

Christian Observer

Presbyterian Family Newspaper.

ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR YEARS
OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION.

Founded September 4th, 1813.

HARRY P. CONVERSE, Managing Editor.

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Published Every Wednesday by

CONVERSE & CO., Incorporated

412 South Third Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Address all communications intended for the
Editorial Department to "The Christian Observer."

Address all business letters to Converse & Co.

For "Terms of Subscription," etc., see foot of
page 15.

Entered at the Louisville Post Office as second
class matter.

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Postmaster-General.

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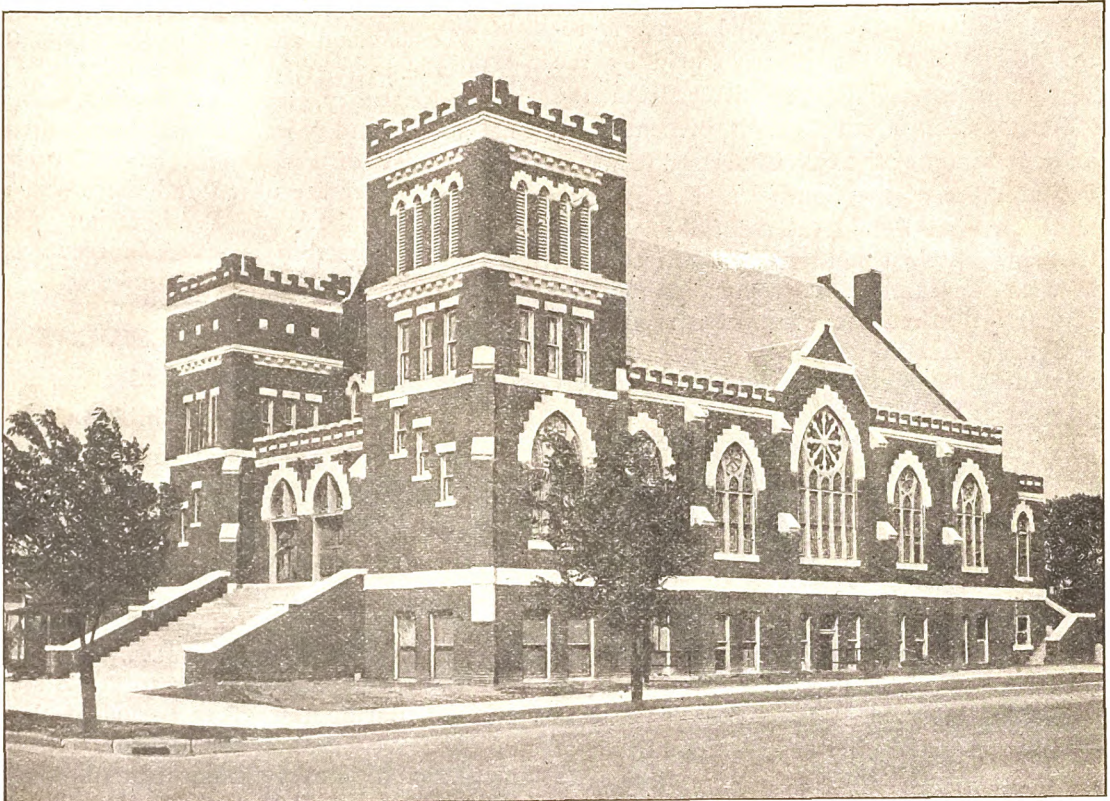
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God has given us four books: The book of grace,
the book of nature, the book of the world, and the
book of providence. Every occurrence is a leaf in
one of these books.—Cecil.



The First Presbyterian Church, Durant, Oklahoma, Where the General Assembly is in Session.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The world is passing again through a period of hero-worship. The splendid records that are brought back from the battlefields tell of courage and valor unsurpassed by any heroes of the past. Men and women are eagerly reading the stories of the courageous self-forgetfulness of the brave soldiers who "go over the top." These present day heroes remind us of the courage and self-sacrifice manifested by the great "cloud of witnesses," of which Paul speaks. We need to hear again Paul's shout of triumphant confidence: "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

Some one has said that the home is the Christian's greatest battlefield. When Jesus had healed the demoniac of Gadara, as described by Luke, He commanded him to return to his own house and to "show how great things God hath done for thee." It is in our own homes and in the associations with our intimate friends and loved ones that we can best manifest the power of the Gospel of Jesus and commend His salvation to others.

After last week's issue of the "Christian Observer" had gone to press and several thousand copies had been printed, "A Call to the Church" to make Assembly week a week of special prayer was received from the moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. John M. Wells. Under date of April 22 the editor had written to Dr. Wells suggesting such a call and requesting that he telegraph the call at once provided it met with his approval. Dr. Wells was absent from home and on his return mailed the call, which was delayed in the mails, and did not reach us until last week's issue had gone to press. The call was published in a part of that issue and is republished in this issue on page 10.

The entire Church will no doubt respond heartily to the call of the moderator to make Assembly week a week of special prayer. In view of world conditions it is fitting that the Church should offer earnest and importunate prayer to God that He would guide our Assembly in all its deliberations and that He would lead all the people to repentance and sincere consecration and genuine surrender to our Master's will. It is especially incumbent upon us to pray for our country and to pray that such a victory as comes only from the hand of God shall be given to our nation and its Allies, and that a righteous peace may come that will be abiding.

The moderator requested that the ministers of our Church read his "Call to the Church" from their pulpits on the Sabbath preceding the meeting of the Assembly and urge the people to observe this season of prayer and intercession. If for any reason this call was not read to the congregation last Sunday, it should by all means be read in full to the congregation on next Sunday while the Assembly is actually in the midst of its meeting.

A notable event in the history of the Southern Presbyterian Church is the completion by Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia, of a fund of \$200,000 for the erection of a model Sunday school building for use in connection with the work of the Seminary. The entire Church will congratulate this oldest of its theological seminaries on this notable achievement.

The Church at large will hear with sincere sorrow of the death of Dr. W. H. Forsythe at his home in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 9. Dr. Forsythe was sent by our Executive Committee as a medical missionary to Korea in 1904. He served with unremitting zeal and consecration until ill health compelled him to return to this country. For a number of years through letters, personal conferences and, above all, through the exercise of earnest

For the Christian Observer.

A Call to the Church.

Make Assembly Week a Week of Special Prayer.

It has been suggested to me, as moderator of the General Assembly, that, in view of world conditions, it would be fitting to ask our entire Church to make the week of the meeting of the Assembly a week of special prayer. This suggestion meets with my most hearty approval.

Each year we are asked "to offer special prayer, during the devotions of the Sabbath preceding the meeting of the General Assembly, that God would of His great mercy so give the General Assembly the wisdom that cometh from above, and so direct all its plans, discussions and decisions, as to promote His own glory and to advance the Kingdom of Jesus on earth."

This year, in addition to the request, I would earnestly ask that our churches make the entire time of the meeting of the Assembly a season of special prayer and intercession.

When our people, during that time, gather for public worship, let them be earnest in their intercession.

When our people each day during that time gather around their family altar, let them be earnest in their intercession.

And when, in their private devotions, our members draw near to the Throne

of Grace, let them be deeply earnest in their intercession.

Let us pray for our Assembly that the Spirit of God may manifestly guide all its deliberations.

Let us pray for our Church, that its members may be more truly repentant, more sincerely consecrated, and more entirely surrendered to our Master's will; that its great causes may be richly blessed and prospered; and that its ministers may, amidst all the clamor and confusion of the day, faithfully proclaim His Word.

Let us pray for our country; for those in authority that they may have especial strength and wisdom in this day; for those called to the service of the country on sea or land, that they may be shielded, saved and blessed; and for the nation, that it may have that righteousness that exalteth a nation; that victory that cometh only from the hand of God, and that peace that shall be lasting.

And I would sincerely request that the ministers of our Church read this call to prayer from their pulpits on the Sabbath preceding the meeting of our Assembly, and urge our people to observe this season of prayer and intercession.

John M. Wells,
Moderator of the General Assembly,
Wilmington, N. C.

next spring meeting was set aside for another Laymen's Meeting on Stewardship and Benevolence, under the direction of G. G. Brazelton, of Tyler.

Schools and Colleges.—This Synodical cause was ably presented by Rev. W. R. Hall, of the Presbytery of Central Texas.

Home Missions.—The second evening was given over to Home Missions, and a most able presentation of that great cause was given by Dr. J. V. McCall, the newly elected superintendent of Home Missions and Sabbath School work.

Communion.—The sermon was preached by Rev. W. C. Hagan, and the sacrament administered by Dr. Hill and Dr. Wallace.

Comity.—Cooper church was dismissed to the Presbytery of Paris, U. S. A. Jefferson and Roxton churches were dissolved.

Commissioners.—Rev. A. O. Price, Principal, and Rev. T. L. Green, Alternate, with Ruling Elder Judge R. B. Levy, Principal, and P. E. Barton, Alternate, were elected Commissioners to the Assembly, and Presbytery voted unanimously in favor of that body holding its usual annual meeting.

Presbytery adjourned to meet in Paris, Texas, May 7, 1918, at 1 p. m.

T. O. Perrin, S. C.

NORFOLK.

The Presbytery of Norfolk met in the First church, Norfolk, Va., on April 16, and was opened with a sermon by Rev. E. L. Flanagan.

Officers.—Rev. J. S. Montgomery, moderator, and Rev. W. C. Jamison, temporary clerk.

Installations.—Commissions were appointed to install Rev. T. H. Dimmock as pastor of Armstrong Memorial church, and Rev. T. M. Minor as pastor of Lamberts Point church.

Interesting reports on Home and Foreign Missions were read.

The Report on Systematic Benevolence showed that last year the churches gave over \$27,000 to all causes, and had for the coming year pledged \$39,000, while the apportionment in the recent campaign to raise \$3,000,000 for the causes had been \$36,000. Good for Norfolk Presbytery!

Evangelistic Powers were granted Rev. G. L. Kerns, Rev. M. S. Huske and Rev. O. C. Huston, chaplains in the Army and Navy.

Dismissed.—Rev. J. S. Venable was dismissed to Roanoke Presbytery so that he might accept a call from the Chase City church. R. B. Grinnan, S. C.

MUHLBURG.

The Presbytery of Muhlburg met in stated session at Central City, Ky., April 9. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. A. S. Anderson by appointment of the retiring moderator, Ruling Elder R. H. McGaughey.

Officers.—Ruling Elder C. W. Follin, of Bowling Green church, moderator, and Ruling Elder W. E. Fowler, of Central City church, temporary clerk.

There were present ten ruling elders and three ministers, one minister being absent.

The permanent committees on the several benevolent causes submitted well digested reports which were generally and fully discussed.

The Church at Madisonville was dissolved, and its members assigned to the church at Hopkinsville.

Overture.—The Assembly's overture touching the amendment to the Book of Church Order was answered in the negative.

Fall Meeting.—Lester Memorial church.

Call.—The Home Mission Committee was authorized to call Licentiate W. C. Williams for work in the fields of Christian and Todd counties, and as assistant of Rev. J. C. Tate.

The Presbytery adjourned to meet in adjourned session at the call of the moderator. E. E. Smith, S. C.

EASTERN TEXAS.

The Presbytery of Eastern Texas met in the First Presbyterian church, Palestine, Texas, April 23.

Officers.—Rev. E. T. Drake, moderator, and Rev. C. W. Chambers, temporary clerk.

The reports from all the sessions of our churches were encouraging.

Foreign Missions.—The report of the committee was one of cheer. After the report was read Presbytery heard with much pleasure an address by Rev. L. B. Tate, from Korea.

Home Missions.—There was much in the report of the committee to encourage Presbytery. Much interest was manifested in our work at Lufkin, one of the strategic home mission points. Sour Lake, another home mission point, has just completed a splendid tabernacle looking to the better caring for the interests of our work there.

Deposed.—After going fully into the case of Rev. F. L. Delaney, the committee to formulate the judgment of the court reported as follows: "Your committee appointed to formulate the judgment of the court respectfully report as follows: The court having sustained the indictment of Rev. F. L. Delaney by a vote of seven to one, we recommend that the sentence of the court be that the said F. L. Delaney be and is hereby deposed from the ministry, and that the sentence be pronounced by the moderator according to the following form as provided in Rules of Discipline, Paragraph 226, Chapter 10, Section VII: 'Whereas F. L. Delaney a minister of this Presbytery has been proved by sufficient evidence to be guilty of the sins of deceitfulness, falsehood and dishonesty, we, the Presbytery of Eastern Texas, do adjudge him totally disqualified for the office of the Christian ministry, and therefore we do hereby, in the name and by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, depose from the office of a Christian minister the said F. L. Delaney, and do prohibit him from exercising any of the functions thereof.'"

Stated Clerk and Treasurer.—Rev. E. P. Kennedy, D. D., was elected stated clerk and treasurer of Presbytery.

Memorial.—Rev. C. W. Chambers and Dr. S. M. Tenney were appointed to prepare a memorial of Rev. F. E. Robbins, same to be presented at the next stated meeting of Presbytery.

Fall Meeting.—Lufkin, the second Tuesday in September.

Adjourned Meeting.—To be held in Sour Lake, at which time Licentiate H. N. Cunningham will be ordained to the Gospel ministry and installed as pastor at Sour Lake.

Presbytery by a rising vote expressed its hearty thanks to the members of the First church, Palestine, for their generous hospitality.

E. P. Kennedy, S. C.

KINGS MOUNTAIN.

The Presbytery of Kings Mountain met in the First Presbyterian church, Gastonia, N. C., in the thirty-second semi-annual session, April 16, at 8 p. m. The retiring moderator, Rev. J. S. Wood, preached the opening sermon. Presbytery was addressed by Rev. A. W. Crawford on the Home Mission work of the Synod.

Officers.—Rev. G. A. Sparrow, moderator. Rev. J. T. Dendy was elected stated clerk, pro tem., in the absence of the stated clerk who was seriously ill, and Rev. W. J. Roach, temporary clerk.

Rev. W. H. Hudson, D. D., was heard in connection with the report of the committee on Foreign Missions, and Rev. O. G. Jones, D. D., in connection with the report of the committee on Systematic Benevolence.

Pastorate Dissolved.—The pastoral relations between Rev. J. S. Wood and the Ellenboro and Forest City churches were dissolved, and he was granted a letter of dismission to Concord Presbytery. Also the pastoral relation between Rev. T. D. Bateman and the Shelby and Shiloh churches, and he was granted a letter of dismission to Potosi Presbytery.

Dismissed.—Rev. R. S. Burwell, to Mecklenburg Presbytery.

Rules Amended.—The rules of instruction to sessions were amended so as to require only the report on statistics and benevolence to be recorded.

Trustees.—Mr. J. E. Page was elected a trustee of Presbytery in the place of John F. Love. Mr. S. A. Robinson, of Gastonia, was elected trustee of Davidson College to succeed R. F. Ryburn. Mr. F. O. Gee, of Shelby, was elected to fill the unexpired term of R. T. Ryburn as trustee of Westminster School.

Rev. F. A. Drennan was elected treasurer of Presbytery for two years and appointed a member of the Home Mission Committee.

Received.—Rev. H. R. Overcash, from Western Texas Presbytery.

Salaries Increased.—Permission was given to the following churches to change the terms of their calls: Bessemer City church from \$185 to \$225; the Lincoln church from \$1,500 to \$1,800; the Mount Holly church from \$700 to \$1,000. Loray Presbyterian church was given permission to change its call from full time to one-half time, and from a salary of \$900 to \$600.

Fall Meeting.—New Hope, September 10, 8 p. m. F. A. Drennan, S. C.

FLORIDA.

The Presbytery of Florida met at Chipley, Fla., April 16, at 7:30 p. m. The opening sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Roseborough, Jr., retiring moderator.

Organization.—Rev. W. S. Patterson, moderator, and Elder W. S. Garfield, recording clerk.

Attendance, eleven ministers and twelve ruling elders.

Presbyterial Discourse.—By Rev. W. E. McIlwain, on "The Atonement."

Ad Interim Committee.—The committee appointed at the last meeting of Presbytery to urge the churches to increase pastors' salaries made a gratifying report, was commended for their faithfulness, and was continued until the next meeting.

Foreign Missions.—In connection with the report on Foreign Missions addresses were made by Rev. W. S. Patterson and Rev. Daniel J. Currie.

Presbyterial Home Missions.—A full report was made on this subject, showing the good work done by the workers in the various fields and by the evangelist, Frank D. Hunt, and also that all obligations were paid and a balance in the treasury.

Amended Call.—The Tallahassee church was given permission to increase the pastor's salary from \$1,500 to \$1,800.

Memorial Services.—Because of the long and faithful services of Judge John

Thos. Porter, of Grand Ridge, memorial exercises were held at which addresses were made by Judge Porter's pastor and others.

Systematic Benevolence.—In connection with the report of the committee on this subject, Presbytery accepted its quota of the \$3,000,000 for benevolences.

Candidates.—Mr. Wm. H. Sharpe, of the Muscogee church, was received under the care of Presbytery; Candidate R. C. Douglass was dismissed to East Hanover Presbytery; and Candidate I. E. Phillips, at his own request, was dropped from the list of candidates.

Presbytery Overtured the Assembly to appeal to President Wilson, as commander in chief of our military forces to save our soldiers from Sunday parades and like desecration of the Sabbath.

Trustees.—Of Palmer College: Messrs. A. D. Campbell, Chipley; W. B. Ferris, Pensacola; R. D. Daffin, Marianna; S. A. Alford, Chipley; T. F. West, Tallahassee; and D. A. Shaw, Quincy. Of Davidson College: Rev. W. S. Patterson, Madison.

Fall Meeting.—St. Andrew, Wednesday, November 7, at 7:30 p. m.

Daniel J. Currie, S. C.

FORT WORTH.

The Presbytery of Fort Worth met in the North Fort Worth church, Texas, April 16-18. Seventeen ministers and fifteen elders were in attendance.

Officers.—Rev. C. A. Engle, moderator, Rev. Gaines B. Hall and Rev. J. D. Leslie, D. D., clerks.

Received.—Rev. J. M. Batte, from the Presbytery of Montgomery.

Dismissed.—Rev. J. W. Gregg, to the Presbytery of Paris.

Churches Dissolved.—The Olney, Bryson, Knox City and Decatur churches.

Churches United.—Caddo and Palo Pinto churches; Chico, Second, and Chico churches.

Installations.—Commissions were appointed to install Rev. J. M. Batte at Fries Valley, May 12; to receive and install Rev. S. J. McMurphy at Weatherford, May 22.

Licensed.—Candidate S. Brooks McLane.

Visitors.—Rev. R. D. Campbell, Rev. A. E. Holt, Rev. W. W. Curtis, D. D., Hon. A. L. Randall.

Addresses.—Hon. A. L. Randall, on Synod's Educational Work; Rev. R. D. Campbell, on Work Among Mexicans in Texas; Rev. A. E. Holt, on The War Work of the Church; Rev. S. A. McElroy, D. D., and Rev. A. F. Carr, D. D., on Foreign Missions.

Sermons.—Rev. J. W. Gregg, retiring moderator; Rev. G. L. Smith; Candidate S. B. McLane.

Disapproved.—The omission or postponement of the meeting of the General Assembly this year.

Home Missions.—The year's results gratifying. Thirty-seven churches cared for by the Committee, and supplied all or part of the time. Sweetwater and North Fort Worth become self-supporting. Successful evangelistic meetings held by the evangelist and various pastors; \$2,602 pledged for the work for the current year. Rev. John E. McLean was re-elected superintendent and evangelist for the current year at a salary of \$2,000 and traveling expenses. Dr. M. E. Gilmore, retiring from the chairmanship, Presbytery extended a rising vote of thanks for his highly valued services. New chairman, Rev. Gaines B. Hall, Anson, Texas. Treasurer, Dr. M. E. Gilmore, Fort Worth.

Foreign Missions.—Presbytery recommendations: Organization of mission study classes; use of seven year plan in Sunday schools; co-operation in the effort to reach one million a year for the work; missionary program at fall meeting; request that a missionary be sent to visit our churches.

Societies.—Women's societies, 31, with 706 members; total gifts, \$7,969. They were given a vote of thanks for their work. Young People's Societies, 14, with 394 members; total gifts, \$600.

Sabbath Schools.—Thirty schools with 3,834 members gave a total of \$5,869. Added to the communion, 155.

Systematic Benevolence.—The every member canvass was observed by twenty-two churches. Total gifts, \$21,233.

This Presbytery has six candidates and one licentiate.

Next Stated Meeting.—Weatherford, September 10, 8 p. m.

Adjourned Meeting.—Broadway church, Fort Worth, June 18, 10 a. m.

A vote of thanks was adopted for the thoughtful hospitality of Rev. E. A. Lindsey and his people.

C. L. Altfather, S. C.

HARMONY.

Harmony Presbytery met at Sumter, S. C., April 23, having been adjourned for a week from Mount Zion church for providential reasons. Rev. L. L. Legters preached the opening sermon at the request of the retiring moderator, Dr. J. W. Bradley.

Officers.—Rev. J. P. Marion was elected moderator. The attendance was good on the part of the representatives, and excellent reports were sent up from the sessions.

Foreign Missions.—The amount contributed for Foreign Missions by all the churches was \$12,631 as against the preceding year, \$7,335.

Assembly Meeting.—Presbytery went on record as favoring the meeting of the General Assembly.

Licensed.—Two young men, our candidates, after quite a satisfactory examination, were licensed to preach as probationers for the Gospel ministry. These were W. E. Davis and A. P. Toomer.

The Next Meeting will be held at Concord church.

Presbytery Overtured the Assembly to discharge the committee on conference with the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., and to cease the agitation of the question of organic union.

W. H. Workman, S. C.

TRANSYLVANIA.

Presbytery met at Pleasant Grove church, Washington county, Ky., April 23, and at the request of the moderator, Rev. J. E. Park, who was pastor of the church, the opening sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. R. L. Telford, who was then elected moderator.

Received.—Rev. Charles A. Ray, from Louisville Presbytery, and order was taken for his installation as pastor of Springfield church.

Order was also taken for the installation of Rev. W. T. Overstreet as pastor of the churches of Burnside and Pisgah.

Dismissed.—Rev. D. E. Frierson to the Presbytery of St. Johns, of the Synod of Florida.

Assembly's Overture.—Presbytery voted in favor of the amendment to the Book of Church Order providing for placing on the roll of non-communing members of the church those who neglect worship, and the regular