

199

**THE BULLETIN
OF THE
OXFORD SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY



Rev. Andrew Gilbert Yount, Ph.D.
Pastor

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and
are heavy laden, and I will
give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of
me; for I am meek and lowly in
heart: and ye shall find rest
for your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden
is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30

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.

Trustees—Harry Miller, James Radel, George Docker, Jr., Charles Renner, Fred K. Sarson, Lewis E. Green, Edward Sharps, Charles Dux, Benjamin Green.

Treasurer—Lewis E. Green.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent—E. B. Foss.

Asst. Superintendent—Mrs. Edward T. Green.

Treasurer—Miss Ida Smith.

Secretary—Alvin Renner.

Organist—Elizabeth Zapp.

LADIES AID SOCIETY

Honorary President—Mrs. Charles Renner.

President—Mrs. Benjamin Green.

Secretary—Mrs. Clark Wilkinson.

Treasurer—Mrs. Lewis E. Green.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

President—Emily Austie.

Treasurer—Chris Seiple.

Secretary—Helen Snyder.

CHOIR

Leader—Mrs. Edward T. Green.

Organist—Mrs. Benjamin Zapp.

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BULLETIN No. 199 February 25th, 1934

Morning Worship

Doxology

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

Psalm 147 sel. 57

Hymn 219

Creed and Gloria

Scripture Lesson

Prayer

Anthem

Offering

Hymn 126

Sermon

Hymn 233

Benediction

Prayer

" I am forced, good Father, to seek thee daily, and thou offerest thyself daily to be found: whensoever I seek I find thee, in my house, in the fields, in the temple, and in the highway. Whatsoever I do, thou art with me; whether I eat or drink, whether I write or work, go to ride, read, meditate, or pray, thou art ever with me: wheresoever I am, or whatsoever I do, I feel some measure of thy mercies and love. If I be oppressed, thou defendest me; if I be envied thou guardest me; if I hunger, thou feedest me; whatsoever I want thou givest me. O continue this thy lovingkindness towards me forever."

At the young People's meeting this evening Chris Seiple will give a talk on his impressions of his recent trip to California and back. All are invited.

Next Tuesday evening in the Chapel there will be a business meeting of the officers of the Church and the Ladies Aid Society to consider ways and means of obtaining a new boiler in the Church. All who are interested in this matter are invited to attend.

Our Easter Communion service is the most important of the year, and it is hoped that the Church may be heated by that time.

The Young People have put a ton of coal in the Chapel the past week which should last until the church is ready for use. This is the third ton this loyal society has bought for the church this past winter.

The Origin of Oxford Ist. Church

It is well known that our church was organized in 1863 with 21 charter members all of whom were transferred from the Oxford Ist. Church at Hazen. But many do not know how old the First Church really is, nor when it was begun and organized.

It is one of the three oldest Churches in Warren County; only the churches of Greenwich and Washington claim to be a few years older. There are old records to prove that the presbyterians in the region of the above churches requested of the Presbytery to have a minister to supply them about 1739, and two ministers--Mr. Cross and Mr. McCrea, were sent to them.

It is quite probable that these men also visited and preached to the settlement of Presbyterians in the region of Oxford First Church, though there is no record to that effect. But there is a record of ministers sent to the Oxford group a few years later, about 1744 or 1745.

In the oldest records of the New Brunswick Presbytery the names of the Oxford First region were "Upper Greenwich," "Axford, or Oxford," and "Greenwich on the Delaware."

It will help us to associate in time the beginning of the old Oxford Church with the erection of the old Furnace, 1741-1743.

The first church building was a log house built on the site of the present brick building, which is the third building on the same lot. This log church was built probably at the same time as the old furnace and from that time forward the people of the furnace who were Presbyterians went there to worship for over a hundred years before Oxford Second was organized.

In 1749 Oxford First put themselves under the care of the Presbytery, and in 1764 the Church was organized, and Elders were chosen and ordained. The first minister called was the Rev. John Rosebrough, who later became a martyr in the Revolutionary War.

Thus Oxford First Church has a noble history, and Oxford Second can justly claim a part of this heritage as a legitimate daughter of the old Church. Just as Belvidere First was organized in 1834 by members of Oxford First, who lived in the future County Seat.

In a few years this venerable Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary, and Oxford Second will have a prominent place in that celebration.

Christmas Eve in the Old Forest

By G.S. Humphrey

(This fine story was received last Nov. and was marked for the Christmas issue, but illness prevented that plan, and it is now printed for the enjoyment of our readers, who have learned to expect something extra good from Mr. Humphrey.---Editor).

The snow had been falling steadily all day and the wind, which roared among the naked branches of the oaks and maples, and moaned through the pines and hemlocks, had piled deep drifts against the sides of the cabin. Even the spring was buried out of sight and the murmur of the brook was hushed by the thick, white mantle which covered it.

Just at sunset the storm ceased and the light, breaking through the clouds, seemed to add to the cold which grew more intense. The wind, shifting to the north, became fiercer and more searching while the moon rose to cast her frigid smile upon the work of King Winter's prowess.

The cabin was small and almost all of one end was occupied by a huge stone fireplace in which the burning logs snapped and crackled and roared, bidding defiance to the champions of cold without and as it were taking up the gauntlet which they had thrown down---the old and never ending strife between warmth and cold, love and hate, good and evil.

The logs of the cabin were all straight and deftly joined at the corners; the chinks had been well filled with clay; the puncheon floor was tight and nearly covered with bear skins; the few copper utensils hanging on the walls were polished and glowed with ruddy light reflected from the blazing hearth, scoffing at the challenge of the cold moon in the sky, and voicing praise and worship to the great Spirit of Fire.

An array of blue china and burnished pewter glistened on the oaken table around which were placed four square-built, hickory pegged chairs; one of the chairs was high-seated and was cushioned with feathers of wild patridge, covered with soft buckskin.

Within the chimney hung the crane, suspended from which was the merrily boiling pot; while, nearby, the spit sustained a sputtering, browning haunch of venison.

Above the mantle hung the rifle and quaintly carved powder-horn.

(over)

"Near the great fire-place sat the Man and close to him the Wife; while on a warm, thick wolf robe at their feet, between them, played and laughed the Child.

At one side silently crouched an Indian who, overtaken by the storm, ill-clad, cold and half starved, had entered the cabin and claimed the ready hospitality of the Man and Wife.

Nearby stood a small hemlock sapling, trimmed with wintergreen berries, bitter-sweet and other simple ornaments gleaned from the forest; and it told of the dear Lord Christ and of Love and Peace and Good Will. And the Man opened the Book and read the story of the sweet Babe of Bethlehem.

And the Man and the Wife heard not the storm without; but thanked and worshipped the great God and Father--greater than the King of Winter, greater than the Spirit of Fire. And they prayed for his blessing upon themselves the Child and the Indian.

In the next issue we hope to have a new article on the Indians by Mr. Claude Crarup who is the local authority on this subject. His previous papers gave great satisfaction to our readers.

Mr. E.B. Foss has a fine relic of the Revolutionary War in a soldier's Dagger. His father Andrew Foss received it about fifty years ago from a soldier of the Civil war, who said it had been an heirloom in his family from his ancestor who fought in the Revolution. It is a handsome weapon, made in the Sheffield works in England. A leather sheath trimmed in brass seems as good as new.

There was original motto on the steel blade, part of it has been ground out, but these words remain, "and will submit to nothing." It would be interesting to learn the whole of the motto. The blade of the dagger is about eight inches long and over an inch broad. It should be carefully preserved as a valuable relic of the Revolutionary struggle for freedom.

The aged mother of Mr Samuel Snyser, died last Tuesday at her home in Scranton. Mr. and Mrs. Snyser attended the funeral. Our sympathies are with them in their sorrow. Mr. Snyser's father died many years ago.

EDWARD T. GREEN

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