

543

The
BULLETIN

OXFORD, NEW JERSEY

PUBLISHED

By

REV. A. G. YOUNT, Ph. D.

Pastor

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Oxford Historical Record

Bulletin NO. 543. Dec. 29th, 1940

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age as nothing before thee; verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity.

Psalm 39:4-5

"O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in Thee; mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy grace, that in keeping Thy commandments we may please Thee, both in will and deed: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

(Book of Common Prayer)

Our Church services last Sabbath were of unusual interest. At the morning worship the Sunday School remained for the service and lead the congregation in the Christmas carols. And in the Christmas exercises in the evening the children performed happily, inspired by the large congregation present. Many carols were sung, assisted by the Foss brothers' Orchestra, as also at the morning service. The Supt. of the School, Elder Foss, presented a large number of reward medals for faithful attendance, ranging from one year to sixteen.

The following children took part in the service:--

Patty Delany, Mabel Ritzer, Bruce Broad, Jerry Redell, Katherine Ritzer, Nancy Nelson, Helen Poch, Waye DeWries, Jimmy Nelson, Mary E. Hoffman, Shirley Ward, Jackie Delany, Lyn Rennie, Bobby Miller, Jean Anderson, Joyce Delany, Arlene Frey, Hazel Ward.

Miss Jean Oram had charge of the training of the children, assisted by Miss Linneman and others.

Subscriptions to the Bulletin are as follows:-- Abram Pittenger, F.H. Kingsbury and Patrick Kempsey, gave \$ 2.00 each; Mrs Catherine Nor-garrd, \$1.00.

The Unfolding Years

By Edwin C. Perkins

We of the older Oxford group pause instinctively as, one by one, a real presence is lifted from our midst.

And memory alone offers voice, figure animation and spirit. As the years build up, life meets out to each of us inexorably, limitations and restrictions, and we must make our adjustments. And so, during these latter years, we have not been permitted to mingle as frequently as we may have wished. Still, many times have we in fancy sat around memory's fire-side. Formalities forgotten we have, in imagination, come close as friend to friend, and have freshened our recollection of events and happenings of youthful days. These have warmed our hearts and made glad the day. Then, too, we have become accustomed to look forward to real meetings when these events would be related and tales told. It all seemed so lovely - these gentle, hearty and satisfying contacts. But to be made to realize that one by one all of these communions, as we have experienced them, must end gives us profoundly to pause. And we look up and into and above "the hills" as the years edge in upon us.

If this were all, we would find only amazement, dismay and sorrow.

But for just this - for our dear Oxford group - preparation has been given. For as we gaze, hills and cloud and firmament vanish, and out of this preparation comes strength and vision. We are thus given to see the pathway in which our footsteps were inclined in our youth by our venerable Second Presbyterian Church, acting through Mr. Cline and Mr. Maxwell; by the influence of our parents and the homes in which we were reared; by our Sunday School and Day School teachers; and by the example of the stalwart men and women among whom we grew up. So strong and powerful, so inspired were these workers, and by heritage, so adaptable was the clay that the molding and turning and glazing will remain unaffected in each of these vessels, until their usefulness shall be no more.

One's inner life is not lightly spoken. To the true believer there

are experiences which do not lend themselves to words. Knowing this, it seems not presumptuous to grant ourselves the joy of knowing that had we been privileged to share so close and intimacy with those who have been raised to a higher degree, we would have had the assurance that all is well; that mortal life is not all; that they had caught glimpses of another life, tuned more particularly to their needs, and whose undimmed beacon illumines the pathway of all who 'look up unto the hills.'... That they were looking forward with joy and peaceful contemplation to the renewing and the continuation of love and friendships with this now largest group.

Present ties now hold us supremely and securely, but there is that assurance, that undiminished faith so deeply implanted in our youth which holds and makes us steadfast and at peace; that some day our journey will also bridge us into a more glorious life, towards which our foot steps tend. And so we may pause, but stay not our steps, nor be saddened. The followers of the trail trek on. For the glorious transition which has come to others, but awaits its more complete unfolding.

Mrs. Herbert L. Miller, of Oakland, California, sends a Christmas offering of \$10.00 to our Church, and Writes:-

"Mr. Miller and myself are just recovering from the 'flu' which was quite prevalent in Cal. having come from Honolulu. It was quite mild compared to the flu. of 1918." (Mrs. Miller was born in Oxford, and retains affection for old home and Church. We are grateful for her offering, and express sympathy for the affliction that came upon her and her husband, with a prayer for their full recovery of health. Ed.)

Miss Nellie Estler sends this kind note:-

"At this season I cannot let the opportunity pass to send greetings and express the appreciation all of the readers of the Bulletin must feel for your untiring efforts in keeping alive the great interest

(over)

you have revived among former residents of Oxford, in a town we once considered uninteresting.

"I am happy to say my sister (Mrs. Theodore Little) is recovering nicely from an operation on her eye for removal of cataract and is spending another winter in New Hampshire."

The Bulletin is delighted with a picture of Mr. Humphrey, sent by Mrs. James E. Loder. It was taken in 1935, at Valley Forge, and represents him sitting upon an old cannon and his face beaming with his charming smile. It is a rare memento, that will be gratefully cherished.

Mr. Charles Bitzig of Newark, has again acted as a good Santa Claus to the children of Oxford. For several years he has brought a large amount of all kind of presents he has gathered from various sources and has again managed the distribution among the various families of the community. This work however has been done by a committee representing the three churches, Methodist, Catholic and Presbyterian, and their assistants, for it required much careful labor and good judgment. Mr. Eitzig has the very warm thanks of all the people here.

Mr. Weston writes that the next meeting of the Hillside Cemetery Association will be held on Jan, 12 1941. "Acting upon a valuable suggestion, there is now being formed an Auxilliary Aid to consist of Seniors and Juniors, under the direction of the Trustees, who will in various ways as prescribed be not only of great assistance in the carrying out of our activities, and which leads us to believe by such a conjunction there will be a stimulation of the public interest in a project that has grown tremendously.

To become an Auxilliary member an invitation, is extended to attend meetings which will be announced in the bulletin. Continuing the arrangement made last year anyone who wishes to plan for floral decorations at the Cemetery may communicate with Mrs Jennie Fichtel, Oxford, and it will have prompt attention.



CHURCH OFFICERS

The Session

A. G. YOUNT, *Moderator*

Elders

ABRAM PITTENGER	ELISHA B. FOSS
EMMANUEL KELSKY	LEWIS BERGENBACK



Board of Trustees

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



Church Treasurer

LEWIS E. GREEN



Sunday School

<i>Superintendent</i>	E. B. FOSS
<i>Assistant Superintendent</i>	KENNETH BELL
<i>Secretary</i>	ALVIN RENNER
<i>Treasurer</i>	WILBUR FOSS
<i>Organist</i>	FRANCES PITTENGER



Ladies' Aid Society

<i>President</i>	MRS. ALBERT BRUSHETT
<i>Vice-President</i>	MRS. EDWARD BADROW
<i>Secretary</i>	MRS. VIOLET BELL
<i>Treasurer</i>	MRS. LEWIS E. GREEN

