

Welcome to all our Services. Come Again.

For the Week Beginning Jan. 14, 1900.

Daily Bible Readings.

MON.—Num. 1: 1-19, 44 to 51. TUES.—Num. 2. WED.—Num. 3: 1-13, 40-51.
THUR.—Num. 4: 1 to 20, 46-49. FRI.—Num. (5), 6.
SAT.—Num. 7: 1-11, 84-89. SUN.—S. S. Lesson: Lk. 3: 1-17.

Sunday Services.

10.30 A. M.—Morning Prayer Meeting. Every Sunday Morning.
11 A. M.—Public Worship, with Sermon by the Rev. J. D. McKay.
Hymns: 11, 114, 296.
2.45 P. M.—Sunday School. "The Child visits Jerusalem." Lk. 2: 41-52.
Pastor teaches the Young Men's Class. All are invited.
2.45 P. M.—Sunday School at Bloomfield St. Mission
7 P. M.—Prayer and Praise Service at Bloomfield St. Mission.
7 P. M.—Public Worship, with Sermon by the Pastor.
Hymns: 497, 467, 297.
After meeting in vestry at close of Preaching Service.

Meetings for the Week.

TUESDAY, 7.45 P. M.—Prayer and Praise Service at Bloomfield St. Mission.
WEDNESDAY, 7.45 P. M.—Prayer and Praise Service. Patriotic meeting.
THURSDAY, 8 P. M.—Prayer and Praise Service at Bloomfield St. Mission.
FRIDAY, 7.45 P. M.—B. Y. P. U. Service. "Lessons for Simon and us."
Lk. 7: 36-50.

Strangers and New-comers feel at Home with us.

PASTORAL LETTER.

(Read at the Annual Business Meeting of the North Baptist Church, Jan. 9, 1903.)

DEAR SISTERS AND BRETHREN,—

Another year has finished its course. We are here as a church to gather up the history of the past year, and plan for the one upon which we are just entering.

First of all, let us gratefully acknowledge that the good hand of our God has been upon us. Truly, that hand has led us and made the year prosperous. In spite of our imperfections, sinfulness and forgetfulness, the Lord has stood by us, and to-night we shall hear reports which speak of the favor of the Lord in every department of our work. That there have been blemishes and failures, we do not deny, but we can honestly say that the Lord has crowned the labors of his own people in this church with abundant success. That the results have been all that God demands or all that they might have been had we been more devoted and active, we dare not claim; but this we say, we have abundant reason for gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ for what he has done for us during the year 1902, and great hope for the coming year that it will be freighted with much larger blessings.

As Pastor I wish to acknowledge the kindness and co-operation of the members of this church. This is one of the vital elements of success in any church. The people must uphold the Pastor's hands if victory is to rest with Israel. I believe the heart of this people is loyal to their Pastor. They believe in him, they pray for him. They speak kind words concerning him. His imperfections are not hidden from them,—no one is more conscious of them than himself, but they are not enlarged upon, and his usefulness impaired by hasty unkind, and belittling words. The Scriptures tell us that we are not to rebuke an elder; but entreat him as a father. The Pastor is not to lord it over God's heritage, but to be an example to the flock. In the New Testament Church there is no Priest except Christ. There is no distinction between clergy and laity. But the Apostle makes it very clear that those whom the churches select as Pastors have due them a certain love, respect and obedience without which success cannot crown their efforts. They are to feed the flock of God, but how can they feed them if they will not come to the feeding place. They are to have oversight of the flock, but how can they do this if the flock rebel against their leadership. The leadership of a Christian church is one of the most delicate and yet the strongest in the world. It must be willingly and not by constraint. It is a leadership of love. That makes it the strongest possible; for men will do and dare when they love. It is then of first importance to the success of a church that they love their Pastor. A wonderful love, too, rooted and grounded in our love to Jesus Christ. I believe that the North Baptist Church is truly Christian in the love, sympathy and support which she gives to her Pastor. I want to record my appreciation of the genuine love which the church has shown me ever since I came among you as an under shepherd. It has not failed in the most trying times. It has buoyed me up when otherwise I would have

been discouraged. I thank God for the scriptural attitude of this church towards her Pastor:

Your Pastor has endeavoured to give fair and impartial pastoral visitation during the year. Four afternoons of the week have been sacredly set aside for this and our denominational work. When the round has been once made, he has begun again. Without respect of persons he has called upon all. The large number of strangers who are constantly coming to our church has given him opportunities of visiting among those who do not belong to our own or any other congregation. This work, we believe, is already bringing results in the attendance of these and others upon our services. It has been the aim of the Pastor to gain and to hold. Every family or person who feels the influence of our church and is benefited thereby, helps to draw others. Our desire has been to hold all we have got and to get more. The Lord requires this of us as faithful stewards.

The Church has done noble work in welcoming strangers. It is a difficult thing for one to come into our church and not receive hearty handshakes from some of the congregation with an invitation to come again. We hope that there will be an increase of this at our Sunday evening services, when, owing to the after-meeting, and the crowd, the Pastor cannot get to the door. Let every member of the Church feel a greater responsibility in this matter of welcoming strangers, and soon every pew will be filled. The good name of our church is spreading throughout the city and province. It is attracting the people. That means a most promising future. Let us live up to our possibilities.

Your pastor is persuaded that the North Baptist is the real genuine People's Church Home of the city. He hopes to make it more so, and feels that he has your support in the good work. In the future he hopes to make a stronger appeal to the sailors at our wharves on the Lord's Day, and by means of invitations and printed cards to attract more of them our way. There is a strong tendency now, and we ought to take advantage of it.

He hopes also to see special efforts put forth this year to reach the mass of people who do not attend any church. We ought to reach many of these. But this cannot be accomplished unless we have more visitation amongst the people. There is a large opportunity for work here, and we believe the church will seize it.

We believe in emphasizing the social element in our church work, but in the forefront of every effort we must put the spiritual. Strong as the North Church is socially, she has her strength in her spiritual life. This it is that is chiefly instrumental in drawing the people to our services. If we did not have the spiritual fire, all else would be cold and lifeless. People talk more about the grand spiritual meetings and the uplifting spiritual songs we have, than about anything else. Because we have some measure of spiritual life the others follow as a matter of course. It is impossible to emphasize too much the importance of our prayer services. They are the heart of the church. It is the first duty of the members of the church to support these. The pastor acknowledges the loyalty of the church in support of these services. He feels

that if there is one thing which distinguishes the North Church above all others, it is grand, spiritual, uplifting prayer meetings. Let us put more of our strength and prayer into these this year, and we will reap accordingly in souls converted and finances increased.

There has been a steady increase in our Sunday congregations during the year. Perhaps the growth has been most marked in our evening congregations. The Pastor feels very thankful to the Lord for the loyal support of the preaching services by his people. He would urge upon the church the importance of attending both services, morning and evening. Sunday is our time of harvest, and it is of the utmost importance that each member be in his place. We look for greater increase in our congregations this year. Will you be one to bring strangers and negligent ones to our preaching services and help to hold them?

Five of our members have been laid away in the silent grave, but their spirits have gone to be with Jesus. The Deacons in their report will make mention of these faithful sisters in Israel. They loved the church and labored jealously for her advancement.

You will have the financial report read to you, and can see for yourselves what progress has been made. You will find the financial statement a cause for genuine congratulation. We believe that the publishing of our Calendar has quietly but effectively helped in this good work. The Calendar has gone to the ends of the world declaring our work in the Lord. Strangers have been attracted by it. They have said, "that is an enterprising church." It has stimulated the spiritual and the business part of our work. Our Calendar speaks loudly that this church is determined to make the very most of itself in the service of the Lord Jesus. Among the many factors which have given tone and stability to our work, we believe the Calendar is not secondary. It helps to hold what we get, and compact it into symmetrical form.

I need only to remind you that this year is to be one of the greatest importance to us. The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces meets with us in August. There will of necessity have to be some preparations for that great meeting. As one of the largest and most important churches in the Convention it is fitting that we give them suitable welcome. The North Church may always be depended upon to do the right thing in the right way. That will be for us to deal with most carefully.

With everything to encourage us, we ought to make this a most memorable year in our history. Thirty-three have been added by baptism this past year. If we lay ourselves wholly upon the Altar of God we shall not be disappointed in our 20th Century offering of 100 souls for Jesus. Will you do your part to bring this to pass. It all rests with us. God is longing for it, Jesus is urging us to it. Let us be up and doing.

Lovingly your Pastor,

ZENAS L. FASH.