

The Bulletin
OF THE
Oxford Second
Presbyterian Church
OXFORD, NEW JERSEY



Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, Ph.D.
Pastor

*Be careful for nothing; but in everything
by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your
requests be made
known to God*

*And the peace of God, which passeth all
understanding, shall keep your
hearts and minds through
Christ Jesus
Philippians IV. 6. 7*

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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.
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Bulletin No. 176, July 16th, 1933

Morning Worship

Doxology
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Psalm 65 sel 21
Hymn 115
Credo and Gloria
Scripture Lesson
Prayer
Anthem
Offering
Hymn 234
Sermon
Hymn 125
Benediction

Prayer

"O Lord and Saviour who hast commanded us to love one another, grant us grace that, having received thine undeserved bounty, we may love every man in thee and for thee. We implore thy clemency for all; but especially for the friends thy love has given us. Do thou to them what is expedient for them, according to thy will, that they, being always and every where ruled by and protected by thee, may attain in the end to everlasting life"

Next Sunday night, the great Bible class of the Belvidere 2nd Presbyterian Church will hold a service in our church consisting of music, short talks by men, and other features.

They have a trained Chorus of over 30 voices who will sing several special numbers, and lead in all the hymns and songs of the service.

Let us urge all our men folks to attend. It will be something new for them and they will be greatly impressed by the action of a host of earnest and consecrated men.

Sunday School Picnic

Next Wednesday, July 19th, the Sunday School will give its annual picnic.

The place is Butler's Park. There are some amusement features for the enjoyment of all. There will be games and other attractions. The boys have organized a ball club and expect to play a game there, against a Washington team.

All who wish transportation will be at the church at 9 A.M. Parents and friends are invited to go; but those who are not members of the school will pay 25 cents.

Old Oxford Legends
"Adventures of Nicholas Van Zandt"
By George S. Humphrey

Our distant readers who are interested in Oxford will be pleased to hear about the improvement in the local business situation. After two years of a veritable night mare of local business disasters, including the shut-down of all our industries; the failure of two banks, and the closing of another, it is a great relief to know that all our industries, are now in operation, and the mine is getting ready to resume in a short time.

So that the outlook is distinctly more encouraging, and if the improvement proves to be permanent, better days are before us, and the effect upon the material affairs of the church will be greatly helpful.

The Editor has been permitted to examine a bundle of old news papers, by the kindness of Mr. H. J. Lanterman, who has kept them for a half of a century. They date from 1878 to 1881, and recall events and conditions of long ago. There are several copies each of the Warren County Journal, the Blairstown Press, and the Essex County Press. But in them nothing refers to Oxford people or events, except a long advertisement for the sale by the receiver of the Oxford Iron Company's properties in the year 1879.

The Manse was honored recently by several callers. Mrs. Robert Lanning and Mrs. John Meeker of Washington, N. J. came to talk over some historical events that had been noticed in the Bulletin, matters in which they take great interest. Mrs. Meeker left money for the paper and will now be on the mailing list.

Also Mr. Frank G. Everritt of Blairstown, called during the absence of the Editor and left money for the continuance of the paper and a donation to the expense fund.

Our genial fellow citizen, Patrick Kempsey called to talk about old Oxford times, of which he has a vivid recollection.

We apologize to Miss Geneva Cooper for failing to acknowledge the receipt of money for the renewal of her subscription some months ago. She wants to be sure she will receive the paper during the coming year, to quote her own words, "I would not want to miss it, as we enjoy it very much."

In the same note she informs us of the change of address of her aunt, Mrs. Agnes parcell, from Flemington to Phillipsburg.

Note: The Bulletin will not be printed during the month of August.

(In the bundle of papers discovered in the old Manor House at Oxford, N. J., which included the narrative of John Castner, recently published in the Bulletin, there was also a manuscript without signature or date, written probably by some member of the Shippen family; the historical references would indicate that the date was after the French and Indian wars, and sometime prior to the Revolution, probably about 1760).

"For some reason, perhaps because our evening meal, which consisted of a fine saddle of venison--the first we have had this autumn--was heavy, and that the new apple cider mingled with old Hollands--a very enticing refreshment-- did not combine well with the Port wine which was served after dinner, I was unable to fall asleep last night; even though I twice called Caesar to put fresh coals in the warming-pan and take the chill from my bed, for the night though bright and still was frosty, and it was with difficulty that I could keep myself warm, even with the curtains close drawn over the bed. Be that as it may, after tossing from one side to the other and obtaining no rest, I resolved to dress myself and go over to the Furnace; for, having heard the bell ring I knew that the cast of iron was about to be made, and that afterward the workmen would gather in front of the warm hearth to smoke their pipes and perhaps get Tommy, the Welshman, to recount some of the legends he had heard, or some of his own experiences during the years he had been employed around the Furnace; for they are always entertaining and one set of tales is just as true as the other.

So I donned my clothes and pulling my great-coat over my shoulders, lit the lantern and walked across the road; but I might well have dispensed with the light, for the moonless sky was a great crystal, set with sparkling diamonds. Old Orion was wheeling overhead, and the Dog Star glowing like a great lamp over the top of Van Nest's Hill.

But the air was sharp and I soon joined the husky group in front of the furnace. The iron had been cast and was glowing in the sand-bed; and one of the men was breaking up the slag-cake and wheeling the pieces into the corner of the cast-house to be carted away in the morning. This was soon accomplished and we all seated ourselves against the cinder-run, and lighting our pipes, enjoyed the genial warmth. (over)

The lamps were few and dim, and the rush of the water in the flume, the clanking of the wheel and the throb of the bellows, all combined to suggest mysterious things, and called to mind the strange stories of weird happenings among these mountains when white men first discovered and began to work the rich iron ores which lie embedded in them. One of the workmen had served in the French War under Sir William Johnson and had taken part in the Battle of Lake George. He said that there was good iron-stone near Crown Point on Champlain's Lake, and that the Old Man at the Manor ought to apply to the King for a grant to work it.

The iron might be taken by barge to Skeensboro, whence a log road could be built to the Hudson River at Fort Edward, and thence floated in flat-boats down to Albany.

I thought this a wild and foolish notion and resolved to say nothing of such a silly scheme to my kind benefactor.

We then fell to talking about the King, and much to my discomfort, some woodsmen and charcoal burners who had meanwhile come in from their camp near Clear Pond, made bold to say they thought we should neither pay taxes to the King nor obey the laws of Parliament; at any rate unless the Colony could have a member to represent it. I was much disturbed by listening to such seditious sentiments which I feigned not to hear. But there was a sort of plausibility about them and I greatly wondered that these rough men of the woods had read and understood the unscrupulous teachings of those ungrateful Republicans in Boston and Phila.

By this time the rumbling of the barrows at the top of the furnace had ceased and I knew that the first charging after the cast was completed; the fillers soon joined out group at the fore-hearth.

One of them was stocky fellow of perhaps sixty years whom I had never seen before.

The other men called him "The Dutch", and I afterwards learned that his name was Nicholas Van Zandt, and that he had been born in Holland; having come to the Colonies when he was yet a boy.

Tommy the Welshman was just completing for the hundredth time, methinks, his story about Old Seyppert and his strange adventures with the dwarfs in Syke's Gap, when "The Dutch" related the following remarkable tale:—

"You men only know about the iron in these mountains. My father worked in the forges in Sweden and Catalonia; and when he came over the Atlantic with my mother and the children, he went to the Dutch settlements along the Mohawk river, among his cousins. (continued)

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