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**THE BULLETIN
OF THE
OXFORD SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY



Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, Ph.D.
Pastor

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and
are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of
me; for I am meek and lowly in
heart: and ye shall find rest
for your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden
is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30

**STATED MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH
SUNDAY SERVICES**

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.

Church Worship, 10:30 a. m.

Young People's Meeting, 7 p. m.

The Trustees meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

The Ladies Aid Society meets on the first Wednesday of the month, at 2:30 p. m.

The Lord's Supper is observed at Easter, and on the second Sundays of July, October and January.

The Annual Business Meeting comes in last week of March.

CHURCH OFFICERS

Elders—Abram Pittenger, Elisha B. Foss, Edward T. Green, Lewis Bergenback.

Trustees—Harry Miller, James Radel, George Docker, Jr., Charles Renner, Fred K. Sarson, Lewis E. Green, Edward Sharps, Charles Dux, Benjamin Green.

Treasurer—Lewis E. Green.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent—E. B. Foss.

Asst. Superintendent—Mrs. Edward T. Green.

Treasurer—Miss Ida Smith.

Secretary—Alvin Renner.

Organist—Elizabeth Zapp.

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Honorary President—Mrs. Charles Renner.

President—Mrs. Benjamin Green.

Secretary—Mrs. Clark Wilkinson.

Treasurer—Mrs. Lewis E. Green.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

President—Emily Austie.

Treasurer—Chris Seiple.

Secretary—Helen Snyder.

CHOIR

Leader—Mrs. Edward T. Green.

Organist—Mrs. Benjamin Zapp.

Printed by J. C. Follayttar, Belvidere, N. J.

Bulletin No. 239. November 25th, 1934

Second Presbyterian Church
Oxford, N. J.

Thanksgiving Season

What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits toward me ?

I will take the cup of salvation and
call upon the name of the Lord..Psalm 11

---Prayer---

Most heartily do we thank the, O Lord
for all thy mercies of every kind, for
the bounty of thy providence, for sus-
taining grace, and for the love that
redeems us. We thank thee for
friendship and duty, for good hopes and
precious memories, for the joys that
cheer us and for trials that teach us
to trust in thee. We bless thee for
our country and our homes, for our
churches and our schools, and for the
right to work out our own destinies
according to thy divine purposes in
Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen

**Centenary Service Tonight
at Belvidere.**

A number of our congregation plan
to attend the Centenary Anniversary
service at the First Presbyterian church
Belvidere this evening at 7:30.

Those who desire to go should let
it be known, so that arrangements may
be made for the trip.

The Moderator of the General Assem-
bly, will preach, and it not often that
an opportunity to hear the head of our
great church occurs in this region.

Sunrise Service Thanksgiving.

The young People will conduct a sunrise
thanksgiving meeting in the church next
Thursday morning at 7:30. A special
program has been arranged that will
make it very attractive.

A thanksgiving Box will be placed
at the door for offerings for the needy
of the community. "A little something
from your pantry shelf will gladden
some one." Everybody is invited
to this service.

Corner Stone of the Old Stone
Chapel. 1848.

This past week we made a discovery of prime interest while over seeing some work in the present Chapel basement.

We noticed an inscription on the wall that was blackened with soot, and on close inspection we read the following engraved in elegant roman letters:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ERECTED

A.D. DCCCXLVIII.

The stone is large and finely faced. It is placed under a north window just east of the large chimney.

We do not recall that any one has spoken about this fine relic.

The old stone chapel was the first house of worship erected in Oxford in 1848.

There were not many people here then, and only a few church members, who belonged to the first Presbyterian Church at Old Oxford or Hazen. In this building the Second Presbyterian Church of Oxford was organized on May 8th, 1863, with 21 charter members, whose names were transferred from the first Church. Of these only one is still living, Mrs. O.N. Perry. Her name then was Miss Rebecca Vansycle.

After the new Brick Church was built in 1865 the stone chapel was used for small meetings, social gatherings, and on week days the public school was held in it, until the brick school house was built. Many notable persons were brought to Oxford to lecture in that Chapel, among them Miss Frances Willard, the most famous of all temperance workers. It is a pity that this old corner stone was not placed in a conspicuous place. However it is in a position from which it could easily be dislodged and set elsewhere.

The old furnace in the Chapel has been taken away, and a used furnace has been set up in its place, which we hope will heat the room satisfactorily without smoking us out as did the old one. It will come in good place and time for the Ladies Annual Fair, December 7th, and for the other social meetings of the church.

The Annual Fair and Supper
December 7th.

Supper will be served from 5.P.M.

Fancy table will offer many attractive useful and ornamental items.

The children will be amused with the grab-bag. Donations for these objects solicited.

Mrs. Mary Robeson Smith

Mrs. Smith is probably the last lineal descendant of Jonathan Robeson living in this region. She is the great-great grand daughter of Jonathan Robeson who built the old furnace, and whose descendants for a hundred years were so numerous and prominent in this region. Her father was Col James M. Robeson, of Belvidere. He was a well known attorney and at one time a Judge of Warren County. Mrs. Smith is the widow of Arthur G. Smith, and though advanced in age is vigorous in body and mind, and a most interesting talker, especially on historical matters connected with her family and Warren County.

The Editor had the pleasure of calling on her in Belvidere last week. She has a deep interest in Oxford and the old furnace and mansion house.

John H. Dahlke

In a conversation with Mr. John H. Dahlke, an attorney of Belvidere, we were glad to learn that he was once a resident of Oxford. He was here from 1873 to 1876 and was a clerk in the Company Store. He has pleasant recollections of his life in Oxford. He studied law under Col. James M. Robeson, father of Mrs. Smith above mentioned.

It is remarkable how many people one finds in neighboring towns, who once lived in Oxford. They all recall it gladly.

We acknowledge with pleasure the receipt of postage money for the Bulletin from Mrs. Mary Ross Vorbach, of Trenton, and Mrs. Harry B. Thompson of Philadelphia; also from a friend at a distance.

The First National Thanksgiving Proclamation was issued by George Washington, on January 1st, 1795. We cannot give it all here but enough to show the public feeling on the matter at that distant day.

After stating the reasons for the nations gratitude, such as exemption from foreign wars, "the great degree of internal tranquility we have enjoyed... the unexampled prosperity of all classes of our citizens," as signs of divine favor, "It is our duty as a people, with devout reverence, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, to implore him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced.

"Deeply penetrated with this sentiment I, George Washington, President of the United States, do recommend to all religious societies and denominations, and to all persons whomsoever... to set apart and observe Thursday, the 19th day of February next, as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, and on that day to meet together and render sincere and hearty thanks to the great Ruler of nations for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a nation; particularly for the possession of constitutions of government which unite and by their union establish liberty with order; for the preservation of peace; for the prosperous condition of our affairs, public and private, and at the same time humbly and fervently beseech the kind Author of these blessings, graciously to prolong them to us; to imprint on our hearts a deep and solemn sense of our obligations to him for them; to teach us rightly to estimate their immense value to preserve us from the arrogance of prosperity, and from hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits;... to extend among us true and useful knowledge; to diffuse and establish habits of sobriety, order, morality and piety, and finally to impart all the blessings we possess or ask for ourselves to the whole family of mankind.

This proclamation is signed by George Washington and also by Edmund Randolph his secretary of state. It is probably safe to say that Randolph composed this from notes by Washington. Our modern statesmen cannot write prose like this, for Randolph was a brilliant speaker and writer, as these extracts indicate.

EDWARD T. GREEN

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