

with pledges from the membership, which they had to go out and collect. And sometimes the pledges were lightly made and soon forgotten. Yet the fishes and loaves seemed always to go around and satisfy the holders of Central's notes.

In the later part of Dr. Lawson's administration the whole plan of living, including the spiritual side, was affected by a wave of unprecedented prosperity. New standards were snubbing old traditions, and the type of preacher that Central had grown up with changed to a new model.

Rev. L. A. Taylor followed Dr. Lawson as pastor of Central. The membership that had miraculously doubled under Dr. Lawson's administration became a reservoir of ideas and initiative for which Rev. Taylor gave thanks when assigning parts for the extensive program marked in red on Central's calendar.

Rev. Taylor was called to a college town church, and Harmon B. Ramsey, not long out of seminary, became pastor of Central. Later, Rev. Ramsey accepted the invitation of a church in mountainous West Virginia, leaving a vacancy here which was filled by Rev. C. D. Wardlaw. Of this trio of capable ministers, more is said elsewhere in this brief sketch of Central's first 50 years.

Like the wise farmer who builds up his soil to a high point of fertility, so it was with the wise men of Central during the first quarter-century. They prepared the ground and sowed the first seeds. Others set out the tender plants of unity, altruism and Christian fellowship that sprang up in their wake. The perennial crop, like the tenants of the Presbyterian Church, is shared with all.

Here are some of the fruits of that early planting:

CENTRAL'S PROMINENCE

Central ranks seventh in size among the 125 Presbyterian churches in Arkansas. She also ranks high in the Church Courts, and exercises an influential voice in Presbytery, Synod and the General Assembly. Central has always sent capable and informed men and women delegates to the conclaves of the church, and some have served in the inner chambers of the Council.

W. H. Williams, one of Central's elders, was Moderator of Synod in 1942. He further distinguished his church as a member of Assembly's Defense Service Council, of which he was an organizer. A place on any of Assembly's committees is a height that few laymen reach.

Mr. Williams' church activities are state-wide in scope. He has an insight and understanding of the problems that cause anxious moments in the church family. Financial complications cause the biggest headache, and he is particularly adept in untangling financial snarls. Mr. Williams and Rev. Alexander Henry, of Newport, were the leading lights in a re-arrangement of Arkansas College's finances.

CENTRAL'S FINANCE COMMITTEE

The \$30,000 debt incurred by Central when the new building was constructed called for many readjustments, with the depression adding greatly to the burden of the Finance Committee. While unable, perhaps, to turn water into wine, miracles were performed, nevertheless, by W. H. Williams, G. L. Alexander, Dan Bossinger and others, in pulling Central through its greatest crisis. At present the church debt is rapidly being liquidated with pledges to the Debt