

The FRONTIER BAPTIST News

Volume 1

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Number 2

A REPORT of Southern Baptist activity in Western New York and Pennsylvania, jointly sponsored by the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. EDITED monthly by:

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ORGANIZATION

of

NEW ASSOCIATION FOR WESTERN NEW YORK AND PENNSYLVANIA

September 23, 1958
7:30 P. M.

LaSalle Baptist Church
Cayuga Drive at Munson
Niagara Falls, New York

Program Personalities:

Rev. James McCamish, Moderator of Cayuga Association, Presiding
Rev. Ray E. Roberts, General Secretary of State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, Inspirational Address
Dr. John Caylor, Editorial Secretary of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Special Address

YOU ARE INVITED!

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FLASHES--

Nathan C. Brooks, Jr., has been elected president of Carver School of Missions and Social Work, Louisville, Ky. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., and a native North Carolinian.

Dr. Robert Naylor, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has been elected the new president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, succeeding Dr. J. Howard Williams, recently deceased.

BUFFALO CHURCH CONSTITUTED--

Western New York's third (and New York State's fourth) Southern Baptist church was constituted Friday evening, September 12, when Erie Baptist Chapel became ERIE BAPTIST CHURCH. The church has 45 members, including four who joined the night of the organization.

Presiding at the organizational meeting until the new church could officially call a pastor was Rev. R. Z. Boroughs, pastor of the sponsoring LaSalle Baptist Church, Niagara Falls. The history of the chapel was given by V. V. Dempsey, a member of the group. The message for the occasion was delivered by Rev. Arthur L. Walker, area missionary. After the chapel group had adopted its constitution and articles of faith and thus was constituted a New Testament church, they proceeded to call as their pastor Rev. Walter C. Heilig, who has so ably led the chapel since the first of the year. Others on the program and present for the occasion were Rev. Dallas Eubanks, Rev. Paul Becker, Norris Bryant (who presented the Constitution), Mrs. M. M. Williams (soloist), Mrs. A. L. Walker (pianist), and Dr. Fred McCaulley (Director, Southern Baptists' Tentmaker Program, Home Mission Board).

First services of the Erie Baptist Chapel were held August 5-10, 1957, with regular Sunday services conducted since that date. Bob Wright, a student from Arkansas working as a Southern Baptist Tentmaker, served as pastor during August of last year. Laymen did most of the preaching after that date until Jan. 1, 1958, when Rev. Walter C. Heilig became pastor.

Rev. Heilig, a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a graduate of Philadelphia Bible Institute and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served 2½ years as Educational Director for the First Baptist Church of Palatka, Fla. The Heilig's have a daughter, Retta Lee, age 5.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Nashville, Tennessee

MISSIONARY'S REPORT--

Following is a summary of your missionary's activity for the months of July and August:

Traveled 7,635 miles;

Made 22 visits to the churches and the missions in the area;

Attended the Pioneer Missions Conference at Ridgecrest, N. C.;

Conducted 4 prayer meetings; preached 16 sermons, with 6 professions of faith, and 6 additions to the churches.

Surveyed 12 communities; held 48 conferences and committee meetings.

Made plans for the organizing of the new association, and counselled with Erie Chapel concerning a building site.

Helped to get a mission started and to find a meeting place on Grand Island.

AMONG THE CHURCHES

LaSALLE, NIAGARA FALLS--

* BOND DRIVE--LaSalle Baptist Church has issued \$42,500 in Broadway Building Bonds, dated August 1, to pay off their indebtedness on the church property originally purchased from the Lutheran Church and to purchase the adjoining Lutheran parsonage which they will use as a Sunday School annex. Because of conflict with the VBS, their "Bond Sales Rally" was not held until August 11, and already by that date they had sold or had committed to be sold a total of \$25,850. This left, as of August 11, \$16,650 in bonds to be sold. Anybody want to help a pioneer church and help themselves at the same time? Then buy a bond--they earn 5% interest, payable semi-annually.

* CORONATION OF QUEEN--Another first for Southern Baptists in New York State! In a special coronation service at LaSalle on Sunday evening, July 6, Miss Darlene Baker, 47 Colonial Dr., Lewiston, N. Y., was crowned Queen, having qualified for the rank in the forward step ranking system of the Girl's Auxiliary. Mrs. A. L. Walker, state G. A. counsellor, officiated at the crowning.

* BOOK STUDY--13 awards in the Sunday School Training Course have been earned for the study of Studies in Psalms in the mid-week prayer service. Studies in Philippians is now being studied.

* PULPIT SUPPLY at LaSalle on recent Sundays were Leonard Wagner, summer stu-

dent worker, on August 17; and Arthur Walker, area missionary, on August 24.

* REDECORATING--The men of LaSalle are in the process of repainting the frame building and some of the Sunday School rooms in both buildings.

* BROTHERHOOD--The missionary was privileged recently to speak to the Brotherhood--a very active organization which has done much to improve the physical appearance of the buildings purchased some time ago from the Lutheran Church. This group recently constructed a portable baptistry for the church.

WEST LAKE, ERIE, PENNA.--

* INCORPORATED--West Lake Baptist Church was incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania during last winter. Harold S. Johnson is pastor.

* REACHING YOUNG PEOPLE--Some time ago, 10 Juniors studied Your Life and Your Church, and six of these accepted Christ as Saviour. On June 1, four young people were baptized into the fellowship of the church.

* SUMMER PROGRAM--A Vacation Bible School was held in July with Cecil White and Leonard Wagner, summer missionaries, in charge. On July 27, three young people came for baptism and 4 others responded in rededication.

BOLIVAR DRIVE, BRADFORD, PENNA.--

* VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL--Bolivar Drive Baptist Church had the largest Vacation Bible School enrollment and attendance among the churches of our area. They reported 158 enrolled with 138 average attendance and 5 professions of faith.

* BOOK STUDY--The Sunday School workers recently studied Using the Sunday School in Evangelism, taught by Art Patterson, the church's Minister of Education.

* PULPIT SUPPLY--It was the privilege of the area missionary to speak August 3 at both services, and in company with Pastor Dallas Eubanks and the summer workers to look over neighboring communities with respect to the need for new missions.

ERIE, BUFFALO, N. Y.--

* PRAYER MEETING IN CANADA--Erie Baptist Chapel members crossed the Peace Bridge to Fort Erie, Ont., Canada, on July 23,

to have their mid-week prayer service in the home of some of its members, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hudson. It was discovered that 10 states were represented by those present that night.

- * V. B. S. IN AMHERST--Though unable to use the Y. M. C. A. for their V. B. S., Erie did get the use of an hundred-year-old vacant school building in the Town of Amherst and had a very successful school with 37 enrolled and an average attendance of 34.

FIRST SOUTHERN, SYRACUSE, N. Y.--

- * PURCHASE OF BUILDING--On May 18, the congregation of First Southern Baptist Church in Syracuse voted to purchase the property where they are now meeting (at 347 Cortland Ave.) at a cost of \$45,000. They have raised about half of the necessary \$5,000 down payment and expect to raise the balance by the time the transaction can be completed. Before the property can be bought, the present owners must do about \$1000 of repairs in order to secure a Certificate of Compliance from the city. The transaction involves three buildings--church, parsonage and educational building.

- * HONOR ROLL CHURCH--The Syracuse church is the first in our area to be recognized as an Honor Roll Church. The requirements to attain this honor are:

--Promote a full program of organized work: Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood and W. M. U.

--Support a full time ministry.

--Sponsor a new mission.

--Increase percentage of giving through the Cooperative Program.

Congratulations, Syracuse!

- * FIFTH IN PER CAPITA GIFTS--Congratulations are also in order for another attainment: fifth place in the Ohio convention (of 144 churches) in mission gifts per member. Per capita gifts to missions from the Syracuse membership was \$15.89 for the first six months of 1958.

NEW MISSIONS

GRAND ISLAND, N. Y.--

The Grand Island Baptist Chapel had its first meeting on Friday evening, August 1, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Yacono, 3458 Wallace Dr. Prayer meetings have continued to be held weekly

on Thursday since that date. Mr. Bob Wright, working under LaSalle Church, has been in charge of the services, but has recently returned to his native Arkansas to continue his college work. Sunday services will begin Sept. 21 in newly rented quarters at 3279 Grand Island Blvd. It is a large basement room under a Snack Bar and Restaurant belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnston.

ROME, N. Y.--

Begun also late in July as a prayer meeting in the homes of the interested families, the Rome Baptist Chapel had 25 in attendance at a recent service. This mission, sponsored by First Southern Baptist Church in Syracuse, is still seeking a meeting place. Phillip Bryan, a ministerial graduate from Oklahoma University, has been in charge of the services and plans to continue in this capacity while furthering his education at Syracuse University.

PLACES WHERE NEW MISSIONS ARE NEEDED--

Lockport, N. Y. (expect to start during October) - 30,000 population.

Rochester, N. Y. - 346,000 population.

Orchard Park and Hamburg, N. Y.

Geneva, N. Y. - 17,144 population.

NorthEast, Penna. - 4,247 population.

HOME MISSIONS CONFERENCE AT RIDGECREST

Attending various conferences of Home Mission Week at Ridgecrest, N. C., August 14-20, were several from our area.

Rev. R. Z. Boroughs, of Niagara Falls, spoke concerning pioneer missions at the Church-Centered Missions Conference. Mrs. Boroughs and children were also in attendance. Mr. Arleigh Cox, newly baptized at LaSalle Church, also attended.

Participating on the program of Pioneer Missions Conference was your Area Missionary. Mrs. Walker attended the Conference on Jewish Evangelism and the children attended the Youth Conferences. Registration for the week was 2,564.

OHIO BAPTIST MESSENGER DAY - - - -

- - - - SEPTEMBER 28

Our Ohio Baptist Messenger has now become a bi-monthly publication and also will have a "new look." The above date has been designated "Ohio Baptist Messenger Day" and it is desired that pastors and Sunday School superintendents present information about it to their people. Put The Messenger in your church budget!

Pulpit to Pew

Church Is Center for Southerners

By ERNEST J. BOWDEN

Yesterday I got my introduction to the First Southern Baptist Church of Syracuse. It meets in the former Christian and Missionary Alliance building, 347 Cortland Ave. The C & MA has moved to 3112 Midland Ave.

The new church is primarily a rallying center for people from the South. It got its first impulse from W. C. Ferguson, a General Electric engineer moved to Syracuse from Tucson. Logan Smith, chairman of deacons, is from Mississippi. A couple joined yesterday from Atlanta, Ga.

The pastor, the Rev. Paul R. Becker Sr. is a native of Syracuse who trained in the South, married a Southerner, served as chaplain in the South Carolina reform school, and has been pastor in South Carolina churches.

There was good attendance yesterday. What struck me most was the number of young couples present, with an extraordinary proportion of six-footers.

A paragraph in the church bulletin indicated that they are here to stay. The regular offering for the previous Sunday was \$218.60, with an additional \$249 towards their building fund. They expect to raise \$6,000 by the end of June to secure their home and are confident they can do it.

Membership Grows

Membership has grown from five to 60 in eight months. Eight more were received yesterday. It looks as if they will reach their goal.

I had been curious to know why Southern Baptists want to establish a center and maintain their individuality in a city where Baptists are already well established.

Part of the answer is that Southerners like to get together; but also I found that they are determined to maintain their own church standards. They practice "Close Communion" in the Lord's Supper, which means that certain conditions must be met. Admission to membership is by adult baptism only; not by easy transfer from other churches with different standards.

The matter of doctrine didn't come up yesterday, but Southern Baptists are known to be conservative. They are the largest Baptist group, with nine

million members in 32,000 churches, scattered over 42 states. But they keep aloof from the American Baptist Convention to which eight of our Syracuse churches belong; they are not affiliated with the National Council of Churches; and the president of a Florida Council of Church Women told me that she has not been able to win their cooperation.

Old Time Religion

They frankly prefer the Old-time Religion, but present it was an easy grace that is far from the shouting type. In my annual visits South have always been assured that their standards of religious education are high.

The times are propitious for what they have to give. The disillusionment with modern thought brought about by Dachau, Moscow and Hiroshima has brought about a rebirth of their type of thinking. It's not by any means confined to the uninformed. The Christian Business Men's International is committed to it, with the backing of thousands of business men. Their president, recently in Syracuse, is a certified public accountant of high standing in Ottawa, Canada.

If my contacts are typical, there are more Americans thinking that way today than at any time in the nation's history.

For myself I stand with the moderns, so my statement is not wishful thinking. But neither am I critical, for there is something sacred in a man's religious convictions and I'm thankful for any form of theology that makes a man live like a Christian.

Call of the Cross

Mr. Becker's sermon yesterday was on "The Call of the Cross." It was a straightforward, unstrained statement of familiar truth.

"We make a mistake when we tone down the message of the cross to make it acceptable," he said.

We began worship by singing—
Footprints of Jesus

That make the pathway glow—

We will follow Jesus
Wherever they go.

In the course of the service we sang, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?" and closed with

Jesus I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.

I think you will hear more of Southern Baptists in Syracuse.

Officers other than those already named are: Trustees,

chairman, E. A. Clanton, Lawrence Johnson and Roland Whigham; treasurer of deacons, Tom Williams; song leader, E. R. Harvey; pianist, Mrs. Becker; president of the Women's Missionary Union, Miss Maryanne Bishop; president of the Men's Brotherhood, Ben Findsen.

Mr. Becker is the son of Henry Becker, a widely known lay mission worker in Syracuse. He is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex. His church-building has included 500 adult baptisms and a daily radio program over five years.

Mrs. Becker is the former Miss Mary Ruth Rozier of Bethune, S. C., a graduate of Montreat College, and trained as a nurse in Camden Hospital. They have three boys: Paul Jr., 4½, William Lester, 3½, and Thomas Henry, 1.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN SYRACUSE?

Mr. Bowden's article from the Syracuse Post-Standard, reproduced on this page, partially answers the above question. We feel this article is a tribute to the strong Christian witness of the members at Syracuse and to the aggressive spirit of their pastor, Brother Becker.

Let's take a closer look at what is happening in Syracuse:

Constituted as a church last November, after a brief sojourn as a mission of LaSalle Baptist Church in Niagara Falls, the Syracuse membership has now grown to 73. Average Sunday School attendance in August was 75, with an average of 44 in Training Union. Enrollment in the Vacation Bible School in August was 100, with an average attendance of 85. Receipts last month totalled \$1,734.09, of which almost a thousand dollars was received into the Regular Fund. The Monthly budget calls for \$734.

Brother Becker says their present membership increase is almost equally divided between Southerners and Northerners—a very healthy indication of what is in store for the First Southern Baptist Church of Syracuse in the years ahead.

The Syracuse church is very actively sponsoring the new mission at Rome, N. Y. Initial services in Rome have seen already as many as 25 in attendance at one service.

We are deeply appreciative of the good coverage given our church at Syracuse by the Post-Standard. We agree with Mr. Bowden that "you will hear more of Southern Baptists in Syracuse."