

The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT
Minister



Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.

I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the
Lord. Whither the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord, unto the
testimony of Israel, to give thanks
unto the name of the Lord.

---Psalm 122:1,4.

"O God, make perfect my love toward thee and to my Redeemer and Justifier; give me a true and unfeigned love to all virtue and godliness, and to all thy chosen people.

Increase in me strength and victory against all temptations and assaults of the flesh, the world, and the devil, that according to thy promise I be never further proved or tempted than thou wilt give me strength to overcome. Give me grace to keep a good conscience; give me a pure heart and mind, and renew a right spirit within me."

Next Wednesday will be church cleaning day, and all the women and also men, are urged to help a little and so make it easy for all. We will want to have the church and chapel made as inviting as possible for the multitude of guests at the Reunion.

Let us not forget that their coming here from great distances, in many cases, is a favor and a courtesy to us, for which we are truly thankful, and we can best show our gratitude by making their short visit as comfortable and as pleasant as possible by what little we may do for their entertainment.

The School is rejoicing in an orchestra newly organized under the leadership of Mr. Chris Seiple.

The other members are Misses Alice Bell and Alice Seiple; Luther and Wilbur Foss; Edward Green. Other players are expected to be added soon. They played for the first time last Sunday and gave the singing of the school a new zest. It will surely be a great help to the School.

May 17th. Next Sunday

6th Annual Reunion

73rd. Anniversary

The Program will be printed in full in the Reunion number, but the main points, for the benefits of new readers are the following:--

Morning Worship at 11 A.M.d.s.t

The Pastor will preach on the theme, High Tide in the Church, an historical discourse.

The local choir will furnish the special music.

At noon the ladies will serve luncheon in the chapel at 40 cents.

At 2 P.M. the afternoon meeting begins. This is in charge of the former members and old Oxford citizens. Short talks, singing of old hymns, and special music by the Glee Club of Blair Academy.

Mrs. Dr. James E. Loder of Phila. writes:-- "I am glad to write you that I will be able to attend the Oxford Reunion on May 17th, and am going to bring with me to the services and dinner on Sunday, two guests, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Smith of Washington, N.J. with whom I will be staying. Will you please make room for three (3) for dinner."

Mr. Humphrey in one of his very pleasant letters states "I fully expect to attend the Reunion, and spend the Saturday with Joe Scranton as I have done for the past two years

It looks as though the affair would be as interesting and pleasant as ever."

Mr. John Zulauf Says: "We are anxiously awaiting the coming of the seventeenth of May, on which date takes place the one event we have been looking forward to with much joy for the whole year."

Mr. Zulauf inclosed two dollars for the Bulletin for which we thank him. Mr. Cortland F. Cook cards us "Dinner for two, please."

In 1871 there was a great financial panic, following five years of wild prosperity that succeeded the close of the Civil War. The effect upon industries was to make it impossible to obtain cash for their pay rolls and they resorted to charge accounts at Company stores or to credit slips

Four years ago the Bulletin ran several letters telling of the effect on Oxford workmen, contributed by Messrs. Weston, Kempsey, Humphrey and Weber. As the Bulletin has fully twice the numbers of readers now it may serve a good purpose to make selections from those letters bearing upon this experience in Oxford.

Mr. Weston was the first to refer to it in these words,--"The darkest day Oxford ever saw was when the Iron Company failed (1878). Men had not been paid for ten years or more, and most every one had in the interim traded on wages at the Company Store. When the failure came every one found himself without money or credit."

This suggested to Mr. Kempsey his own experiences which he relates in his realistic style:--

"I smiled when I came to the part of Mr. Weston's letter telling of the pay day being ten years back. Well, they did pay a little at Christmas and the 4th of July. I well remember being in the crowd of five or six hundred, trying to enter the pay office, and when I received my two dollars, I felt like a great, big man.

Some men got as high as five dollars. O how I thought, if I were as big as those men I too might get five dollars! The advisable thing to do after getting out of the pay office was to look over yourself, especially your feet, to see if you were all there. For in those days the workers wore heavy hobnail shoes

However when we were sure we were all in tact, we held us away to some place to see how much pleasure we could get for two dollars."

Mr. Weber added a bit of his experience:--"Mr. Kempsey refers to Pay days in the Seventies. It was in 1876 that William Hornbaker and I talked, in the Nail factory, about going to the Philadelphia Centennial. We decided to go to the Office and (over)

see the Paymaster and if we could wiggle a few dollars from him, of which we had grave doubts; for it was neither 'Christmas nor the Fourth of July.' We saw the Paymaster at noontime. He asked how much we wanted. William asked for five dollars! Now, I had two dollars stowed away somewhere, and was afraid to ask for five, so I said three.

He told us to stop on the way home later and he would see what he could for us in the afternoon. Well, we got our five and three dollars, and so felt that we were among the monied men of the town. Next morning I left home at four o'clock, walked to Belvidere--more than five miles from my home, tramped around the Centennial grounds all day, got back to Belvidere late the same day and walked home,--there were no Auto buses running at that time."

Mr. Humphrey, then a book-keeper in the Office, told how the accounts were kept:-- "A ledger account was kept with every employee which was credited with his earnings monthly.

Against this credit were charged all his expenses; if a married man, his store account, rent, etc.; if single, his store account and board bill the latter being passed on to the boarding house keeper, who in turn traded it out in the store. And this was only the beginning; the Office being the clearing house for all sorts of transactions. Church pew rents for all the churches in the village were charged to the subscribers accounts and credited to the Church; and in turn, the Minister traded out his salary... At the end of each month, every employee was furnished with a statement, or 'Due Bill' showing his balance. The result was that nearly every body was in debt to the Company, and the few who were thrifty enough to have a credit balance could never get any real money. ... The effect on the individual character was very bad, especially on the young men, as it smothered any tendency toward thrift, and made spendthrifts of us all. I often wonder that any of us survived that kind of training."



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER
EDWARD T. GREEN

ELISHA B. FOSS
LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

JAMES RADEL
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.
FRED K. SARSON
EDWARD SHARPS

HARRY MILLER
CHARLES RENNER
LEWIS E. GREEN
CHARLES DUX

BENJAMIN GREEN



Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	CHRIS SEIPLE
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i>	MERRILL FOSS
<i>Organist</i>	MISS RUTH SNYDER
<i>Assistant Organist</i>	MISS ALICE BELL



Choir

Leader MRS. E. T. GREEN

