

Report to the Quarterly Conference

October 4, 1949

- Elizabeth D. Johnson

Both the accomplishments and the opportunities in Christian education are awe-inspiring when viewed as a whole picture. Many people are giving their services and themselves constantly to carry on the Christian education program of our church. The accomplishments of this year have been high-lighted by some of the following activities.

In the children's division the training which our own teachers received in the Laboratory School held in June in cooperation with the Conference Board was very helpful. Twelve workers at Duke Memorial were enrolled. They watched and helped expert teachers lead our own children in our own situation and that afforded excellent training. In connection with the Laboratory School and continuing for another week, the Vacation Church School was held. About 120 children were enrolled in nursery, kindergarten, primary, and junior departments. Nursery children were included because the Laboratory School was set up as a Sunday School session. Forty adults in our church helped make these two weeks a time of Christian education for the boys and girls.

In the youth division the senior-young people's department had both a spring and a fall retreat at Crabtree Creek State Park. The theme in the spring was "Why Am I a Christian?" and in the fall "A Christian Young Person Meets God." Mr. Roland Rainwater spoke to the group on "Why Am I A Christian" and Miss Mary Stringer led the young people in a study of the book of Mark this fall. Recreation and workshop periods were also part of the retreats. During the summer a Youth Activities week featured Dr. A. J. Walton as speaker on the theme "Jesus' Way - Our Faith!" An average of thirty young people participated in the week's activities which included special sessions on the four commissions worship and evangelism, recreation, world friendship, and community service. Ten young people attended an assembly at Louisburg and three went to the Wrightsville Youth Center for an assembly. The Director of Christian Education taught a course on "What I Believe" at the Youth Center assembly.

The adult division has helped with the work done in the children's and youth divisions and has carried on many other activities. The young adults were represented at the Louisburg assembly and were in charge of the banquet for that occasion. Adult groups have held a number of services at Camp Butner, home quarterlies have been distributed to the shut-ins, valuable contributions have been made to the church library, some help has been given Mrs. Hutchins with the Sunday School she is carrying on.

Again in the field of training our church school had three representatives at the Leadership School, Lake Junaluska. Two people enrolled for training in intermediate work and one in the children's division.

The opportunities before us in the field of Christian education are enormous. One big field is that of increased and well integrated home-church cooperation. Letters to parents telling about promotion Sunday and who the child's new teacher would be, a nursery department picnic for parents and children, a mother's class which this year should be a parent's class, are steps that have been taken toward home-church cooperation. These in addition to contacts regularly made by superintendents and teachers, particularly in the children's division.

Another especially challenging field of opportunity is the Intermediate Youth Fellowship, particularly the evening meeting. Last Sunday evening the first fall session was held with twenty intermediates present. An effective program for this age group is a special objective.

A worker's conference was held last week with sixty officers and teachers of the church school attending. Other such meeting with programs planned to be of help to teachers and officers, a further development of the church library which now has a number of books and a set of slides, are needed to undergird and strengthen the work of the teachers.

We are aware of the goals set for the Advance in the Church School. In the ways mentioned and through our continued planning together we shall seek to advance for Christ in our Church through Christian education.

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