

W. A. Odsted

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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Bulletin No. 132. September 11th, 1932

Morning Worship

Doxology
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Psalm 92 sel. 34
Hymn 24
Creed and Gloria
Scripture Lesson
Prayer
Anthem
Offering
Hymn 164
Sermon
Hymn 233
Benediction

Text

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29

"Forgive, we beseech thee, all that we have done amiss, all that we have spoken falsely or in anger, and all that we have thought or purposed against thy will. Forgive our ignorant and hasty faults, our willful and deliberate offenses, and all our sins of slothfulness and neglect. Forgive us freely, forgive us graciously; forgive us entirely; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

The Young People will have for their leader tonight Miss Evelyn Miller. At the close their will be a business session of importance to them.

Dr. and Mrs. Neumann will give the young folks of the church a Barn Party next Friday evening. They will serve refreshments, wish to have the young people spend a happy evening together.

The Ladies Aid Society will enjoy a Covered Dish Luncheon in the Chapel next Wednesday at 12:15 sharp. They have carefully planned this social gathering, and are expecting a pleasant time.

The Annual Fair and Chicken-Waffle Supper will be held October 27th, and the Ladies are already preparing for it. Tickets will be less in price than in the past, - 75 cents for adults and 35 cents for children.

The Stated Fall Meeting of Newton Presbytery will be held in the Belvidere Second Church, on Tuesday, September 20th.

This is always an important session, and our church should be represented.

An adjourned Meeting of the Presbytery will sit at Blair Academy next Friday Sept. 18th, at 2:30 P.M. D.S.A.

This meeting was specially appointed for the purpose of Spiritual Advance in preparation for the program of Evangelism recommended by the General Assembly.

It is to be a religious conference and the program will last during afternoon and evening. Supper will be served at the Academy at fifty cents a plate.

The Pastors and all the elders are urged to attend. The meeting will be addressed both afternoon and evening by the Rev. Dr. Wesley Megaw, Pastor of the Fort Washington Presbyterian Church of New York City. He is a very forceful speaker, and we shall be fortunate to hear him. Persons other than Ministers and Elders can attend, but those planning to do so should notify the pastor.

We hope our church will send a good sized delegation. The next Issue of the Bulletin will have a report of this meeting.

Ministers of the Presbytery who attended the last General Assembly said it was the most deeply moving religiously of any gathering they had ever been in.

We trust this meeting will be equally impressive in spiritual power. Let us all pray that it may be so.

On September 25th, the last Sabbath of the month we will return to standard time, and services will come an hour later.

It is the thought of the Pastor to make this a rally day for the Church.

The Choir will plan to give much good music, and we call upon all our people to plan to be present, and to urge others to come also. If all would help in this effort a large attendance would be assured, and a spiritual uplift would result. The daily papers yesterday carried a despatch from our Presbyterian headquarters in Philadelphia, announcing that the week from October 2nd to 9th was to be set apart as a week of special prayer by our churches for this spiritual Advance movement. It is another sign that the church is much in earnest about this pressing need of a religious awakening. Our rally day should help us prepare to take more active part in it.

Oxford's Historic Mansion

Mrs. A.M. Weston presents the readers of the Bulletin an interesting paper on the Fowler house. She writes:

"Of all the Colonial mansions left to us by times destroying hand, none can surpass in interest, preservation and location, the old Shippen Manor of Oxford. "About 1760 Dr. William Shippen of Philadelphia, acquired the property and real estate of Jonathan Robeson, and built himself a home. He chose for his country mansion a sheltered spot on a green hillside building better than he knew, for its oaken beams and walls of stone are as solid today as in that early period, when the rearing of such a structure meant many days of toil with axe, saw and hammer. Even the nails had to be hammered out on an anvil, for it was before the day of nail machines. Many of those hand wrought nails are in evidence in this old house to this day. The mansion consists of two stories and a basement with walls near three feet thick, huge chimneys, starting from the cellar rear themselves, turret like, above the sloping roof. The fire places, seven in number, were large openings in the chimney wall where great logs of wood were burned.

"About 57 years ago, when the old house was undergoing repairs, John Jourdan, a banker of Philadelphia, discovered that the backs of these fire places were lined with iron plates on which were engraved the British Coats of Arms. He received permission to remove one of them and it now forms a part of an interesting collection owned by the Historical Society, as also does a number of account books from Oxford Furnace.

"At the time the Castle was built, New Jersey was a slave state, and near the old mansion still stands, or did in 1920 when I was a resident there, a slave cabin, also built of stone, and, though for many years it had been put to ignoble uses it still bore traces of having been the abode of favored house servants. On the hillside above the house, a piece of land was set apart for a slave burial ground, and one of Oxford's aged inhabitants, long since passed to his reward, could recall that when the land was wanted for other purposes, sacrilegious hands tore down the head boards, sacred to the memory of Dinah, Mose and uncle Remus, and plowed up the ground.

"The Castle has its romance, handed down by tradition, and may be correct. (over)

" During the Revolutionary War, while Philadelphia was in control of Lord Howe the Shippen home was the social headquarters of British officers, and Peggy (Margaret) Shippen, the daughter of Judge Edward Shippen, the brother of Dr. William Shippen, was the belle of the city. And after the city was evacuated by the British, Benedict Arnold was appointed chief officer of the City. He had had a leg badly injured in the battle of Saratoga, and was very popular. He won the heart of Peggy Shippen, and she became his second wife. They lived in the famous William Penn House and entered upon a career of luxury and extravagance which soon overwhelmed them with debt and bankruptcy. After Arnold's exile, Peggy followed him to England where she died.

A fine portrait of the beautiful woman hangs in the museum of the Philadelphia Historical Society. The tradition that Peggy Shippen spent much time visiting with her uncle William in the Oxford Castle, is probably well founded. The Shippen family were wealthy and socially prominent, and they gathered around in this old home, friends from New York and Philadelphia; and every fall a grand hunt with hounds would take place and the old stone house would echo to sounds of mirth and revelry under the stimulating influence of the well filled wine cellar.

" During the Revolutionary War the Shippen family operated the mine and blast furnace, and tradition says this furnace cast bullets for the British army in the early part of the war, which is not unlikely for the loyalists were numerous in this section. It was called Tory Valley, and the Shippens were at first, strong adherents of the King. But later when the fortunes of war had made freedom from British rule more assured, and victory had perched upon the banner of the Patriots, it is said that Washington received munitions of war from the Oxford mine and furnace.

"This is made more certain by the fact that Dr. William Shippen became a prominent surgeon in Washington's Army.

"Probably a number of army officers were entertained in the Shippen Manor, among them, it is said, was General Lafayette. In the last century it was the home of Judge Robeson, and here his son General George M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy under President Grant, was born."

Mrs. Weston has the thanks of our many readers for this contribution on our historic Mansion.

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