

The Weekly Bulletin
of the
Oxford Second Presbyterian
Church
OXFORD, NEW JERSEY



Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, *Ph.D.*,
PASTOR

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.—Psalm 27:4.

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STATED MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School, 9:30 a. m.

Church Worship, 10:30 a. m. - 7:30 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.

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Morning Worship

Doxology

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Psalm 24 sel.6

Hymn 50

Creed and Gloria

Scripture Lesson Matt. 16.

Prayer

Anthem

Offering

Hymn 129

Sermon The Victorious Church

Hymn 239

Benediction

TEXT

And I say unto thee that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build **my Church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.-----Matt.16:18

"Almighty and everlasting God, who hast declared thy love for the world by giving thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life; Vouchsafe to thy Church gifts of spiritual power, to the hastening in all the world of thy Kingdom which is righteous and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever."

The Young People will conduct their meeting to-night at 7 O'clock. Alvin Renner will be the leader. The topic will be "For Christ and His Church"

The meeting last Sabbath evening was led by Miss Elizabeth Zapp, who took the place of the appointed leader at the last moment, but conducted a very interesting service. The willingness of all to help is very encouraging.

The Ladies Aid Society will hold their monthly meeting at the Manse next Wednesday. As no meeting was held last a large attendance is requested by the President, Mrs Charles Renner.

The Sunday School attendance last Sunday was 115. The week before had 104. The hope for future growth is bright, as the interest grows with the faithfulness of the officers and teachers, -all of whom were present last Sabbath.

SIXTY SIX YEARS ago to-day this Church edifice was dedicated to God. That was on January 31st, 1866. Dr. Frederick Knighton was the Moderator of the Session and presided at the services of the day.

The first Pastor, Rev. J. Clark Cline was installed on the same day, who pronounced the dedicatory prayer. Rev. W. H. Kirk, the Pastor at Belvidere preached the sermon.

It was a great day. Members of the Presbytery, and ministers of other churches were present. The devoted Presbyterians, less than a hundred in number, did not stint themselves in erecting this house of worship. They made it as large and substantial, and as fine as they possibly could do, thinking not only of themselves but of the generations to come.

The building is still as beautiful and solid as when first constructed, and barring accidents will stand for centuries to come. From the time of dedication to the present it has been in constant use for religious purposes. The mines have been idle much of the time, and all human enterprises of the community have come and gone in that period, but the Church has never closed nor slackened its labor for the Kingdom of Christ.

All the members of the Church 66 years ago have passed to their reward or have left the community and the Church. But new members have been added from year to year, and so the river of salvation flows on as at first. For it is the Church of Christ, and is built upon the Rock of Ages.

"I will found my Church upon a Rock and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The Bulletin has received a very interesting letter from Mrs John Vosseller now living with her daughter, Mrs Millie Hartman of Phillipsburg. She requests a copy of Bulletin #95, which will be sent her gladly. She writes: "I had the pleasure of reading over one of the Weekly Bulletins, and I was delighted to read one containing the names of the old Oxford Band. My husband being one, - Mr. John Vosseller. Also my daughter, Millie Vosseller, was always a little worker in the church, and read it with pleasure." She says that her sister Mrs. George Haycock sent her the copy she saw. Mrs Vosseller, we understand was not a member of our Church, but Millie her daughter was, until removal to Phillipsburg.

The Pastor had a pleasant call in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eliza Pittenger of Washington, on last Tuesday.

Mrs. Pittenger showed us the finest picture we have yet seen of the old Oxford furnace. It must have been taken fifty years ago, as the building was entire with the smokestack and the cupola tower **intact**. Mrs. Pittenger's brother was at one time engineer there, and she recalls that as a little girl she took his dinner to him. Of even more interest to us was a page from the Newark News of the date, August 27, 1898, which Mrs. Pittenger has treasured all these years. It is a write up of Oxford, with nine illustrations, covering nearly an entire page. It was during the hard times in the nineties, and especially hard in Oxford, because the mines and all the works were closed down from May 1895 to 1900. A doleful picture is drawn of the poverty and desolation of the town, as seen by the reporter.

The Article is headed, "Decay and death of a Jersey Town." The head lines go on to state that "Only a few **old** men and women left to tell the story of its former greatness. Mills and residences without a sign of life, about them mute evidence of the fate that has over taken the beautiful and historic spot on the Blue mountains. Invention of wire nails given as the Chief cause of the annihilation of the industry that made the place."

Abundant details are given to support this sad picture, which we must pass over at this time, but a pathetic story will possibly be recalled by some of our older readers. It runs thus: "Along the roadside are a number of deserted houses. One or two are inhabited by old crones, who mumble about the days gone by, when their 'Men' were alive and blithe and hearty. Old Mrs. Finnegan, the widow of an old-time miner prepares dinner for her 'good man' every day and takes it to the deserted shaft. But no 'good man' comes to the opening to claim his midday meal, and the poor old soul carries the pail back and eats the mess herself."

Doubtlessly the conditions then in Oxford were very bad, but the account is badly overdrawn, as our Church records clearly show. That very year there were nearly 300 members, and 125 children in the Sunday School. Though without a pastor the Church kept up all the services with preaching every Sabbath, and the finances amounted to \$1000. This is for only our own church.

The Young People are at work on a new play to be presented about the first of March. Oxford has always been successful in dramatic productions, and we may be sure of an interesting performance when given by our young folks.

In this connection it will be of interest to give the cast of a play given by our church in 1912. The program has been kept by Mrs Wm.Hornbaker and placed in our hands for use in the Bulletin.

The Title of the play was "The Country Minister", and was advertised as "A splendid Entertaining Drama in five acts."

Cast of Characters

The Country Minister-----	J.H.Weber
Miss Burleigh-----	Miss Flummerfelt
Miss Jerushy Jane---	Mrs J.Eckmeter
Roxy(fresh air kid)--	Margaret Wiseburn
Mrs Heath-----	Bart CCooper
Jud Pardoe-----	John Eckmeter
Granny Grimes -----	Mrs.L.B.Hoagland
Timothy Hodd-----	N.A.Jones
Deacon Potter----	L.W.Gardner
Fanny(a maid) ----	Jennie Lanning
Police Officer-----	William Hornbaker
William Henry-----	Ernest Cooper
Tom Sparrow -----	Floyd Oliver

It was given in the Church ,Saturday evening,May 11th,1912. Admission 25 cents

Mrs Hornbaker also found an old C.E. topic card for 1889-from April to October. This fills a gap,as it is the second C.E.Card. Leaders were not named then.

OFFICERS

President-----	John A.Price
Vice President-----	Robert Gray
Secretary-----	J.A.Henry
Treasurer-----	Amanda Perkins

Committees

<u>Prayer-meeting</u> -----	Fred Fowler Ch.
Robert Gray	John Thomas
Miss Lizzie Ward----	Willie Sparrow
<u>Lookout</u> -----	G.R.Searing Ch.
Miss C.Lanternman----	Lulu Beers
Lizzie Gray-----	Mrs E.T.Lukens
<u>Music</u> -----	H.B.Perkins Ch.
G.R.Searing-----	Maggie Lukens
<u>Calling</u> -----	Grace Maxwell CH
Mary Weber-----	Henry Ward
<u>Social</u> -----	Leora Stout Ch.
Lizzie Tunison-----	Mrs W.H.Scranton
<u>Floral</u> -----	Mrs G.R.Searing Ch.
Mrs W.H.Scranton---	Alice Perry
Maggie Lukens -----	Amanda Perkins
<u>Temperance</u> -----	Samuel Cooper Ch.
Abram Pittenger-----	G.R.Searing

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Charles Renner, Fred K. Sarson, L. Earl Green, Treas.; Stanley
Allen, Edward Sharps, Charles Dux.

Church Treasurer—Lewis E. Green.

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Asst. Superintendent Mrs. Edward T. Green
Treasurer Mrs. Ida Smith
Secretary Merrill Foss
Organist Vinnet Daringer

OFFICERS LADIES AID SOCIETY

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Treasurer Mrs. E. B. Foss
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Mrs. Benjamin Zapp Organist

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