

The following article appeared in the Rock Hill Herald on July 11, 1903:

This is a letter from Rev. C. M. Young, pastor of Hermon Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill.

Note from the Editor of the Herald: *The Splendid edifice being erected by the congregation of the Colored Presbyterians in our city – A church that is a credit to the builders and the city as well – The work largely done by the members who are carpenters, masons, etc.*

To the Editor, Rock Hill Herald:

Some time ago when you visited our church edifice and inspected it, you asked me to give you a statement through your paper of the work done. It is indeed a pleasure to do so.

Eight years ago we began the raising of funds to build this new brick edifice which is to cost at least several thousand dollars. We have raised and paid out to date \$5,766.20 toward the erection of the same. The building was actually begun May 14, 1897. We could have borrowed the money and finished the building possibly, but thought it best to build only as fast as we could collect and pay, thus being relieved from the worry which comes from owing debts when there is inability to pay them. Of course we have made some little debts and in fact we owe about \$60 now, but have never owed more than \$400 at once.

Our people have worked hard and made many sacrifices to put up this building; we really think they have done what they could.

Our own masons, carpenters and painters, for the most part, have done the work; I mean the members of our church. A great deal of labor has been given by those members; really the women have assisted many a day in carrying brick, water and other such things as they could handle. Our boys and girls have given a great deal of labor also.

The following persons paid for windows: Mesdames Margaret Barber and Delilah Johnson, M. P. Watts, L. A. Doster, S. B. Agurs, A. F. Davie, A. C. Rainey, L. W. Smith, and Miss Amelia Johnson; Messrs. J. R. and S. S. Hall, T. J. and Jefferson Robertson, George and James Campbell, C. M. Young. Other windows were put in by Sabbath School classes and various societies of the church. A few church and schools assisted us also.

The windows put in by the members of the church cost each from \$16 to \$30. The main auditorium, pastor's study and side entrance are finished; also all the exterior work except the tower. This means that the lecture room, main entrance and tower are yet complete.

The seats we are now using in the main auditorium will be used in the lecture room when our pews are purchased.

Just now it is our purpose to pay the \$60 we owe and finish the tower. This we hope to do soon.

We have asked each man to bring in \$5.00 and each woman \$3.00 next Sabbath, July 12. In some instances the individual will collect a part of his assessment, and in many others it will all be paid out of scanty earnings. Not all will pay the money, but a great many will. Some will bring more than we asked. It is in this way we have put up the building.

Please allow us to make mention and emphasize the fact that our white friends have been helpful to us in many ways from the very beginning. You have given advice, encouragement, money and your presence when they were sought. We appreciate this recognition of your interest in us.

Just now we have three calls to take very important work elsewhere, and the fact that you have been so interested in us and helpful to us, has had to do with our deciding to stay at Rock Hill.

We have 150 members, but many of them are absent. Our congregation is about 200.

We shall be glad to have our white friends, who are so much interested in us, visit our services when it is convenient. Many have attended already.

We thank you, Mr. Editor, for this favor.

C. M. Young
Rock Hill, S. C.
July 10, 1903