

A Survey Of Town and Country
Churches in the Synod of
North Carolina.

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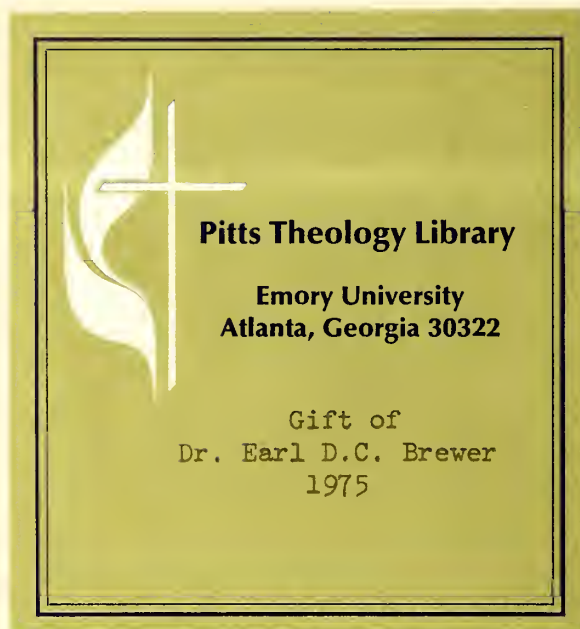
A SURVEY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES
IN THE SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

Presbyterian Church in the United States

A Study of 238 Town and Country Churches Made Under the
Supervision of Dr. James M. Carr, Secretary of the Department
of Town and Country Church, the Board of Church Extension,
Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Sponsored by the Executive Committee of Church Extension
Synod of North Carolina
Dr. Harold J. Dudley, Secretary

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TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH SURVEY
SYNOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

Presented To The
PRE-SYNOD CONFERENCE ON HOME MISSIONS
Davidson, North Carolina
September 1-2, 1952

* * *

BACKGROUND

The Church Extension Committee of the Synod of North Carolina at a meeting on March 3, 1952 authorized a survey of the Home Mission work of the Synod, and engaged Dr. Ralph A. Felton of Drew Theological Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, to serve as Director of the survey. Dr. Felton requested Dr. James M. Carr, Secretary of the Town and Country Church Department for our General Assembly, to assist him in making plans for and in conducting the survey.

WHAT IS HOME MISSIONS?

This report does not attempt to answer fully this question. But when Dr. Felton, Dr. Carr and Dr. Harold Dudley, our Synod's General Secretary, discussed this problem, it was agreed that this study should not be confined to "aid-receiving" churches. A church may be "aid-receiving" one year, then become "self-supporting" for one or two years, and again become "aid-receiving" without in any real sense changing the problems of the church. Furthermore, a re-grouping, or adding one more church to an already existing group, may change a church from an "aid-receiving" to a "self-supporting" church without any change whatever in the life and work of the church.

It was agreed that the survey would include all "TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES" of the Synod (using the population classification of 5,000 which was adopted by the Assembly's Board of Church Extension last April). This does not imply that every church located in a town of less than 5,000, or in a village, hamlet, or open country is a "Home Mission" church. In the Synod of North Carolina some of our churches of large membership and great financial strength are town and country churches. But in general, the Problem of Home Missions and the Problem of the Town and Country

Church are largely the same.

It was also agreed that the survey should include the total program of the local church in its several phases, and in its relations with other churches and with community agencies. The Survey Blank was prepared in such a way as to become a self-analysis of the total program of the local church, to be made by a special committee or a small group in the local church who are qualified and sufficiently interested to give the information requested.

OBTAINING THE REPORTS FROM THE PRESBYTERIES

Representatives of the Presbyteries, including the Executive Secretaries, were invited to attend a meeting at which time plans for the survey were presented to them. At that meeting it was agreed that each Presbytery group would be responsible for presenting the survey to its pastors and leaders. Plans for this varied in the different Presbyteries.

SUMMARY OF TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all who participated in this survey. This includes far too many individuals and groups and committees for us to even attempt to name them at this time. On the following page is a summary of the Town and Country Churches and of the reports received from the churches.

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as.	No. Town & Country Churches	Total Mbrshp.	No. Churches Returning Survey	Mbrshp. Churches Returning Survey	Open Country	Hamlet up to 250	Village up to 2,500	Town up to 5,000	Sunday Sch. Enrollment Churches Ret. Survey
o.	36	2,572	20	1,406	11	3	1	5	1,780
a.	53	7,336	25	3,145	13	4	5	3	3,151
r.	87	11,758	31	5,071	19	0	9	3	4,300
n.	31	2,981	19	1,777	11	1	6	1	1,891
Mtn.	32	4,311	18	2,556	6	1	6	5	2,557
k.	72	11,443	52	8,212	23	4	20	5	7,849
unge	53	5,450	19	3,532	10	5	2	2	1,735
.	70	7,989	22	2,304	11	3	9	0	2,057
Salem	36	1,799	32	1,770	16	3	11	2	1,983
od	470	55,639	238	29,773	120	24	69	26	27,303

470 churches are designated as Town and Country. Each Presbytery Executive Secretary or Church Extension Chairman was requested to designate the Town and Country Churches of his Presbytery. From their replies and a study of the 1950 census, the churches to be surveyed were chosen. Consequently, a few small urban churches designated as "R.F.D." in the Minutes of the General Assembly may be included in this total. Also our total may fail to include a few churches which are either town or country.

Of the 614 churches of the Synod, 470 (or 76%) are Town and Country. Of the total Synod membership of 119,243, these 470 churches have 55,639 members, or approximately 46.7% of the Synod total. This means that even though our denomination is becoming more and more urban, our Synod stands high as a rural Synod in our total membership.

Survey reports were returned by 238 churches, or 51% of the total of 470 Town and Country Churches. These 238 churches have a membership of 29,773, or 53% of the total Town and Country Church membership. Of the reporting churches, 120 are open country. 24 are in small hamlets, 69 are in small towns up to 2,500. The most reluctant group to participate in this survey were our churches in larger towns between 2,500 and 5,000. Only 26 churches in this group participated.

POPULATION CHANGES

The rural to urban movement of people is not as rapid in the Synod of North Carolina as in other states. Nor is it as rapid in the other states as a first glance at the census records would indicate. A new definition of urban and rural population was used in the 1950 census which placed 7,520,222 people as urban who would be rural under the old definition.

A RURAL SYNOD

The national decline in rural population has been more rapid than in North Carolina. The rural population of North Carolina increased by 226,288, or 8.7% from 1940 to 1950. The trend from rural to urban in the state of North Carolina is revealed here:

		<u>Rural</u>	<u>Urban</u>
Old Definition	1900	90.1	9.9
Old Definition	1910	85.6	14.4
Old Definition	1920	80.8	19.2
Old Definition	1930	74.5	25.2
Old Definition	1940	72.7	27.3
New Definition	1950	66.3	33.7
Old Definition	1950	69.5	30.5

22 counties of the state declined in population, but only 13 of these are in the Synod of North Carolina, and the average decline in these 13 counties is only 5%. The other 9 counties with declining population are in the bounds of the Synod of Appalachia.

The high percentage of our total population in rural areas presents a high challenge to the town and country churches of all denominations.

HISTORY

The following chart reveals the date of organization of the 470 Town and Country Churches.

Presbytery	No. Town & Country Churches	Prior to 1800	1800 to 1849	1850 to 1874	1875 to 1899	1900 to 1919	1920 to 1929	1930 to 1939	1940 to 1949	1950 to 1952	Date Not Given
Albemarle	36				2	6	6		17	3	2
Concord	53	9	9	2	13	5	5	5	3		2
Dayetteville	87	10	10	8	14	28	8	5	2	1	1
Franville	31	2	2	2	4	12	4	1	1	2	1
Kings Mtn.	32	7	2	3	6	2	3	1	2	1	5
Lecklenburg	72	8	7	5	17	9	11	re-org. 2	4		9
Orange	53	10	9	6	5	6	4	1	4	2	6
Wilmington	70	5	5	10	14	12	9	2	10	1	2
Winston Salem	36	1	1	1	4	8	6	8	4		3
Total	470	52	45	37	79	88	56	25	47	10	31

A study of this chart reveals a number of interesting facts about our Town and Country Churches.

1. The Presbyterian Church of North Carolina has deep roots in the early history of the state. One church in nine is more than 150 years old. One church in five is more than 100 years old.

2. There was an era of rapid expansion in the fifty-year period following the Civil War. Approximately 100 Town and Country Churches were organized in the forty-year period prior to 1900.

3. This continued at an accelerated pace, so that 144 Town and Country Churches had their origin in the thirty-year period from 1900 to 1929.

4. The depression slowed down our progress to only 25 churches in the thirties.

5. The Home Mission Emergency Fund and the Program of Progress gave new life to our program of Church Extension, so that since 1940 we have organized 57 new Town and Country Churches, (one-ninth of all our Town and Country Churches organized since 1940).

6. The Presbytery records vary. You are urged to study the record of your own Presbytery in its relation to your present program of church extension.

AREAS OF TRADE, BANKING, EDUCATION, ETC.

The purpose of this section is to establish the "Community Center" for the church. Each church is a part of a larger community, and should develop its program in relation to total community life and in relation to other churches of the community. Another purpose was to assist in determining best plans for grouping, or re-grouping of churches, including the establishment of the LARGER PARISH among rural churches. Dr. Felton has made a study of this section and has prepared a separate paper on "RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA". (See Section II)

INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION

There are very few Town and Country Churches which exclusively serve their entire community. Almost always there are other churches of several denominations meeting the needs of some of the people in the same community. Pages 3 and 4 of the survey called for information about these churches, and for a statement of the degree and manner of cooperation among these churches. A study will reveal whether or not a given community is overchurched or underchurched. By this we do not mean too many or too few churches. Quite frequently we find communities with too many churches, yet they are underchurched because no one church provides an adequate religious program for the people, and often even all the churches together

have an inadequate program.

Please refer to Dr. Felton's paper on "INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATION NEEDED" (Section II) which presents a summary of this section of the survey. This paper by Dr. Felton also discusses the place of the local Presbyterian church and pastor in the County Council of Churches, the Ministers' Association, cooperation in civic, agricultural, health and home improvement, and other community organizations.

STATISTICAL

The following is a statistical summary of the membership growth or decline in the Town and Country Churches since 1935.

Presbytery	Number Town & Country Churches	Members 1935	Members 1952	Number Churches Increased Since 1935	Number Churches Decreased Since 1935	Same Membership as 1935
Albemarle	36	1,101	2,572	6	8	0
Concord	53	5,811	7,336	27	18	1
Fayetteville	87	9,419	11,758	44	32	1
Granville	31	1,889	2,981	21	5	1
Kings Mtn.	32	2,893	4,311	18	9	0
Mecklenburg	72	7,595	11,443	48	12	1
Orange	53	3,928	5,450	29	16	0
Wilmington	70	5,157	7,889	45	16	0
Winston Salem	36	1,625	1,719	13	16	0
Synod	470	39,418	55,639	251	132	4

This summary reveals that the Town and Country Church of the Synod is not static. Less than one-fourth are smaller than they were in 1935. On the other hand, more than one-half are larger than in 1935. This is much better than the average of all Town and Country Churches of all denominations. The declining rural church is the exception rather than the rule in North Carolina. But the fact that we have 132 sick churches

in our Synod means that we must do something about it immediately. This is an average of 15 declining churches in each Presbytery.

PARISH ORGANIZATION

The section of the survey blank on Parish Organization was intended to reveal the need of some plan for regrouping or enlarging present groups as one means of solving the problem of vacant churches. Often one individual church is strengthened by withdrawing from a group and securing a full-time pastor. But with a shortage of ministers, this leaves other churches vacant, requiring new plans for grouping, or some other way of supplying them. The Larger Parish, which organizes rural churches under a Council and provides a diversified ministry and a more adequate program is solving the problem of leadership and program planning in an increasing number of rural churches. However, not one rural church reported that it is a part of a Larger Parish.

Dr. Felton's paper on "THE REGROUPING OF CHURCHES AND THE ENLARGING OF PARISHES" (Section II) discusses this problem and suggests a solution.

One solution of the vacancy problem is a wider use of laymen to supply our pulpits. This proves successful if the laymen have the guidance of a pastor who directs them or a Council which coordinates their activities. Dr. Felton's paper on "MORE LAYMEN NEEDED TO CONDUCT WORSHIP SERVICES" (Section II) points toward our wider use of laymen.

FINANCES

This chart summarizes the Report on Finances from the 238 churches.

Chart	Albemarle	Concord	Fayetteville	Granville	Kings Mountain	Mecklenburg	Orange	Wilmington	Winston Salem	Synod Total	Percentage of Total For Reporting Churches
Number Churches Reporting	20	25	31	19	18	52	19	22	32	238	
Annual Budget	16	25	27	18	16	41	16	17	21	197	83%
Annual Every-Member Canvass	17	25	21	16	16	36	10	17	25	183	77%
Year-Around Every-Member Canvass	1	6	4		2	8	1	1	4	27	11%
Accepted Quota	16	18	18	17	17	36	14	12	23	171	71%
Lord's Acre Plan	4		4	7	4	3	3	1		26	11%
3 Stewardship Sermons	15	20	20	16	9	29	15	9	14	147	61%
Stewardship Study Class		2	6	1	2	5	2	1	3	22	9%
Promotion of Tithing	8	21	17	13	12	29	14	15	15	144	60%
Prompt Payment											
Salaries	19	24	27	18	16	42	19	21	24	210	88%
M.A.F. Dues	15	23	25	18	15	42	19	19	22	198	83%
Benevolences	12	22	21	16	14	35	13	18	18	169	70%

The above figures reveal that our Stewardship Committees should give attention to:

1. An effort to get all our churches, instead of 83%, to adopt a regular church budget.
2. An effort to get that other one-fourth of all our churches to conduct a good Every-Member Canvass.

3. Developing the idea of a year-around Every-Member-Canvass Committee and not confine the activities of the committee to the annual Every-Member-Canvass season.

4. A better plan of presentation of the benevolent budget so that the 29% of churches which do not accept their quota may be led to do so.

5. A definite program in promotion of the Lord's Acre plan, which is giving a spiritual interpretation to stewardship, as well as increasing the income of many rural churches.

6. Providing more guidance to pastors and churches in their promotion of stewardship in sermons, classes, etc.

But the problem of finances and stewardship goes much deeper than the mechanics of promoting our program of giving. Dr. Felton has prepared two papers as follows: "SOME SOLUTIONS FOR AIDED CHURCHES" and "A RECONSIDERATION BY LAYMEN OF PASTORS SALARIES". (Section II)

MINISTER AND OTHER STAFF

This section of the survey is intended to reveal the need for more trained leadership for our Town and Country Churches, not only our ministers, but other staff members as well. With only two or three exceptions the staff is the minister and the janitor, with some churches listing a director of music. Very few churches report even a part time director of religious education. Yet under the Larger Parish Plan, the director of religious education who serves a larger group of rural churches enables the pastor (or pastors) in the Larger Parish to serve more churches.

Dr. Felton's paper on "SPECIFIC TRAINING NEEDED FOR PASTORS OF TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCHES" reveals the need and offers a solution. His paper on "A NEW PROGRAM OF ENLISTING YOUTH FOR THE MINISTRY IS NEEDED" points toward a permanent solution in the future. (Section II)

OUR BUILDINGS

We are in an era of church building. Dr. E. M. Conover of the Interdenominational Bureau of Church Architecture has stated that on a percentage basis, the Presbyterian Church, U.S. is engaged in more church erection than any other of the 21 denominations cooperating in his bureau.

The last annual report of the Rev. O. V. Caudill reveals that 76 buildings are under construction, and that 39 buildings were completed during the year.

A summary of replacement value and insurance coverage of the reporting churches is as follows:

No. Churches Presbytery Reporting	Church Building		Educational Bldg.		Manse		Total Debt
	Replmnt. Value	Insurance Coverage	Replmnt. Value	Insurance Coverage	Replmnt. Value	Insurance Coverage	
bemarle 20	\$ 282,500	\$ 98,000	\$ 58,500	\$ 19,000	\$ 13,300	\$ 32,000	\$ 52,000
ncord 25	617,000	289,000	148,000	69,000	158,000	88,000	51,164
yetteville 31	880,000	328,000	104,000	13,500	135,500	66,000	
anville 19	408,000	124,850	16,000	90,000	36,500	23,250	5,350
Mtn. 18	675,400	286,000	60,000	34,000	153,000	61,000	101,750
cklenburg 52	1,594,450	640,000	303,500	98,000	398,690	119,600	36,000
ange 19	460,000	437,000	300,000	70,000	134,000	60,500	39,000
lmington 22	146,500	68,500	58,500	8,500	30,000	13,000	6,050
nston Salem 32	471,500	143,500	14,500	8,000	88,500	52,000	37,000
nod 238	\$5,535,350	\$2,414,850	\$1,063,000	\$410,000	\$1,939,490	\$515,350	\$328,314

INADEQUATE INSURANCE COVERAGE

These figures showing value of our churches, educational buildings and manses reveal an urgent need for a committee in each Presbytery to study the whole matter of fire insurance coverage in the light of inflated values and the deflated dollar. Note that according to the reports our churches and manses have a replacement value of \$8,537,840 and they have only \$3,340,200 of fire insurance. This means that our coverage is only 39% of replacement value.

SIZE AND USE OF LOT

The size of the lot on which our churches are located vary from just enough for the church plant to several acres; "six acres", "twelve acres", "seven acres", "eight acres", "eleven acres", etc. Most of our churches have adequate space and to spare in the land on which they are located. However, the significant fact is their use of their surplus land. In almost every case, the use is for the church building, the educational building, the manse, a cemetery or for parking.

Only eleven churches reported the use of their lot for recreation or playground. In the section asking for problems and needs, not one church listed problems and needs having to do with recreation. Does this mean that almost all of our churches have an adequate recreational program so that there is no problem or need as regards recreation? Or does it mean that most of us are indifferent to this vital area of life to which the church should give attention? These two questions are related to the fact that approximately one-fourth of the reporting churches state that they have a playground or a game room.

OUR EQUIPMENT

This chart shows the equipment of our church and educational buildings.

Equipment of the Church	Alb.	Con.	Fay.	Gran.	K.Mtn.	Meck.	Or.	Wil.	W.S.	Synod
Number Churches Reporting	20	25	31	19	18	52	19	22	32	238
Kitchen	8	13	18	4	12	29	10	7	11	112
Equipment for Cooking and Eating										
Dining Room	9	15	16	4	12	26	10	7	8	107
Parlor		10	6	1	6	5	5	1		34
Church Office	1	6	4	2	8	10	2	2	2	37
Game Room	2	6	7		6	10	4		5	40
Gymnasium	1	1			1		1			4
Minister's Study	5	8	7	3	10	14	3	6	1	57
Cloak Room										
Piano	20	23	28	19	17	51	18	17	22	215
Organ	4	9	8	3	10	19	7	3	6	69
Telephone	2	6	4		4	6	5	2	1	30
Stage	4	8	4	3	5	4	6	5	9	48
Electricity	20	23	29	18	18	50	18	20	30	226
Indoor Toilets	8	13	16	4	11	30	9	7	12	110
Central Heating	8	21	20	16	16	39	12	9	10	151
Well bound and good sized Pulpit Bible	13	20	28	14	15	48	16	19	13	186
Stationary pews	11	19	24	10	15	42	12	14	13	160
Useful library	3	5	8	1	4	8	7	1	1	38
Typewriter	2	9	5		5	11	3	3		38
Duplicating Machine	4	11	13	2	7	28	9	4	5	83
Moving Picture Projector		3	6	1	2	13	2	2	6	35
Slide or filmstrip Projector	1	1	4		2	3	3	2	5	21
Maps	4	10	19	7	5	21	9	8	6	89
Pictures	5	11	16	10	10	23	13	14	4	106
Other Visual Aid equipment	1		6		1	6	1	1	3	19
Playground	2	5	8	5	5	13	5	3	16	62
Outside Bulletin Board	5	6	10	5	3	16	3	3	3	54
Parking Space(other than street)	12	19	26	14	13	43	13	15	24	179
Well-landscaped grounds	14	13	14	10	12	31	14	12	13	133
Well-kept grounds	16	18	16	13	12	39	15	13	20	162
Church bell	7	14	19	10	11	30	8	11	20	130

A clearer picture is seen in this synod total:

Facility or Equipment	Number Churches Having this Facility or Equipment	
1. Electricity	226	
2. Piano	215	
3. Well-bound Pulpit Bible	186	
4. Parking Space (other than street)	179	More than 3/4 of total
5. Well-kept grounds	162	
6. Stationary pews	160	
7. Central Heating	151	
8. Landscaped grounds	133	
9. Church bell	130	More than 1/2 of total
10. Kitchen	112	Less than 1/2 of total
11. Indoor toilets	110	
12. Dining Room	107	
13. Pictures	106	
14. Maps	89	
15. Duplicating Machines	83	
16. Organ	69	
17. Playground	62	
18. Minister's study	57	Less than 1/4 of total
19. Outside bulletin board	54	
20. Stage	48	
21. Game room	40	
22. Library	38	
23. Typewriter	38	
24. Church Office	37	
25. Movie projector	35	
26. Parlor	34	
27. Telephone	30	
28. Slide and filmstrip projector	21	
29. Other Visual Aid equipment	19	
30. Gymnasium	4	

It should be noted that less than one half of the churches have such simple equipment as picture, maps, and a duplicating machine. Less than one-fourth list visual education equipment. This is particularly significant in view of the growing emphasis in good rural church programs using audio-visual aids, church bulletins, and church newspapers.

OUR MANSES

The replies from the churches in this section on manse equipment has been summarized by Dr. Felton in his paper on "THE HOMES OF THE RURAL PASTORS" and is found in Section II.

CHURCH PROGRAM

The 238 churches reported as follows covering their average membership and average attendance of the churches and Sunday Schools, their women's, men's, youth, Young Adult and other groups.

	Alb.	Conc.	Fay.	Gran.	K.Mtn.	Meck.	Or.	Wil.	W.Sal.	Synod	Percent.
Number Churches Reporting	20	25	31	19	18	52	19	23	32	239	
Average Membership	70	126	163	93	140	158	186	100	55	125	
Average Attendance at Main Worship Ser.	49	81	100	62	130	77	66	37	35	70	
Av. S.S. Enrollment	83	113	136	87	140	134	127	68	54	108	
Average Sunday Sch. Attendance	64	78	92	54	86	83	72	37	32	68	
Organ. Women's Work	15	19	28	16	15	41	17	16	19	186	78%
Men's Groups	2	5	15	10	7	21	3	2	2	68	28%
Youth Groups	10	14	20	14	12	29	14	8	14	135	57%
Young Adult Groups	4	1	2	1	2	6	1		2	19	8%
Other Groups	9	1	5	1	3	9	3	5	3	39	12%

About 90% of the churches reporting have a Sunday School. But the record of other organized groups is not so good.

Women's groups 78% of churches reporting
 Youth groups 57% of churches reporting
 Men's groups 28% of churches reporting
 Young Adult groups 8% of churches reporting
 Various other grps. 12% of churches reporting

A well-balanced church program should meet the needs of all age groups. The limited membership of many town and country churches means that often there are not enough members for a good organized youth, young adult, or men's group. The Larger Parish program makes provision for meeting these needs in a group of churches.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

There is always something going on in a church that is alive and active. A living, serving church is more than an organization. It is an organism with many functioning parts or individual organs, each contributing to the welfare of the whole, each ministering to a special need of the people, all together constituting one organic whole.

The following are activities usually carried on by a church, and they include almost all activities which are considered as a "Total Church Program". Each church was asked to check the activities which were carried on continuously and significantly during the past year. Their answers are summarized by Presbyteries.

Activities	Alb.	Conc.	Fay.	Gran.	K.Mtn.	Meck.	Or.	Wil.	W.Sal.	Synod
Worship Service each Sunday	14	24	19	4	17	37	11	14	21	161
Second Sunday Service	1	4	4	7	9	10	4	6	6	51
Regular Mid-week Meeting	7	7	8	7	18	13	9	6	5	78
Cottage Meetings	2	2	1	2		8	1	2	3	21
Children's Sermon	2	6	3	1	1	8	3	4		28
Nursery During Church Service	3	7	7	1	7	14	4	7	3	53
Cradle Roll	4	8	8	5	6	30	4	5	3	73
Home Department	1	4	3	1	3	11	4	1	2	30
Use Presbyterian Hymnal	8	14	17	11	11	31	16	9	14	131
4 Communion Services	20	23	21	17	14	31	18	7	16	167
5 calls on non-church families per month	14	17	21	12	13	20	18	11	14	140
40 pastoral calls per mo.	9	20	21	10	9	21	13	8	13	124
Training of Laymen in Personal Evangelism	2	4	4	1	3	7	2	4	1	28
Annual Visitation Evangelism	1	6	7	4	7	13	6	7	3	54
Week of Evangelistic Preach.	18	18	25	15	14	35	15	16	22	178
10 pulp. appeals to accept Christ	20	16	22	9	12	35	12	13	19	158
Holy Week or Pre-Easter Ser.	3	16	6	2	5	6	3	3	3	47
Thanksgiving Service	10	17	22	11	14	30	11	15	17	147
Rural Life Sunday	3	3	3	1		5	5	6	1	27
Harvest Festival	4	4	9	7		4	5			43
World Day of Prayer	9	13	20	9	11	15	15	11	8	111

Activities	Alb.	Conc.	Fay.	Gran.	K.	Mtn.	Meck.	Or.	Wil.	W.	Sal.	Synod
World Wide Communion	16	22	27	11	12	31	19	13	13			164
Other Special Services	6	3	5	1	5	3	5	3	1			32
Regular Sunday School	17	24	28	18	18	49	17	16	25			212
Completely Graded S.S.	7	13	24	9	8	28	11	5	6			111
Partially Graded S.S.	12	12	6	8	7	15	5	8	16			89
Use of Pres. U.S. Curriculum Material	20	20	24	17	15	38	15	13	21			183
Regular Church School Report to Session Com. on R.E.	7	7	16	7	5	23	4	6	3			78
Worship Center for S.S.	4	14	28	8	7	18	9	8	8			104
Church Bus or other trans.			3	2	1	3	5		6			20
Church School in regular Church Budget	6	9	9	5	16	18	5	6	13			87
Quarterly S.S. Staff meeting to plan R.E. program	5	6	10	4	4	19	5	1	13			67
Program of Training for S. S. teachers	3	4	12	5	5	9	3	2	1			44
Training Class for Church Off.	4	5	1	1	2	5	6	2	2			28
In-Service Training Taken by minister	1	2	1		2		1		1			8
Other Leadership Training	3	2	6	1	2	1	2	2				19
Vacation Bible School	20	24	28	18	15	46	18	13	20			202
Week Day Religious Education			6		1	2						9
Communicants Class	3	9	7	1	1	12	9	11	2			55
6 Session Meetings a year	17	24	25	16	15	45	17	17	14			190
6 Deacons Meetings a year	9	14	17	6	7	38	15	8	10			124
Pastor and elder attend Presbytery meeting regularly	11	22	26	14	16	39	18	9	14			169
Annual Planning Conference of all leaders to plan church pro.	1	3	8	1	4	16	2	2	4			44
Punctuality	19	22	26	16	17	43	17	16	20			196
Class in worship		1	2		1	1						5
Missionary education:												
Sunday School	7	12	15	5	3	19	9	2	6			78
Pulpit	11	19	19	10	11	23	8	4	12			117
Mission Study Class for all age groups	1	6	5	3	4	12	2	4	5			42
Women of Church	14	18	25	14	16	37	17	9	17			167

Activities	Alb.	Conc.	Fay.	Gran.	K.Mtn.	Meck.	Or.	Wil.	W.Sal.	Synod
Missionary Education:										
Men of Church		2	12	4	1	9	3	1	1	33
School of Missions		2	4	1	2	7	2	1	2	21
2 missionary speakers a year	3	8	8	4	4	10	8	2	4	55
Women attend Presbyterial meetings	13	14	29	12	11	34	17	11	11	152
Use of "Day by Day"	10	15	19	12	18	30	14	11	8	137
Rallies for Young People	4	6	6		1	5	4	3	2	31
Young People at Camp & Conf.	12	17	27	12	13	33	14	13	12	153
Dramatics	3	1	1		2	3		3	1	14
Orchestra or Band										
Regular Use Motion Pictures	1	2	2	1	3	10	2	2	2	25
"Church Night" twice year	9	14	12	4	13	27	11	10	8	108
Religious Census last 5 yrs.	6	13	8	5	5	25	6	4	8	83
Card file of members	4	3	8	8	9	14	11	12	11	80
Church cooperation in:										
Community health services	1	2	3	2	8	11	7	3	1	38
Farm improvement programs	2	2	6				7	3	1	21
Home improvement programs	2	1	7		1	6	6	4	4	31
Church owned farm			2							2
Other community service	4	1			4	2	1	4	2	18
Interdenominational cooperation	7	6	11	3	3	13	5	6	1	55
Weekly calendar or Bulletin	7	16	12	9	9	24	10	7	6	99
Other Parish paper	2	1			1	3			7	14
Radio program	4	1	2	3	3	2	2	2		19
Regular newspaper publicity	10	9	6	4	7	5	6	2	7	56
"Presbyterian Survey"	10	4	8		1	13	2	4	1	43
Other Church Papers	11	12	17	11	8	37	11	15	6	128

Without attempting to comment on every part of this section, the following observations are offered concerning specific features:

1. It is significant that 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of our churches have one worship service each Sunday and 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ % have a second worship service. Ordinarily the churches which have a second Sunday worship service are in a one-church field. The big problem here is to arrive

at some plan of grouping which will enable the 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of our churches to have at least one preaching service each Sunday. One of our Executive Secretaries has said that "Only one preaching service a month has killed more country churches than any other one thing."

2. Only 55% of our churches report their use of our Presbyterian Hymnals. This is significant information for our committee representing several Presbyterian denominations in preparation of a new hymnal.

3. 75% of our churches held a Week of Evangelistic Preaching and in 66% of our churches there were at least 10 pulpit appeals to accept Christ, yet only 23% of our churches conducted a Visitation Evangelism Program, and in only 11% of our churches was there training of laymen in personal evangelism.

4. Only 11% observed Rural Life Sunday and only 18% observed Harvest Festival.

5. 47% of our churches have enough pupils and space to report a "Completely Graded Sunday School".

6. 77% report using Presbyterian U.S. Curriculum Material. The source of curriculum material for the remaining 23% constitutes a problem for our Board of Christian Education and our Synod and Presbytery Religious Education Committees and their staff.

7. 72% report no quarterly staff meeting to plan the Religious Education program, and 82% report no program of training for Sunday School teachers, and 88% report no plan for training church officers.

8. Only 3 1/3% of the churches reported that their pastor engaged in some form of In-Service Training during the past year, such as attending a Town and Country Pastor's Institute at a seminary, or an interdenominational Pastor's Training Conference.

9. It is encouraging that 19% have an annual planning conference of all leaders to plan the church program. What can we do about the other 81%?

10. Missionary education is reasonably strong in the pulpit ministry and in the women's organization. But less

than 20% of the churches conduct a mission study class for all age groups and less than 10% conduct a School of Missions.

11. Only 11% of the churches had regular use of motion pictures, whereas about 15% report a movie projector as a part of their equipment.

12. 35% of our churches participated in a Religious Census within the past five years, and 35% of our churches have a card file of their members.

13. Cooperation in community health services, farm improvement, and home improvement programs is very low among the churches of our Synod.

14. Less than one-fourth of our churches report inter-denominational cooperation.

15. 42% reported a weekly calendar or bulletin, but only 6% reported another type of parish newspaper.

16. About one-sixth of our churches report a general use of the Presbyterian Survey, whereas more than half report "other church papers".

17. Only 2% reported a class in worship, whereas about 58% report the use of our devotional guide "Day by Day".

OUTPOST SUNDAY SCHOOLS

Only five churches reported an outpost, and only two churches reported a committee on Outpost Sunday Schools. It is encouraging that eleven churches reported an area where an outpost is needed, but not any of them have made a survey to discover definite needs. Three churches in Mecklenburg Presbytery have made definite plans for starting a new Sunday School.

The 1951 Minutes of the General Assembly report 33 outposts in the Synod of North Carolina. However, it seems that only 9 of these were sponsored by Town and Country Churches. In our state where more than two-thirds of our total population is rural, we cannot leave the responsibility for our Sunday School Extension to our urban churches.

It is recommended:

1. That each church appoint a strong "Outpost Sunday School Committee".

2. That this committee write to the Assembly's Sunday School Extension Department and ask for materials to use in making a community survey.

3. That this committee sponsor a survey in a needy area, using the services of our Sunday School Extension Worker, if needed.

EVANGELISTIC FRUITFULNESS

This study of the Evangelistic fruitfulness includes all Town and Country Churches and is not confined to those which returned a survey report.

Presbytery	Number Town & Country Churches	Members 1952	Additions Prof. Faith and Restatement	Sp. Birth- rate for Presbytery	Sp. Birth- rate Town & C. Chur.	Sp. Birth- rate for Urban Chur.
Albemarle	36	2,572	129	4.2%	5.5%	3.5%
Concord	53	7,336	241	2.8%	3.2%	2.4%
Fayetteville	87	11,758	293	2.9%	2.5%	3.9%
Granville	31	2,981	153	4.6%	5.4%	4.3%
Kings Mtn.	32	4,311	153	3.3%	3.4%	3.1%
Mecklenburg	72	11,443	324	3.3%	2.8%	3.7%
Orange	53	5,450	205	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Wilmington	70	7,989	308	3.6%	3.9%	2.8%
Winston Salem	36	1,799	132	4 %	7 %	2.7%
Synod	470	55,639	1,938	3.47%	3.5%	3.46%

This pattern of the relation of spiritual birthrate between our urban and our Town and Country Churches in our Synod is perhaps the most wholesome of any Synod in the entire General Assembly. The percentage is almost identically the same in both. This speaks well for the nature of the program carried on in both urban and rural churches. However, our vacancy problem is almost altogether rural and not urban. Furthermore, when an urban church becomes vacant, there is usually very little interruption in the normal church program. No study has been made of the spiritual

birthrate of town and country churches which are supplied with pastors. The usual record is that these churches have a much higher spiritual birthrate than the Synod average.

There is a direct relation between our evangelistic fruitfulness and our church growth, and both these are related to the investments which we make in Home Missions. Dr. Felton's paper on "EVIDENCE OF HOME MISSION INVESTMENTS PAYING RICH DIVIDENDS" is timely here. (Section II)

OUR NEGRO WORK

There is very little negro work which we can call our own within the bounds of our Synod. The Synod's Committee on Negro Work will present their report, and this paper is by no means intended to effect that report in any way. Furthermore, this survey of Town and Country Churches includes only one negro church, the Beulah Church in North Wilkesboro.

However, in Dr. Felton's study of our Synod, he has discovered a need for the Presbyterian church to enter into a definite program in behalf of the unreached negroes among us. Accordingly, we offer his paper on "THE NEED FOR THE TRAINING OF LEADERS FOR THE NEGRO CHURCH". (Section II)

THERE IS NO END

There is no end to this survey. It will never be completed. Its purpose is to set in motion plans and programs which will go on and on until every town and country church of the Synod is marching forward with renewed life and activity, until every church is offering a full program to meet the total spiritual needs of all the people of the church and community.

WHAT ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS?

This survey presents us as we are. In this Conference on Home Missions we are taking a look at ourselves. While lines of action are suggested in almost every section of the report, we feel that recommendations should come from you - you who are in the Synod, responsible for Home Missions, Town and Country Church work, Evangelism, Education and Stewardship - you who are in the Presbyteries, closer to and more familiar with the problems of your churches and people - but most of all from

you who are in the hundreds of Town and Country Churches, as you recognize the progress you have made, but more important, as you discover that even with the best of us there is room for improvement.

Recommendations should grow out of our discussion tonight, and out of the Presbytery group meetings tomorrow morning, and they should be summarized in our final session as we all meet together at the close of this Home Mission Conference.

OUR NEXT MOVE

The most important result of this survey will be what takes place in each local church. The survey has revealed to us where we are. Upon this knowledge we need to build a program of improvement.

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