiny. And that there are basic qualities in the worst of men that might make them eligible for a place in Gods heaven, and that all are children of a Divine heritage.

Music strikes a medium that finds a common note of response in all men whether white, black yellow or brown.

Music speaks in the overtones of magnificent ideals and transcends all words.

Music is the expression of the deepest emotions of the soul.

It can build moral, it can destroy fortitude, virtue and integrity.

It was the singing of the Marseillies that started the French Revolution.

In the darkest days of destruction in England, the English began to sing "There'll always be an England", and they become invincible.

The greatest quality of music is its ability to point men to Christ and lead them to a city of everlasting singing with no discord.

The songs of Charles Wesley put life and harmony in the blood stream of the early Methodist church and did as much to make it famous as did the preaching of his brother John. It has become a vital part of religious worship.

It takes up where sermons and oration stop. It lifts the soul into realms of heavenly ecstasy where mere words has not the power to reach.

When the Saviour was born and the angels wanted to convey the supreme importance of the event; they began to sing.

When the Minister has made his graphic description of the return of the Prodigal Son and paints a touching scene of that wayward boys journey home but by this exangelistic appeal the sinner is unmoved. The choir then begins to sing "Lord I'm Coming

Home" and the sinner is moved toward God.

He may speak of the grandeur of the cross, and magnify its glory until words can no more be found. But when they begin to sing:

When I survey the wondrous Cross,

On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt upon my pride.

They are caught in the grip of the compelling power and influence of song. He may speak of the saving grace of God and laud its merits to the very heavens, but no words can thrill the christians heart or move the sinner to repent like the singing of Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Yes the Minister can talk of the blood of Christ and its power to save to the uttermost. But no manner of appeal can make the sinner feel the reality of that power to save like the singing of "There is a fountain filled with blood,

Drawn from Emmanuels veins,
And sinners plunge beneath that flood,

Lose all their guilty stains.

When the discords and broken melodies of a weeping world shall be no more, and the song of the oppressed dies out on the air. When the harps of all the way-worn pilgrims with broken strings have been hung on the weeping willow trees down by the river. Then the choir on the other shore will lift their unmuffled voices in the song of the Redeemed. David will be the chief musician and Miriam will lead the choir.

There will be no discord then, all the pent up melodies of the ages will burst forth in one glad expression of Celestial beings. Then and only then will be realized a harmonious universe in which everything will be in tune with Divine purpose and all creation will again claim its relationship to Deity the Creator and lover of music, harmony and beauty.

Parsonage At Hartsville Going Up

Pastor Frank Williams reports a new parsonage going up at Hartsville. He also reports a raise in salary. This certainly does sound like progress.

It looks like the Hartsville Church is going to claim her place in the sun ere long. It is obvious that Rev. Williams is a firm believer in that old adage "If you want a thing done well, do it yourself." for he is driving the nails himself.

"To err is human, to forgoice, divine."
—Poep

The Builder

ISSUED MONTHLY

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FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS —
 AVOID HOLIDAYNGER

This is the Christmas America has been waiting for every since Pearl Harbor.

In millions of homes, G. I. Joe is back. Back to join the family around the Christmas tree. . . to help eat the Christmas dinner. . . to exchange gifts by simply reaching out his hand—in person.

This is the Victory Christmas America has dreamed of during the long, hard months of war. This is it!

Would YOU willingly do anything to mar the happiness of this Christmas season? You bet you wouldn't!

Yet, if things run true to form, Christmas will be ruined in thousands of American homes by an accident to someone in the family.

These accidents are especially tragic and ironic at the Christmas season in any year. This year they are doubly so. This year, of all years, we want no tragedy that can be avoided.

Even when the fury of the war was at its height, accidents on the home front were taking a far heavier toll than battles. And the month after gasoline rationing was lifted, almost three times as many Americans were killed in traffic accidents as died in the bloody battle of Tarawa!

Is America willing to pay a higher price in human life for enjoying peace than for gaining it?

Isn't it worth a little extra trouble this Christmas season to prevent accidents that bring sorrow and suffering and tragedy? Just a little extra care and a little common sense will do it.

Meditation

Traveling down the road of life
 Weary and depressed,
 The way was full of stumbling
 stones
 There was no place to rest,
 There was a sign read, to the
 Cross.
 Another read - to Hell.
 There was a voice, said follow me
 Another screamed, Well! Well!
 Alas, my friends - I heeded not
 I took the short path down,
 It looked so rosey from the top
 But ended in a town
 Of sorrow and depression
 Of grief and sinful souls,
 And I was Oh! so weary
 My very heart grew cold.
 Oh God! I cried - deliver me
 And help me flee this place,
 Then when I looked up toward
 the hills
 I saw Christs friendly face.
 And in the distance smiling
 He begged me not be lost,
 Now I'm walking up the road of
 life
 And kneeling at the Cross.

—Lillie Bailey

Remarkable Progress At Conway

The new church at Conway is giving a good account of itself under the capable leadership of the pastor, Rev. Wayne Elliott. The following is a portion of a letter from the secretary, Mr. Lonnie Stalvey.

"We are doing fine with our new church work here, the building is hulled in, we plan to install the windows, arched style, and complete the inside in two or three weeks. As soon as brick are available we will finish the outside.

We are well pleased with our pastor. I can think of no one who would have suited us better here in Conway. We are having wonderful services every week end. There seems to be a revival among the Young people.

We purchased a house and lot joining the church property last week, to be used for a parsonage of course. It's a nice seven-room house, and it cost \$3,000.00 - a bargain I think. The church will cost us around \$10,000.00, with the Sunday School rooms, which we will postpone adding until next summer. It may be more. So you can see we will be right valuable in Conway as far as property is concerned. And we have some of the best material I think that you will find anywhere. I glory in this only in Christ, Praise His name. There is bright prospects for the Pentecostal church here. People seem very optimistic about it. We plan to begin a revival soon after we get into the church. And our Sunday School. We are doing fine with the Sunday School — about 70 on roll at present."

—Lonnie Stalvey

Educational Drive Closes Successfully

The Educational drive of the Lake City and Rockingham Districts is about over according to reports of Rev. Powers. If the remaining churches do as well in proportion as those already visited, we will have at least \$1,000.00 for education in these two districts alone.

Powers At Rockingham

Rev. R. E. Powers reports a wonderful revival at Rockingham, N. C., with souls praying through to definite experience in almost every service. The pastor, Rev. M. L. Moore played a great part toward the success of the meeting with his fine music and singing.

A Challenge

The following ten-rules of conduct were composed and adopted by a young girl of the Darlington Church, soon after she became a Christian. She is only twelve years of age and has been a Christian less than a year. These rules are worthy of the composition and observance of a mature Christian. Without any assistance or instructions, she upon her own initiative wrote these ten rules as a guide and pattern for her daily life.

These are indeed a challenge to any Christian to a more organized Christian life.

1. To go to Church regular and to every service that I possibly can.
2. To kneel and pray every night before going to bed.
3. To pray all through the day.
4. Not to go anywhere, say or do anything or listen to things about that a Christian should not.
5. Read by Bible first thing every morning.
6. Grace the table before eating.
7. Go out and ask people to go to church.
8. Obey older people.
9. Always obey God.
10. To do God's will the very best I know how always.

Lee - Thomas Nuptials

Miss Frances Thomas of Lake City, was united in the bonds of holy matrimony to Herbert Lee, Jr of Lake City on Saturday evening Nov. 24. The ceremonies were read by the Rev. J. L. Wall at his home on Rogers Avenue in Lake City. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Thomas of Lake City. She was dressed in a baby-blue coat-suit and white hat with the other corresponding trimmings. Mr. Lee is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Lee, Sr., of the Lake City section. The couple will live near Lake City.

"Gleanings And Otherwise"

J. W. Swails

1. In Germany there is a dearth of needles. Mothers have none for patching their children's clothes. One needle sells for \$2.50 in the black market.

2. It is reported that American churches are 99 percent against peacetime conscription. We will in all likelihood soon know how much this means in the White House.

3. 4,500,000 houses were wrecked or damaged throughout Great Britain as a result of the war — 200,000 being totally destroyed by plane bombardment, flying bombs and rockets.

4. In 1833 the head of the Patent Office in Washington wanted to resign because he felt the limit of human invention had been reached. By 1860 there were 43,000 patents recorded; by the end of the century, there were 640,000; now nearly 1,000,000 a year.

5. Dr. Robert Felix, chief of the mental hygiene section of the U. S. Public Health Service, says the upward trend in suicides is part of the war's aftermath. With Germany's and Japan's defeat, outlet for emotional tension stopped, and person's are killing themselves only because no stop-gap for pressure arising from emotional instability exists as during the war years. Now there is nothing to hate . . . Reasons for suicide are as varied as the persons themselves. But for the most part they can be broken down to those who just don't want to live; those wanting to make someone else sorry; those who are trying to scare someone; those who are simply afraid of the future. — The Lutheran.

6. Radio programs featuring "crime murders and music with jungle noises are not popular in Australia said, "It is a mistake to on the importation of "inferior" serial stores from the U. S. One Australian said, "It is a mistake to think that we are primitive barbarians who need education in the form of serials imported from abroad."

7. Fifty thousand people in St. Paul, Minnesota have been reading a chapter of the gospel according to St. John each day. They have also been memorizing one verse of each chapter. The Bible reading resulted from a crusade led by the American Bible Society and the St. Paul Ministers' Association. Of 150 Protestant churches in the city, 140 took part in the crusade.

8. It is reliably reported that London tailors are burdened with orders running into millions of dollars for suits of clothing that cannot be delivered for from 9 to

18 months. One firm is refusing all orders for 9 months. Orders already accepted must wait at least that long for the first fitting and until 1947 for delivery.

9. If you don't believe that love is cheaper than hate, read this. Dr. F. A. Lowry, moderator of the Missouri Baptist Association, told the convention that if the American people had spent an average of 39 cents each to evangelize the world, we would not now be taxed \$2,307 each to meet our war bill. \$50,000,000 divided by 130,000,000 would be about 39 cents, and \$2,300 is our national debt of \$300,000,000,000 divided by 130,000,000. It may be questioned whether the world could have been evangelized at a cost of \$50,000,000. But the cost of preparing the first atomic bomb, \$2,000,000,000 would have kept 10,000 missionaries in the field for 100 years at an annual cost of \$2,000 per missionary. And the total cost of the war to America alone, \$200,000,000,000, would have paid 1,000,000 missionaries for 100 years at the same rate.

10. Crime is costing the U. S. 17 billions of dollars every year. Someone has said that there has been about one billion minutes since Christ died on the cross, and that if a man could have lived from the time of our national crime debt one year.

11. World War II cost the U. S. one million casualties, two hundred thousand of whom have died.

12. William McDonald tells the following incident. An old Christian was giving this testimony: "I believe in a gradual work. I am expecting it gradually." Whereupon the following conversation took place: "How long have you been seeking?" "About seventy years." "Have you received it yet?" "No, I cannot say that I have." "How much longer do you think it will require to gain this prize of perfect love?" "I do not know." "How much nearer does the blessing of heart holiness seem to you than when you began seeking seventy years ago?" "I cannot say that it appears any nearer." "If I had been seventy years getting nowhere on the gradual line of obtaining holiness, by the grace of God, I would try the instantaneous line." The old pilgrim came to the altar as a seeker, and when he arose, testified as to having experienced a clean heart. God had done the work in an instant of time. — Pulpit Digest.

13. Too many of our church officers are trying to operate the business of the Church like they drive a car — wit hone hand — Carolina Watchman

14. One evening while visiting with one of my farmer parishioners I went with him to the barn. As he milked the cows and fed the livestock, I became fascinated by the actions of some spiders whose webs had literally covered the barn. The place was a scene of intense activity because the sun was going down and was carrying with it the light necessary

Brown At Steel Branch Church

Rev. Harry W. Brown, pastor of the Lake City Church and Superintendent of the Elm High School, has found time to conduct a revival at the Steel Branch church. Rev. Parnell, the pastor reports that it was a very profitable meeting with eleven definite professions. There were six saved, three sanctified and two received the Holy spirit.

Bi-Annual Convention

The Womans Auxiliary of the South Carolina Conference will hold its Bi-annual convention with the Darlington church, January 1st. The delegates will meet Monday night, December 31 and will be entertained by the local Auxiliary with a program. Plans are now being made to assure all delegates and visitors a pleasant and profitable visit to the Darlington church.

Any correspondence relating to your attending the convention should be addressed to the Local Auxiliary President, Mrs. Evelyn Bradshaw, 107 Syracuse St., Darlington, S. C.

College Student Visits Church

Rev. Leonard Gardner, a Sophomore of Holmes Bible College recently visited his home church at Winnsboro for a meek-end revival. His messages were very inspiring and encouraging.

The Winnsboro Church is very proud of Leonard and are expecting great things out of him.

for a supper of flies. I received considerable amusement throwing pieces of trash in the webs of the spiders and watching them tug and pull to get the lodged particles out. In one particular web while the spider labored to free his home of a bit of stick, another spider slipped up and clipped a strand of the web and then raced away. This necessitated leaving the cleaning of the web and chasing the intruder. No sooner had work been resumed than the intruder slipped up and cut another strand of the web which caused another chase and so it went on. As I observed that undermining work among the spiders I thought How like human beings these little folks are! I knew such doings existed among people. I knew that hardly anything is too mean for us to do. I knew that we are jealous and envious of each other - that we sometimes try to build up ourselves on the torn down influence of another. But needless for me to tell you my surprise when I discovered sneak attacks among the spiders.

Young Mens S. S. Class Sponsors Weiner Roast

The Young Men's Bible Class of the Darlington School recently sponsored a weiner roast at Mineral Springs. It was given in honor of the young men just out of the Army and Navy who have resumed their places in the Sunday School. We welcome these young men back and it is gratifying to see them showing a marked interest in church and Sunday School. We did not forget them while they were away and we are receiving them back with open arms.

Birthday Cake With Candles Given Pastor

The PHYS of the Highway church recently surprised their pastor with a beautiful birthday cake with 30 candles and an envelop containing 30 nice smooth frog skins. I'm sure that this was one time Rev. Swails was glad he is 30 years old. It seems to me that it would have been to his advantage, for that occasion at least, to have been a hundred.

I'll Not Tell

They hash it in the kitchen,
They whisper it in church
They toss it back, from house to house,
Like birds from perch to perch
They pass it gently o'er the plates
They bounce it up the street,
They stretch it - tear it - shred it
To every one they meet.
They use it when they're coming,
They use it when they part,
They use it to make sadness
And of course to break your heart
They eat it - sleep it - breathe it,
They believe that it's a toss up
And if you don't know what it is
Well sisters dear, it's "Gossip".
—Lillie Bailey

For Sale

One new set of the Pulpit Commentary of the latest edition. The retail price for this set of books at the publishers is \$59.00. But I am offering this set for only \$45.00. I have had this set of books for several months but they are unused and in perfect condition. Anyone interested will please write to Rev. J. W. Swails, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C.

"Kindness is not thrown away even though shown toward members of one's own family." —Mixon Waterman.

"Thoughts are the buds of the soul; words are the blossoms in the Garden of Eden, work well done, is the fruit for lasting good." —A. Neilen.

Chairman Honored By League Of Red Cross Societies

The first meeting of the League of Red Cross Societies since 1918 was held in Paris, France, on November 15. The United States was especially honored by the fact that our American Red Cross Chairman, Basil O'Connor, was elected Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League by the unanimous vote of delegates representing the Red Cross societies of 52 nations.

The League was formed immediately after the close of World War I. It is a federated body of all national Red Cross societies and its purpose is to stimulate expansion of Red Cross activities, to strengthen individual societies and to promote cooperation between them. For obvious reasons the League was unable to hold its regular annual meetings during the period of world conflict. This three-day meeting was called for the purpose of reorganization for the peace years. The immediate task is to rebuild the world-wide character of the Red Cross movement by revitalizing the member societies, many of which are now struggling for existence in the wake of war.

In acknowledging the tribute paid to the American Red Cross by his election, the new Chairman told the delegates that "To mitigate the suffering caused by war is a first task. We must build strong national Red Cross societies and a strong and effective association of them. As we give help to those who need it, we can thus contribute mightily toward the elimination of the causes of war. This is humanity's highest task. We must not proceed in the belief that to talk peace is to achieve it; rather that the expression of the Red Cross ideal should be directed toward the creation within each nation and among all nations of those conditions within which the ways of peace so deeply willed by the people themselves can be nurtured and preserved."

14 Students In Holmes Bible College

The South Carolina Conference is elated over the fact that she has 14 young men and women enrolled in Holmes Bible College this year. We are indeed grateful to President Beacham for opening the doors of the college to so many of our young people. We are looking forward to the day when they will come back to us full of zeal and enthusiasm to enter the harvest fields and glean for the master.

Hurry up boys and girls, make the most of every precious moment at Holmes, and then come back to work, we have a job waiting for you.

OUR WISH FOR . . .

Christmas

Humanity's hope and civilization's cry for a brave, new world is perennially strengthened by the light that shines from the eyes of children as they stand in the presence of their Christmas idol - Santa Claus.

The wonder of these faces unfolds mankind's greatest lessons.

For here is faith resplendent in its simplicity.

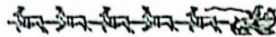
Here is unselfishness, unadorned.

Here is devotion, unalterable.

Here is goodness, in its glory.

The magic of this light shines outward from the world of childhood onto the pathways of our adult world - pathways sometimes darkened.

This light can pierce that darkness.



And again this year, these eyes will shine, these faces glow.

Let these rays be cast on us and warm us.

Warm our hearts. Kindle the spark. Light the way.

For great things are all cradled in the land of simplicity and faith - the land of a childish face.

And peace in the world is the great thing in our hearts this Christmas.

And lasting peace must spring from those basic truths that generate this light that shines in the eyes of children.

That those who lead the world out of a period of darkness will gaze this Yuletide into the faces of little children - and gazing catch the spark - is the Christmas wish and message of this newspaper.

We know too, that it is the Christmas wish and message of this community.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men."

A Startling Observation

According to the records I have kept for the past fifty eight years, about half the people in our churches are children under sixteen years of age. About one third of our parishioners die before they reach the age of ten. It has been my privilege to witness the happy, triumphant deaths of many children between the ages of six and thirteen. The number of years between a minister's ordination and his own decease is usually about twenty-five, and during that quarter century about two thousand souls are committed to his charge. All those souls are immortal, all will be either saved or lost, all must be accounted for. If the minister fails in his duty those souls, as far as his instrumentality is concerned, will perish. Brethren, your parishioners are dropping between your hands down into the grave. Some of them perhaps are dropping into hell. Soon all of them will be taken from you, and soon - perhaps sooner than you are aware - you will be taken from the world. What we ministers do we must do quickly. Are we exhibiting the gospel plan of salvation? Are we exhibiting it clearly, fully, earnestly? If we visit our burial grounds do we find there souls which through our neglect have sunk into endless suffering?

—Selected

Youth Revival At Scranton

Rev. James Goude is with the Church at Scranton for a weeks revival. We are praying for the blessing of the Lord to be upon this meeting.

"Dost thou love life, then do not squander time for that is the stuff life is made of." — Benjamin Franklin.

"Remember that what you possess in the world will be found at the day of your death to belong to someone else; but what you are will be your forever." — Van Dyke.

"Good temper, like a sunny day, sheds a brightness over everything, it is the sweetener of toil and the soother of disquietude." — Washington Irving.

A man who does a little more work than he's asked to do —

Who takes a little more care than he's expected to —

Who puts the small details on an equal footing with more important ones —

He's the man who is going to make a success of his job.

Each little thing done better is the thin edge of the wedge to something. — Author Unknown

Christmas Without Christ - - -

With swift and measured tread Father time has lead us onward into another Christmas season. No other holiday of the entire calendar year holds a more compelling influence over so wide an area and effects so many people as this season we call Christmas. This of course is due to the nature of the origin of this day. No other date in all time, no other event in all history has done so much to warm the cold hearts of this old world as the event that marks the origin of Christmas. It came at a time when the world was staggering beneath the weight of centuries of sin, marching like a doomed man to the scaffold. At a time when the nations were bled white with war, when poverty, disease and famine were riding through the land like the Horseman of the Revelation, unchecked and unconquered. Men had lost faith in each other, human flesh was cheap. Boys and girls were sold from the slave block to servitude and misery. The arteries of religious life had hardened and its very blood had clotted in the veins. Beggars crowded the streets lepers roamed the hills, "with no hope and without God in the world." The groans of a vanquished people arose in unison, ever increasing in its terrible momentum, until heaven itself could no longer endure the wails of woe, which were the final gasps of the nations on suicide road.

The night air of the land of Judea that had so long been polluted with the ten thousand voices of evil breaking up from the dives of sin throughout the land, suddenly became charged with the overtones of angelic choirs singing as mortal man had never heard. While the shepards watched their flock, wrapped in the thick curtain of the night, the aching solitude of the Judean hills was broken by a message of peace on earth and good will toward men. The message had come just in time, for in the fullness of time He was manifest.

It has been a long time since that day, the old world has passed many a mile stone. She has waded through many wars, weathered many storms, endured many famines, but somehow above it all she is still going today, onward through time on her mission of destiny. A destiny that will be determined by the attitude of men toward the Babe of Bethlehem's Manger.

It occurs to me as I write this article it is again December 7th. Another momentous date of history. A day that will never be forgotten as long as there is an America. It will be remembered because of that ignominious massacree of Pearl Harbor.

The birthday of the Pearl Harbor disaster and the anniversary of the Virgin Mary's Son are very near together on the calendar but very far apart in nature and effect. Both in the same month, but the difference in their character is the difference between heaven and hell.

If men had lived by the principals taught by the Christ of our Christmas there would never have been a Pearl Harbor. There never would have been a death march of Bataan, a Wake Island or the dropping of an Atomic Bomb. But alas! as the world had no room in Bethlehem long ago, it has no room today.

After nearly twenty centuries of blood, sweat and tears there is still no place in the earth for the Manger Child. There seems to be a striking similiarity between the attitude and moral condition of the world today and at the time of the first Christmas. The world is again roaming the rim of ruin, weary of war, famine and disease. The price of human life has hit an all time low. Men are violating every principal of morality and ignoring every spiritual restraint. They are catering to the unbridled passions of their baser self until like Esaw they have sold their future for the present and bertered their eternal home for the temporary pleasures of passing iniquity.

I know that we have won another war, and are again observing a Christmas in relative peace. But there is a haunting fear in all of our hearts that it is only temporary, because there is only one permanent peace that men and nations can know. That is the peace of which the angels sang on that starry night long ago. May we turn backward from our wayward path and take the journey with the humble shepherds, and with them bow upon the hay around the Manger cradle to worship the Prince of Peace, joining in happy unison as they sing "Peace on earth Good will to men."

— The Editor