

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
to the Fourth Quarterly Conference

September 11, 1951

The church year has been a challenging one in many respects. Though there are discouragements as well as joys, the Master whom we serve does give strength and courage to meet each situation in a spirit of love.

In each department of the Children's Division some steps have been taken to do a better job of Christian Education. Adaptation of space has made possible more effective nursery work. This year our nursery seeks to provide more adequately for nursery home members, infants at church, toddlers, and nursery children. To this end a period of training is planned.

The kindergarten department began an extended session and seeks to make the best adjustment possible to the need for two kindergarten groups.

Primary boys and girls are participating in many activities seeking to learn by doing. More effective planning is being done in this group.

Juniors have had a very good year in interest, attendance, and varied projects. Teachers in this department are working on a set of standards for themselves which will help them improve their effectiveness.

Vacation Church School, held in June, enrolled 90 boys and girls in kindergarten, primary, and junior groups. Forty-one adults helped with the school. The groups where regular workers were able to help had a definite advantage in making this special work an integral part of the total program.

The Youth Division has been active throughout the year, and those participating have had many fine experiences. The president of our MYF and sub-district president, also from our group, attended the National Convocation at Purdue with great benefit, we believe. We were delighted to have a member of our Fellowship participate in the Conference Caravan to Europe this summer. A youth activities week held in July was very helpful and enjoyable. Young people have participated in many church-wide activities.

The Duke Memorial young people were host to a Conference-wide evangelism workshop which was well attended and meaningful to all participating.

These and other projects have been carried on by the Youth Division. Even so, this is our most needed place of emphasis for the coming year. Far too few young people are active in our fellowship, and for those participating there is a great need for deepening spiritual concepts. We need more adult leaders who will give themselves as a number do now to help guide and assist Young People in their growth and development toward God.

An event of the year that will mean much to our Christian Education program was our participation in a Seminar on "The Total Program of Christian Education" at Lake Junaluska in August. Six people from our church gave a week to study and planning for more effective Christian Education. The pastor, Church School Superintendent, children's Division Superintendent, a Primary Teacher, the New Intermediate Department Superintendent, and the Director, were part of a group led by some of the most skilled people in our church. By this study we got a new vision of the possibilities for a local Board of Christian Education and the things that may be accomplished when many people work for their God through their church in teaching, visiting, and other capacities. In the spirit of this seminar we begin the new church school year,--sure that the Christian way of life will be taught and caught effectively as we give ourselves wholeheartedly to the Master's service.

Elizabeth Johnson, D. R. E.

