

Church Is Almost Destroyed By Fire

Baptist Congregation of South Norfolk Lose Place of Worship—Will Build New Church Meanwhile Worshipping in Firemen's Hall.

Fire this morning at 6:15 o'clock practically destroyed the South Norfolk Baptist church, located at the corner of Chesapeake avenue and Gurrier streets, entailing a loss of between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

The blaze started in the Baraca-Philathea room in the northern end of the church nearest the Norfolk and Western Station. The origin of the fire is a mystery. The flames spread rapidly and the building was soon a charred mass of ruins.

Mr. George White, who lives near the church, was the first to discover the fire and he hastily summoned the South Norfolk fire department. The firemen did excellent work in protecting other property, but were unable to save the church building which burned out on the interior and was left a shell, ready to topple in at any moment.

Some of the church furnishings, including the piano, were saved, but the pews are practically ruined. The church was partially covered by insurance.

TO BUILD NEW CHURCH.

Rev. W. M. Black, pastor of the church, said this morning that his congregation had in contemplation the erection of a new church edifice and had been raising funds for that purpose for some time, having already in hand \$2,200. He was to have held rally-day services in the church tomorrow, at which he expected to raise an additional amount for this purpose. These services will now be held at Firemen's Hall, which will be used by this congregation until the new church is completed.

The South Norfolk Baptist church was built more than ten years ago as a mission of the Berkley Avenue Baptist church and later run independent of that congregation. The church was enlarged during the pastorate of the Rev. Q. C. Davis. The church now has a membership of between six and seven hundred.

It is expected that the work of rebuilding the new church will begin at once.

The residence of Thomas Black, adjoining the church, together with the furniture, was damaged to the extent of \$250.

SOUTH NORFOLK HIGH SCHOOL'S FINALS MONDAY

The closing exercises of South Norfolk High and Grammar School will take place in the High School auditorium Monday evening, June 15, at 8 o'clock. Owing to the limited seating capacity of the auditorium it was found necessary to issue invitations to the graduating exercises.

The following program will be rendered:

Welcome—Samuel H. Dozier.
Prayer—Rev. G. W. M. Taylor,
Chorus—"Spring Song," selected pupils.
Class History—Robert W. Lowe.
Class Poem—Samuel Dozier.
Class Song—Selected pupils.
Class Will—Russell I. Townsend.
Class Prophecy—Marie Tunnally.
Address to Graduates—Rev. E. T. Dadmun.

Presentation of diplomas to High School graduates by Superintendent A. H. Foreman.

Presentation of diplomas to graduates of commercial department and graduates of seventh grade by Rev. M. W. Black.

Chorus—"Gaily We're Tripping," selected pupils.

The list of graduates is published elsewhere.

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FIRE DESTROYS BAPTIST CHURCH

Congregation To Rebuild \$20,- 000 Brick And Stone Structure

The South Norfolk Baptist church was totally destroyed by fire yesterday morning shortly after 6 o'clock entailing a loss of about \$4,000 with only \$1,500 insurance.

The fire was confined to the interior of the building and literally gutted it.

The fire had its origin from an unknown source and the members, as well as pastor and deacons are at a loss to throw any light on the cause.

George White, one of the deacons and most active member, who lives only a short distance from the church, which is located on Chesapeake avenue and Gurrier street, was the first person to discover the fire and called out the South Norfolk fire department which could do little more than hold the fire in subjection, preventing its spread to other valuable property in the community.

There was a rumor yesterday that a boy found a kerosene can in the building after the fire had been put out, but this could not be verified.

At a meeting of the board of deacons last evening it was decided to inaugurate plans at once with a view of constructing a \$20,000 brick and stone building on the site of the one destroyed.

The church has in hand \$2,200, which together with the insurance will give \$3,700 and with this it was decided to begin a campaign to raise \$10,000 for the initial payment on a new building. Plans and specifications will be drawn and submitted for bids.

The congregation will hold services today in Firemen's hall, South Norfolk, and will continue to occupy this building as a place of worship until other arrangements have been made.

All of the other churches of the community hastened to tender their houses in which to hold services until the homeless congregation can rebuild, for which the pastor, Rev. W. M. Black said yesterday that he is more than thankful.

The South Norfolk Baptist church was built more than twenty years ago as a mission under the supervision of the Berkley Avenue Baptist church. Under the pastorate of Rev. Q. C. Davis it was enlarged. It has a membership of about six hundred and a Sunday school of about five hundred members. The residence of Thomas Black, who was away at this time, was damaged to the extent of about \$250.

FINED FOR VIOLATING SUNDAY LAW

C. C. Casper, colored, South Norfolk, was fined \$20 and costs by Magistrate Q. C. Davis of that place yesterday, charged with keeping his place open on Sunday and selling goods and was placed under bond of \$100 for one year. Casper was represented by Attorney I. W. Eason, who appealed to the Norfolk county Circuit Court.

Rev. Zepp Dashields, a student of Atlantic Christian College, will conduct the services at Church of Christ Disciples this evening.



NEWS OF BERKLEY

RAISED \$4,100 FOR PROPOSED NEW CHURCH

Campaign Inaugurated To In-
crease The Initial Fund To
\$10,000 This Week

As the result of the fire which de-
stroyed the South Norfolk Baptist
church Saturday morning the members
and pastor Rev. William M. Black,
with the cash already on hand and in-
cluding \$1,700 in subscriptions, in-
creased their building fund for their
proposed new church to \$4,100 yester-
day morning.

The cash in hand was raised to \$2,400
yesterday, \$150 more being turned in
by the several societies, and subscrip-
tions were taken for \$1,700 at the
morning service.

Mr. Black said last evening that
they hope to raise the remainder of
the ten thousand this week, the
amount which they desire to have in
hand before a contract is let for the
proposed new building.

Mr. Black may call on the sister
churches of his congregation to help in
the work of building a new edifice.

The attendance was large at all of
the services yesterday and a deep in-
terest manifested in the movement to
build a new and more auspicious home.

CHILDREN'S DAY EXERCISES

The annual children's day exercises
were held in the Church of Christ, Dis-
ciples, South Norfolk, yesterday morn-
ing when the church was beautifully
decorated with the many flowers of the
season and filled with participants and
spectators.

An interesting program was rendered,
including the speech of the occasion
by Rev. George Funk.

BERKLEY ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR RENT—MODERN HOME, SEVEN-
rooms and bath, 704 Berkley Ave.;
reasonable to quick tenant. Apply 700
Berkley Ave. Phone: Berkley 142. je14-2t

FOR RENT—TWO 6-ROOM HOUSES,
No. 1005 and 1011 Alleghany street, \$12
per month each. Apply to H. L. Graves,
125 Main St. je11-7t

SECURE YOUR LOT IN RIVERSIDE

IS ART MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN NATURE? DEBATE

A debate that promises to be quite
interesting will take place in the lecture
room of the Berkley Avenue Baptist
church Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock,
when the question "That the Art of Man
is More Attractive to the Eye than Na-
ture" will be discussed.

The affirmative will be upheld by Misses
Katie McCoy and Queena Johnson, while
the negative will be taken by Preston
Sawyer.

The debate will be under the auspices
of the Baraca and Philathea classes of the
Berkley Avenue Baptist church.

The meeting night of the organizations
has been changed from Monday to Tues-
day evening.

BERKLEY BRIEFS

Miss Cornelia Murden is at Lawford's
hospital, where she underwent a success-
ful operation.

The Missionary Society of Memorial
M. E. church meets in the parlors of
the church this afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Mrs. O. S. Baker, who has been quite
sick at her home, 209 Maple avenue,
is improving again.

TRANSFERRED TO MANILA

H. L. Gullmatte, formerly paymaster's
clerk on the U. S. S. Franklin and more
recently of New York, has returned to
this city and will leave the last of the
month for Manila, P. I., where he will be
stationed for two and a half years as pay-
master. He will be accompanied by his
wife, formerly Miss Ruth Scarborough,
who is very popular in Berkley, her home.
Mr. Gullmatte and wife are delighted
with the prospects of the trip.

SERIES OF ENTERTAINMENTS

The Liberty Street M. E. church will
give a series of entertainments at the
Firemen's Hall, South Norfolk, Wednes-
day, Thursday and Friday of this week
for the benefit of the building fund.

THREE SCHOOLS TO HAVE ANNUAL PICNICS

The Sunday schools of Armstrong Me-
morial Presbyterian, St. Paul's Episcopal
and First Christian churches will picnic
at Virginia Beach next Friday.

Special train will leave Walnut street at
9 o'clock a. m., going through to the
beach, stopping at South Norfolk and
Herbert's. Returning, will leave the
beach at 7 o'clock p. m. Tickets will be
good only on special train.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON

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W.M. BLAIR
MONDAY JUN 15 1914
LEOGER-DI'S PATCH

LARGE SUM IS RAISED TO PUT UP NEW CHURCH

At the rally day services of the South Norfolk Baptist church, held at firemen's hall yesterday morning, the amount of funds in hand for building the new church, was increased from \$2,100 to \$4,100. Out of this amount the church has in hand \$2,400 in cash. It is expected to increase these figures to \$10,000 this week. It is desired that this amount should be raised before beginning with the work. Other congregations of sister churches will be asked to assist in the work.

It is proposed to build a \$20,000 brick and stone church with all modern designs and conveniences.

The church will continue holding services at firemen's hall until the new church is completed.

MONDAY

JULY 13, 1914 W. M. BLACK

LEDGER - DISPATCH

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CHURCH RAISES \$6,000.

At the rally held yesterday morning by the congregation of the South Norfolk Baptist Church, it was reported that \$6,000 had been raised from all sources, which will be applied to the fund for the erection of the new church. Four thousand dollars of this amount is already in hand. It was decided to go ahead with the work as soon as the plans and specifications have been completed.

HOLD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

W. M. BLACK

MONDAY JUN 29, 1914

LEDGER DISPATCH

DISCUSS NEW CHURCH PLANS

There will be a meeting of the building committee of the South Norfolk Baptist Church on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at the residence of the pastor, Rev. W. M. Black, in Park avenue. Plans for the new church will be discussed on this occasion. Nearly \$5,000 has been raised toward the building fund and the campaign committees are working hard to increase these figures.

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