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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 4
Hymn 45
Creed and Gloria
Scripture Lesson Matt. XIII
Prayer
Anthem
Offering
Notices
Hymn 191
Sermon
Hymn 328
Benediction

TEXT

Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field, the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field..Matt. 13:44

"O Thou who dwellest in Heaven, mercifully regard all the sorrowful and afflicted on earth, we beseech thee, especially such as come within our knowledge. Draw near to them and bless them with the comfort of thy love, and sustain them by the right hand of thy power. Grant us a heart to sympathize with them in their distress, and give us both the opportunity and the will to help those who are in any trouble for Jesus Christ's sake." Amen.

At the close of this service there will be a meeting of the Congregation, as called to elect elders and hear reports from the Session.

And following this meeting, an adjourned session of the annual business meeting of the Congregation will be held to complete the work began last Thursday evening. Trustees are to be elected; reports of treasurers for the year are to be received, and such matters attended to pertaining to that meeting.

Union Church service to-night at 7:30 o'clock. The meeting will be at Methodist Church, and your Pastor will preach. The pastor appreciates the good attendance of our members when the service is held in our sister Church.

The Young People have their service at 7 o'clock. Miss Emily Austie will lead, and the topic is "Brotherly Love."

EASTER SERVICE

The Church service last Sabbath was very gratifying. The attendance was unusually large even for Easter, and the number who took part in the Lord's Supper greater than for many years. The Choir with three beautiful anthems added much interest to the worship. The sacrament of baptism is always impressive, and welcoming of new members pleases and encourages the Church as few other things can do, as it is the best evidence of the activity and growth of the congregation.

Those who received Christian baptism were:

Mrs. Ella A. Ritzer, and Shirley Rose Ward, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ward.

The following new members were received by the Session and welcomed to full communion by the congregation:

Mrs. Christiana Peterson, from the Danish Lutheran Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin L. Green, from the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church.

Those received on Confession of Faith:

Mrs. Ella A. Ritzer
 James Moore
 Katie Sadlon
 Emma Levi
 Armilla M. Brophy
 Elizabeth Austie

A deeper interest in religion and the Church is manifested in many ways, and now is the time for greater efforts on the part of all to strengthen and extend the kingdom of Christ in our Church and the community.

The Presbytery of Newton will convene at the Greenwich Church, on Tuesday the 12th of April.

The Presbyterian- The ladies Missionary Society of the Presbytery, will hold their 60th annual Meeting in the Washington Presbyterian Church, Thursday, April 14th.

We earnestly urge our good women to plan to attend this meeting. It will a notable time and missionaries from the foreign fields will speak. Special effort will be made to interest the younger people of our churches in mission work.

The Ladies Aid Society met at Manse last Wednesday and elected officers for the coming year.

President ---- Mrs Charles Renner
Secretary----- Mrs Clark Wilkinson
Treasurer----- Mrs Benjamin Green

The Sale of home baked food last week netted about \$25. The Clam Chowder was in demand, and promises to become a very attractive business for the future.

The Ladies will probably try it soon on more extensive plans.

Mrs Harry B. Thompson of Philadelphia with her friends Mrs. James Clemons and Mrs Harry Wein, all Members of the Bethlehem Presbyterian Church of Phila. were visitors in Oxford the past week, and it was a pleasure to meet them.

Mrs Thompson receives the Bulletin weekly, and promises to send in some of her old time memories of Oxford.

Bulletin since last issue has added more new subscribers.

Mrs. A. M. Weston by her son Clinton E.

Mrs J. D. Haufler

Mrs L. F. Stout both by Abram Pittenger.

Mads Skov

Renewals for another year were

Mrs. O. N. Perry

W. C. Pittenger

Mrs Perry inclose \$4. also for the Current expenses of the Church, which is most welcome to the Church. She sent an article on old Oxford history that will appear in next issue.

W. C. Pittenger, now of Joliet, Ill. in a letter to his father makes some interesting references to the old furnace mules, saying that stone "time they hauled the pig iron over to the canal at Washington by six head mule teams. This was before the D. L. & W. was built, I believe. This also is the reason for the enormous old stone barn. One mule team ran away going down the opposite side of Mine Hill and scattered pig iron all over Jackson Valley.

"One of the mule drivers used to give each one of his mules a whipping every Sunday morning to let them know he was master. Also one driver stabbed a mule when it was crowding him against the wall in the stable, and it trembled with fright when it felt the cold steel plunged into its breast."

Memories of Oxford
by
Clinton E. Weston

Mr. Weston writes: "It is interesting to note how you through your Bulletin have stirred some of the old members into recalling pleasant memories of the town that was in days gone by, and for this we owe you a debt of gratitude. You have brought many of the old towns-people in contact, and although many of us have been widely separated for a number of years, the interest in the town and its former residents seems to be as keen as ever.

"And that is not so strange; for I doubt if there was ever a community where the people had so much in common, and where good fellowship reigned so as to make the residents akin as in one large family; and their loyalty, as seen from the few articles in the Bulletin, as well as the representation at the church re-union last May, still remains strong as ever. It has often been said that if two or more old Oxfordites get together, it is a signal for an enjoyable wind-jamming contest that is very likely to go into extra innings.

"I was born and brought up in Oxford, and cast my first presidential vote there. I went to the polls with my father, Capt. Weston, and was somewhat reluctant to part with the ballot until coaxed and told the presidential Nominee might need it. Those were exciting days during the presidential campaigns. During the Blaine-Cleveland campaign (1884) a wig-wag was built near where the drug store stands. Men bought uniforms and carried torch lights. Lukens' band furnished music and excellent music it was. During one campaign Gen. Kilpatrick and Col. Schoonover gave stirring addresses and these were made in the old foundry at the foot of the hill leading to Dutch Hill, which had been fitted up for the occasion. As I recall, the marchers were not particular about keeping step, but a good time was had by all, particularly when we went to Belvidere or Hackettstown.

"I had the pleasure of forming a company of boys who carried home-made wooden guns, and we had a drum corps that was worth listening to; so much so that we were invited to lead one or two of the torch-light processions. The names of the members of Lukens' band have already been mentioned in a previous Bulletin. There was another band and some of the members were Andy Ryan, the Donahue boys, Lan Sullivan, etc. I remember this band quite well, for the bass horn player lived next

door to me and practised opposite to my bed room. The town also boasted of a fine dance orchestra led by John Sawyer.

He played at most of the dances held in Spring Grove on the hill above the brick school house, and in imagination I can still hear the voice of Jim White off the square dances. There was talent galore in the town, and there were very few houses that did not have some kind of musical instrument.

I started an orchestra among some of the boys and we played together for several years. Some of the members were Dan and Jim Thomas, Ed White, Fred Ward and others. For the first rehearsal we hired a room over the old carpenter shop, from Brown Hill, for fifty cents an evening, and it is putting it mildly to say the first rehearsal was terrible. But we kept at it by practising every day for a while until we could get in tune and gradually progressed until we played overtures quite acceptably. I am glad to note that George Searing and George Weber still keep up their interest in music and still play their respective instruments.

"There has been considerable controversy as to how Oxford derived its name. There was an old Oxford, now Hazen, and our town was originally called The Furnace. Wm. Axford (father of William, former station agent) claimed that the Axfords were the original settlers, and that the name Oxford was a corruption. Others have claimed that it was named for Oxford, England, pointing to the fact that many of the old buildings were built under English sovereignty.

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. B.G. Clarke was appointed Receiver, and after the Works had been idle for several weeks, business was resumed under his management. The most exciting time was when Uncle Billy Searing was surprised by five burglars in the office, adjoining the Company store, and laid one of them low with a bullet. No one claimed the body and it was buried high on the hill in the Jonestown Cemetery. Subsequently the other four men were captured. My most exciting experience was when I stayed in S.T. Scranton's house with my sister and Jennie Scranton. Mr Scranton and wife had gone out of town to attend a wedding. (over)

" During the night burglars broke in, and being awakened by the noise down stairs, I scared them off with a series of yells.

"A newspaper account of the affair said that I caught one of the burglars by the leg as he was going out of the window, but I never believed it.

"One of the attractions was to go to the blast furnace when it cast at night; as the little cars dumped the cinders it would light up the vicinity with a glow for some distance, and the heat could be felt at some distance away. Another sight was to go in the rolling mill at night and watch the men puddle the molten iron, see the dump cars carry the red hot iron balls to the squeezer and thence to a series of revolving rolls, to be rolled into plate preparatory to making the nails.

"Who remembers the watchman, Martin and his dog 'Uno'? How Martin would smile when you asked him his dog's name! One of the things that gave one the shivers was when Ike Jones would go around in the early morning waking the puddlers with his 'Puddlers-ups, Puddlers-ups', as he rapped the fences with his heavy stick. The Sup't of the furnace was Henry Harling, and expert and a fine man.

"Another interesting place to visit was the nail factory where the different grades and sizes were cut. My uncle, Charles B. Weston, went from Taunton, Mass., shortly after the Civil War and built the factory and was Sup't for twenty five years. These works were the largest of the kind in the country at the time. I have a photograph of the original nailers with their names.

"They were Bennet Perkins (father of Edward and H.B. Perkins), William R. Call, Vandewater, Benj. Winkley, Ezra Estler, Ben Rice, Lou Gammon, Whitaker, James Kean, Baxter Booth, James Meyers, Rod Davis, Jos. Doughty, Capt. C.C. Weston, H.B. Perkins, Charles B. Weston and Dan Nichols. The first machines for making the nails were hand feeders, and the helpers had to sit on stools and turn the plate alternately by hand. Soon afterwards, the automatic feeder was invented, and when installed made the cutting of nails much faster. The men who had charge of the machines were known as 'Boss-Nailers,' my father being one, and his helpers for a number of years were William Hornbaker, James Wright, and James Armstrong; all of these became Boss Nailers themselves.

"Then there was the Cooper shop, superintended by Theodore P. Burd. It was interesting to see how expertly the kegs could be made and how fast they were put together

"I think one of the fastest workers was Sam Meyers. Some of the others were Sawyer Cal and George Burd (the latter usually with a book in front of him while he worked). Will Cutsler and others. All kegs were made from timber gathered on the Company's property, and these kegs, filled with nails were sent to many parts of the world.

"The natural advantages for the industries in Oxford were about complete for the making of Nails. The ore was taken from the mine, converted into pig iron in the furnace, puddled in the rolling mill and rolled into plates that were cut into strips and then fed into the nail machine. Only coal had to be imported from the nearby place of supply, Scranton.

"Among the pleasant diversions were the walks--I don't mean the side walks which were often obstructed by a pig or even a cow, but the walks through the woods, in the fields and over the hills. In the early Spring it was a delight to hunt for arbutus on Rattle Snake Hill, and to gather May flowers to hang on your neighbor's door; not forgetting to make an artistic basket for your mother or best girl. Scattered over the hills numbers of chestnut, butter-nut, walnut and hickory nut trees; and the gathering of the fruit was a never-to-be-forgotten sport in the fall.

Many of the chestnut trees were ruined by being bumped with stones which brought the nuts down in a shower, and there were very few chestnut trees that did not show the effects of such bumping. After gathering the nuts the burr or outside shell would be removed and the nuts dried in the sun on top of an out house. Another sport was to go berrying. There was a great abundance of many kinds in the swamps and on the hillsides. My favorite was the black caps which grew abundantly along the creek running through the field below the rolling mill, and which could be gathered along about the fourth of July. In the Spring young folks would gather alder, cut it in strips and make pop guns that were always an annoyance to the school teachers. The best whistles were made from butter-nut wood, and every boy learned to make one.

"What a grand and glorious feeling it was to take a walk through the fields in the fall of the year and see the quantities of Pumpkins lying on the ground; to see the corn in the shock and get the odor of the wild grapes! One of the mentioned large pumpkins would be selected as the best specimen for Hallow 'een, and when that
(over)

night came, how the cabbage stumps would fly through the air!—but always directed at some ones door. The morning after all the out houses would be down, and one could easily imagine that a cyclone had struck the place.

"Who remembers the Independent Base-Ball team composed of Charlie Wiseburn, the cannon ball pitcher, Mike Kelly the catcher who picked 'em off the bat? Some of the others being Charlie Kemble, who usually knocked 'em over a chestnut tree in the far distance; Ed White, John Searing, the Donahue boys and others. One of the most rabid rooters was Uncle Billy Searing, father of our genial friend George, who always had a chair placed only a few feet from the batter's box; and why he never was knocked out with a foul tip was one of the mysteries. There was great rivalry with the Washington team, and when they were scheduled to play there was great excitement. Usually a fist fight took place among the rooters for a side attraction. And no one was ever disappointed by not having the said side attraction. I was captain and catcher of the high school nine, and to this day carry a bent finger as a memento.

"We played the game, having only one ball in our possession and when the ball got lost the game was over. In those days we played with neither mask, chest protector nor heavy gloves, such as are worn these days. When I caught a game I wore a plain pair of Dad's kid gloves with the fingers cut off, and a sponge slightly soaked with water to take away the sting of the ball. I too, picked 'em off the bat, and one day, easily remembered, got a fast one on the end of my nose. Nuff Sed."

(Mr. Weston's Letter will be concluded in the next issue of the Bulletin).

The Pastor was called last Friday to the Bonnie Burn Sanitorium at Scotch Plains to Baptize Mrs Mary M. Chamberlain, a victim of the white plague. She is the sister-in-law of our Mrs Wilson, and lived in Oxford a few years since, when the pastor called at her home.

The Young people will present their play "The Wild Oats Boy" to the people of Martin's Creek next Wednesday evening.

We wish them the success they richly deserve, and hope they will be given a good house. They will receive a part of the proceeds.

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