WATSON BEQUEST

In 1925 during the pastorate of Rev. George W. Jones, Mrs. Sarah Watson, a staunch member of Bethel passed away, and bequeathed to the Trustees of Bethel A. M. E. Church, the property of herself and her late husband, Henry M. Watson, who too had been a member of Bethel. The property was located at 1014 West Main Street, Urbana. The will provided that the proceeds of the sale after deducting burial expenses should be given to the Trustees for the purpose of liquidating the mortgage indebted of the Church. The requirements were carried out and Bethel was freed from its mortgage debt through the love and liberality of one of its most loyal members.

MEMBERSHIP

The growth of the membership of the Church has been gradual but steady. We have no figures of the membership from its beginning but it must have been very small as the number of Negroes here was small. In 1888 the membership was sixty-two. The present membership (October 1938) is approximately 270. There have been many outstanding revivals in a series running through the years. Those producing the greates ingathering were held by Rev. Charles Holmes, Rev. P. M. Lewis, Rev. R. H. Hackley by Rev. Mary Evans.