

The  
BULLETIN

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

By

A. G. YOUNT  
*Minister*



*Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.—Deuteronomy, 32:7.*

Bulletin No. 405. April 3rd, 1938

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

---II Peter 3:9

"O Thou who hast founded a Church for Thyself, and hast promised to dwell in it forever;

Enlighten and sanctify it by thy Word and Spirit. Bless all who serve thee in the rule of thy Church, in the ministry of thy praise and in the teaching of the young. Strengthen them in their labors; cause thy Church to increase more and more, that every knee may bow before thee, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Christ the Lord. Amen."

Immediately following the morning service an important congregational meeting will be held at which all members should be present. Elders and Trustees are to be elected.

There will be a Covered-dish luncheon served in the Chapel next Tuesday at 12 noon, by the Ladies to which all are invited.

This will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Aid Society.

The Easter Sunday Communion is only two weeks away. We are expecting a number of new members to be welcomed at that time, as several have already spoken to us of their intentions to that effect. There is, we feel sure, a deepening religious interest developing among the people and this can only mean that the Spirit of the Lord is moving among us.

The Spring meeting of the Presbytery is set for April 12, at Newton, 10 A.M.



Reunion May 15th.

The 75th Anniversary and 8th Annual Reunion is rapidly approaching, and Mr. Weston, the Chairman is busy making plans which promise to be very attractive. A number of new speakers have already been pledged, and some other features are sure to be interesting. Of course he will not be satisfied unless he can make it the best of all the reunions.

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Since our last issue we have received a communication from the Chairman of the State Commission on Historic Sites, Dr. George DeB. Keim, which will explain itself.

He writes:-

"The Senate and House Joint Appropriations Committee has requested the Commission on Historic Sites to appear before it on Monday, April 4th, at 12:00 o'clock noon in order to go over the requirements of the Commission for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1938.

"I should greatly appreciate it if you could attend this meeting as it is important that the work of the Commission be stressed so that the full appropriation recommended by the Governor will be allowed.

"All figures and facts required will be worked up by the staff of the Commission and will be available at the hearing.

This is encouraging in at least one respect in that it shows that the Governor has included an appropriation for the furnace in his bill of appropriations to be recommended to the Legislature of the State. From it we also infer that the Commission expects some appropriation to be made, but wishes the full amount requested.

Of course it will probably be some weeks before we shall know the final result, and can only hope for the best. Dr. Keim has later informed us that the hearing will be held in room 214 in the State House.

Friends of the Furnace may want to attend this hearing, and will be free to do so.

The First Presbyterian Church of Oxford. (at Hazen)

By Benjamin R. Pittenger

Following are some statements I copied last summer from the old account book of the 1st, Presbyterian Church, Hazen, N.J. The deacon of the Church has it. It has over 100 pages about the old Church: names of members, meetings of trustees, from 1790 to 1830 and later, for every year, noting the events, business etc.

Here is what I copied:-

"Proceedings of the 1st Presbyterian Church, Oxford, N.J. posted on Jan. 14, 1796, copied from loose fragments and papers, as follows:-

"In the year 1744 the Rev. James Campbell preached the gospel in the 1st Presbyterian church of Oxford, in the county of Morris (now Sussex) county; Oxford was then called Upper-Greenwich; and he baptized some children. The Rev. David Brainerd, Indian missionary, preached sundry times for said congregation, and Rev. Daniel Laurence officiated sundry times. About 1749 the said congregation unanimously put themselves under the care of the New Brunswick Presbytery, and made application for supplies, and have since considered themselves as belonging to that Presbytery.

"In 1764 the congregation elected three men who were set apart as Elders by Rev. Benj. Hight. About the same time a call was given to Rev. John Rosebrough to officiate in Oxford, Greenwich and Mansfield-Woodehouse, which was accepted, and he continued for 5 years, from 1764 to 1759." This historic statement was signed by James Davison and William Loder.

A minute of the treasurer, Oct. 1789, gives a list of trustees and collectors:---Captain Joseph Mackay; Abraham Axford; John Kinney; Patrick Gingles; George Newton; James Loder; William White; Wm. Van Sycle; Jacob Howey; James Davison; Joshua Sweasey; Jacob Bowers; Benj. Greogs; Frederick Searles; Benj. Saxton; Abraham McMurtree; James McCrawken; Wm. Loder; and Jacob Howey.

In 1800 the Trustees held several important meetings. (over)



On April 23rd, "a proposal was made to put a heart in the meeting house" Abner Parks agreed to do this for \$80.

On Dec. 7th. "The trustees made a proposal to make a stone wall around the graveyard, and unanimously agreed John Kinney and Henry Hankinson were chosen managers.

On Dec. 13th. "the Trustees employed Capt. John Axford to survey the ground for use of a meeting house and a graveyard. Major Thomas Paul, William Morris, Abel Beavers, Captain William Taylor was present, among others. They fixed bounds and corners of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres and 8 perches for the above use.

The mention of a heart for what was evidently the original Log Church in the April meeting, indicates that it was heated by a fireplace.

But they soon after decided to build a new meeting house, for in 1806 "The trustees met as follows: James Mac Crawken, George Hiles, James McConnel, Wm. Callahan, Manuel Quick, James Davison, Jacob Howey, John Clark made out a list to collect for finishing meeting house," and appointed collectors. (This second house was replaced in 1856 by the present brick edifice).

Other names of trustees are given in later meetings, as follows: John Summers, Rynes Van Sycle, Hyrum Vorhess, John Hixon, Joe Kerr, John S. Smith, Peter Shoemaker, Philip Quick, Reuben Searles, Cornelius Slack, Samuel Axford, Jeremiah Mackey, and John Kinney, Jr.

An interesting fact shown by these minutes is that three of the Axfords are named, and at least two of them were Trustees. These were the sons or grand sons of John Axford the first settler in Oxford.

We know that these lived in Oxford and proves that from the first some of our citizens belonged to the Oxford 1st. church. We would be interested if other of the above persons lived in or near Oxford.

Perhaps some reader can inform us on the matter.



**CHURCH OFFICERS**

*The Session*

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

*Elders*

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EDWARD T. GREEN	LEWIS BERGENBACK



*Board of Trustees*

JAMES RADEL	HARRY MILLER
GEORGE DOCKER, JR.	CHARLES RENNER
FRED K. SARSON	LEWIS E. GREEN
EDWARD SHARPS	CHARLES DUX
BENJAMIN GREEN	



*Church Treasurer*

LEWIS E. GREEN



*Sunday School*

<i>Superintendent</i> .....	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i> .....	CHRIS SEIPLE
<i>Secretary</i> .....	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	MERRILL FOSS
<i>Organist</i> .....	MISS RUTH SNYDER
<i>Assistant Organist</i> .....	MISS ALICE BELL



*Choir*

*Leader* ..... MRS. E. T. GREEN

