



The
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

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Minister



Therefore every scribe who is instructed in the kingdom of heaven, is like an householder who bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old. Matthew 13:52.



Church Calendar

To-day-- Mother's Day
May 19th-- Reunion Day. 72nd, Anniversary
May 26th.-- Memorial Day Sunday
June 9th---Children's Day
July 14th-- Communion Day

"Almighty God, we commend to thee our families and children. Dwell in our homes, we beseech thee; protect our dwellings from all evil, both outwardly and inwardly, and fill them with peace and holiness. We pray for all who are dear to us, that they may be delivered from all the dangers of this present life, and kept by thy grace unto salvation. United in one household of faith and love, may we live in the blessed hope that when the day dawns and the shadows flee away, we shall meet with our beloved dead and all thy redeemed, in thy presence where there is fulness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

CONCERT TONIGHT

This evening at 7:30 there will be a service of music conducted by the Young People. An orchestra of young ladies will render a program of instrumental and vocal music. There will no admission but an offering will be taken to pay for their traveling expenses.

There will be hymns by the congregation and a short address by the pastor. Come and bring friends and neighbors.

Next Sabbath we are to have many guests at our Church, and we all want to make their visit a pleasant one.

But to do this means work and the personal sacrifice of time and labor.

The church and Chapel must be cleaned and tidied up. We call upon all who possibly can to come and help on Wednesday both women and men. Those without employment for that day will volunteer for this duty, we are sure.

The Bulletin has received one dollar each from Mrs. Dr. Tunison; and Anton Peterson. Two dollars from Miss Geneva Cooper and \$4.00 from Miss Rosalie Sarson. Many thanks to all.

Morning Worship will begin at 11.A.M. daylight-saving time, to accommodate those coming from a distance. The sermon will touch upon important facts of the history of our Church, of which this will be the 72nd Anniversary, and the 5th Reunion.

The Ladies will serve a noon luncheon in the Chapel. They plan to seat many more at the first table than last year so that all may be accommodated promptly and no one need go elsewhere to eat.

The afternoon meeting will start at 2 o'clock. Mr. Weston, the Chairman, has provided a good program, and sends this note:--

"We are ready to go into action on the 19th, and I am sure we will have an interesting meeting. I have a volume of correspondence--replies to my letters written far and wide. Some of the writers of course will be unable to attend, but send their best wishes for success, and ask to be remembered. Talks will be given by: George Humphrey; Mrs. James Loder; John Zulauf; Samuel Cooper; Richmond Searing; Edmund and Dr. Franklin Perkins; and others to be heard from."

The Choir is preparing special music for the occasion and Mrs. Dr. F.H. Perkins of Lancaster, Mass. will sing two solos.

Mr. Charles S. Aitkin, of Trenton, and one time principal of the Oxford School writes the Editor this good note:

"A cordial invitation to attend the Oxford Church Reunion, extended by Mr. Clinton L. Weston, recalls many pleasant experiences and friendships during the years passed in Oxford, nearly a decade.

To meet some of the acquaintances of those days would afford much pleasure and satisfaction, and it may be that I'll be able to join the group on the date set. Please feel assured of my interest in the observance."

Mr. Aitkin inclosed a very generous bill for the offering.

We feel sure that the presence of none of the old time citizens of Oxford would afford greater pleasure to his former friends and pupils than that of Mr. Aitkin. We sincerely hope he will find it possible to be present at the Reunion next Sabbath.

(Reprinted from Bulletin No. 159. The requests for this story have been frequent and the supply exhausted long ago)

About the year 1876 an attempt to rob the safe in the Iron Company's office was foiled by the brave and crafty watchman, Mr. Wm. H. Searing, who for many years guarded the great Store and offices through the dark and lonely nights.

The story of this tragic and yet thrilling event runs as follows:--

An officer of the Company went to N.Y. City to get cash for the approaching pay day.

Four men--by name, Fisher, Hughes, and two Greers-- were waiting for him and followed him from the bank to Hoboken, where they took the same train, but with tickets for Bridgeville. They even rode in the same coach with the man they were following.

That night the four men walked to Oxford and hid behind the stone wall north of the Store, where they masked themselves and then scouted around the Store to see if any one was on guard. They saw the watchman in the basement, and posting one man on the outside to guard the entrance to the office the others climbed through a window into the office. There were two doors to the office, one outside and one leading to the basement. Hughes, the expert safe breaker, went to work on the safe, while the other two took a position, as they thought, before the door to the basement, but in fact before the door to the outside.

Finally Mr. Searing, bearing a load of wood in one arm and a lantern with the other, mounted the steps from the basement to the office, knowing nothing of the presence of the burglars. When he opened the door at the top of the steps he saw Hughes at the safe, he quickly took his pistol from his overcoat pocket, and, being a crack shot, put a bullet through Hughes' heart before the latter could turn and shoot.

The two men guarding the other door rushed across the room and fell upon Mr. Searing, and all together tumbled on the floor; but in the scramble Searing shot one of the Greer brothers through the shoulder. But he was overcome by them and at their mercy, and, but for a strange circumstance, they would have effected the robbery.

Mr. Searing had a large dog that followed him everywhere he went, but having been once shot, was gunshy. The dog followed his master up the steps to the office, (over)

but frightened by the pistol shot he ran back down the steps into the basement and in doing so overturned some boxes or cans, making a great racket.

The two robbers hearing this noise said that somebody was in the basement; and the quick witted watchman, taking instant advantage of their illusion, called out loudly, "Come on up, Bill but don't shoot."

Thus tricked the burglars in freight ran and jumped through the window, and, with the man outside, fled.

They first went to Pequest, and early in the morning got a farmer to take them to Munck Chunk, Pa., and the one shot in the shoulder, succeeded in getting our West, where he was later put in prison for another crime. But the blood from his shoulder left a trail by which the detective followed him to Pequest, and learned from the farmer about taking them to Munck Chunk, Pa.

Fisher and one of the Greers were captured and brought to Belvidere, where they were tried and sent to the State Prison in which they both died.

At the trial Fisher confessed, and as his confession was corroborated by Mr. Searing's testimony, they were easily convicted. Fisher on the stand remarked that Oxford was the hottest place he had ever been in, not only on account of the shooting, but because of the loads of glowing hot cinders which came from the furnace and passed along the wall behind which they had been hiding. Hughes died instantly and was buried in Hillside Cemetery.

He left a wife and two children, who had been ignorant of his criminal habits.

Mr. Searing became the hero not only in Oxford, but all over the country, the story of his bravery and smartness in outwitting the burglars, was front page news in all the papers.

The above account is given as related to the Editor by Wm. L. Hornbaker, who was early at the office on the morning after the event, and also attended the trial in Belvidere.

The Burglars kit for safe breaking, filled a large suit case, and for years was kept in the office, but has since disappeared. However a picture of it opened with the tools all showing was taken, and Mr. E. B. Foss, has a copy of it, which the writer had the privilege of examining recently.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EDWARD T. GREEN	LEWIS BERGENBACK



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Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	MRS. EDWARD T. GREEN
<i>Treasurer</i>	MISS IDA SMITH
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Organist</i>	MISS ELIZABETH ZAPP



Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN GREEN
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. EDMUND ORAM
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN



Choir

<i>Leader</i>	MRS. E. T. GREEN
<i>Organist</i>	MRS. BENJAMIN ZAPP

