

# Reformed Church Gleanings

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the New Holland Charge, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa.

Vol. I.

NEW HOLLAND, PA., DECEMBER, 1907.

No. 3.

## CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

### Zeltenreich.

By the unanimous action of the Building Committee it was concluded not to have the new church plastered until spring, because of the unexpected delay in the erection of the walls. The church is to be made ready for that work during the winter, so that it can be done as soon as the weather permits in the spring. The roof is now being put on. This will protect the building from injury during the winter. It would require constant and expensive heating to have the plastering done during freezing weather. It was deemed better to have the completion delayed than to run the risk of having that part of the building rendered permanently defective by frost.

The committee has procured copper sheathing for the valleys. This is a little more expensive than the best tin, but it is deemed to be economy in the end. Bids are being received for the furnaces and the leaded glass windows, but no definite contract has yet been made for either of them. About 50,000 more bricks were needed than the original estimate, to complete the walls and tower, and the bills for laying them have been unexpectedly large. But all things have an end and this part of the work is no exception; but the delay, like hope, deferred, made the heart sick. The congregation, no doubt, will enjoy the new church all the more for the long waiting. And yet many congregations have had much longer delays in their experience in erecting new churches during the last few years.

The reports from the committee engaged in collecting funds for the new carpet are very encouraging. The young ladies are doing a successful part of the work toward the furnishing of the church.

The Sundays of late have been almost uniformly inclement as to the weather. This, no doubt, has been the cause for the slim attendance of the members of this congregation at the services in St. Stephen's, New Holland. The weather was especially forbidding on the day of the Communion.

It is to be hoped that we shall be favored with more favorable conditions at the mid-winter Communion. In the meantime it would be well if the members generally should make it a point to attend the services as often as possible. Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is. Heb., 10:25. You can be sure that every one will be glad to see you both in the Sunday School and at the regular services.

The descendants of the original Zeltenreichs, after whom the church is named, are contributing toward the erection of the new church from many quarters. A recent contribution of this kind, \$25, came from Mr. H. H. Seldomridge and brother, of Colorado Springs, Colorado. And the returns from those having this blood in their veins are not all in yet.

That was a very sensible and satisfactory wedding at the old Diller homestead (see marriage notice in another column), when two young members of the Church of Christ were united in the sacred bonds of matrimony for life. Christian homes and Christian families are the hope of the nation as well as of the Church. The Christian life in the home of the married never leads to divorce; it is the absence of it that opens the door for the outgoing of all that conserves the home and the incoming of all that tends to destroy it.

### St. Stephen.

Mr. Jason D. Bair and Mr. LeRoy W. Groff, together with Elder E. H. Burkholder, Farmersville, attended the Sunday School convention at Ephrata, November 7. Mr. Groff reported the condition of the St. Stephen Sunday School when reports on schools were called for, and on the following Sunday gave the home school an interesting report of what he saw and heard at the convention. It is to be regretted that more members of the school did not attend the sessions of this district convention. It is always a benefit for workers in any cause to exchange ideas, and especially so in the Sunday School work in which so many active Christian minds

and hearts are engaged.

Elder Elias Groff has sent for the Reformed Church Almanac for 1908 which, as usual, will be sold at 10 cents per copy. What little profit there is will be devoted to missions. Every family ought to have a copy. There is much information concerning the interests and work of the Reformed Church contained in this annual publication, which every member ought to know.

Elders Harry J. Besore and E. H. Burkholder and Deacon Frank Raezer attended the Laymen's convention in Salem Reformed church, Harrisburg, November 21. They report a large attendance of elders and deacons of the Reformed Church at the meeting and that some interesting papers were read, and that the discussions of the topics treated were beneficial to all present. A few ministers also were present, but it was strictly a meeting for Laymen. Mr. Gross, the mayor of Harrisburg, and a son of the late Elder D. W. Gross, of Salem Reformed church, of that city, made the address of welcome to the convention.

This Laymen's movement was started at the last annual meeting of Lancaster Classis and it is intended to make the elders and deacons, especially, more active and efficient in the work required by and in the several congregations, as well as in the interests of the Reformed Church at large.

Miss Bertha L. Diller has been appointed teacher of the interesting class of girls recently promoted from the infant department of the Sunday School, in place of Miss S. Gertrude Swope, resigned. A few members have lately entered the Bible class. There is room for many more who ought to be in this and other classes of the school. The school is now engaged in preparing for the annual Christmas services. The officers, teachers and scholars are taking hold of the work with more than usual interest. This promises well for the service itself at the joyful festival of Christmas. Only we must not forget that the service is a service of

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Rev. John G. Noss, Editor.  
Wm. M. Stauffer, Publisher.

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DECEMBER, 1907.

### CHRISTMAS.

We all know that the festival of Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus, the Son of Mary, the Savior of the world. We also know too, that He was the Son of God, dwelling in the bosom of the Father from eternity; that He had two natures, divine and human, thus uniting in His Person, heaven and earth, the invisible and the visible, God and man. We know this by faith, but to the Christian no knowledge is more certain and real than this. Knowing these things, however, is one thing; it is altogether another thing to manifest that spirit, which this knowledge ought to beget in us, in the celebration of this festival of the Incarnation. If we think only of ourselves and of those near and dear to us in life, and of how we and they may derive pleasure and joy from the perishable gifts received and given usually in connection with this festival, we most certainly miss the spirit and real joy which Christmas should beget in us. What God does, or has done, for us, must be a better and more durable basis for joy than that which we can do to and for one another. This is true of all God's gifts to us, even the perishable. How much more is the Gift of His eternal Son, the source of everlasting, indestructible gifts which alone can produce everlasting joys? A perishable toy given to a perishable boy by a perishable father can only produce a perishable joy. God, too, gives us perishable things to eat and wear, and the joy derived from their use is also brief. But what He gave when He gave us His Son is altogether a different matter. This we ought to think of and thank God for on this joyful anniversary. Many boys and girls, and their seniors, too, for that matter, often need the service of a physician a few days after Christmas, because they had too much joy of the perishable kind. Who ever heard of one becoming ill from indulging too much in that joy to which the angels gave expression on the night on which Jesus was born?

### THE ADVENT SEASON AND CHRISTMAS.

A certain minister once said that the Advent season in the Church year was a preparation for Christmas. This was equivalent to saying that the second coming of Christ was a preparation for His first coming; for the Advent season has to do with His second coming just as the Christmas season had to do with His first coming. No, the second coming of Christ is the crowning season of the Church year, because all the great events in the history of our Savior's life, death, resurrection and glorification make possible the glorious things promised and looked for in connection with His second coming. While it means the point of time when the Church, the Body of Christ, shall have finished her mission in the world, it also marks the beginning of her life and glory with Christ in Heaven. Hence Advent Sunday stands at the end and the beginning of the Church year. And just because the hope of the Church is not realized in His coming in glory at this time, we have our attention again directed to His first coming at Christmas and to the great facts that follow in the history and work of our redemption. This means that others, as well as we who have already been brought into this Ark of Salvation, shall have the opportunity to share the like salvation from the coming wrath of God upon the unbelieving world.

God is long suffering and not willing that any should perish. But let all who read know that this long suffering will not endure forever. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." II. Cor., 6:2. "Be ye, therefore, ready also; for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Luke, 12:40.

### CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

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praise and thanksgiving for God's gift of His only begotten Son, the Savior of the world. Only in this spirit can the service be acceptable to our Father in Heaven.

#### St. Paul.

In connection with the service at this church, November 17, Elder A. V. Walter, M. D., was re-elected for the term of two years, Deacon Charles E. Seldomridge was re-elected to succeed himself for the same term and John M. Good was elected deacon to succeed David H. Fasnacht, who,

with his family, has been dismissed to the St. Stephen Reformed church, Reading. These persons will be installed, if all are present, at the next regular service, December 15.

Deacon Charles E. Seldomridge has bought a property in Ephrata and in all probability he will move his family to that town in the spring. This may result in the ultimate loss of another family to this little flock; although the deacon promises not to forsake the congregation, at least for the present.

The question of dissolving this congregation has again been thought of and spoken of by some of the members, with the view of concentrating the work in the two other churches of the charge, Zeltenreich and St. Stephen, with which the members of this congregation would unite. It is well to think of this seriously before action is taken. One thing is certain, and that is, that the character and sound judgment of the members of this congregation give assurance that no hasty or unwise action will be taken. The good of all concerned is sure to be taken into full and serious consideration. It is no little comfort that such confidence is well grounded in this matter. "The preparation of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord." Prov. 16:1. This is true of all who seek to know and to do His will.

### BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION.

In connection with the Communion service in St. Paul's Vogansville, November 17, Miss Edna Savilla Sheaffer was baptized and confirmed, and on the preceding Friday, in connection with the preparatory service, Miss Mary A. Sprecher and Mrs. Anna Seldomridge, wife of Deacon Charles E. Seldomridge, were also received into full Communion with St. Paul's congregation by baptism and confirmation. These are welcome additions to this little flock, and may they each one be steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, unto the end of life's journey.

### MARRIED.

At the home of the bride's parents, near New Holland, November 21, S. Irvin Weaver, of Fetterville, to Miss Elsie I., daughter of Deacon and Mrs. Harry Diller.

At the parsonage, New Holland, November 27, Rufus Diem, of Salisbury and Miss Mabel Mellinger, of East Earl.

# Reformed Church Gleanings.

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Andrew F. Shrom, Voganville.  
Charles E. Seldomridge, Voganville.

### BAPTISM.

At the home of the parents, New Holland, November 26, Helen Elizabeth, infant daughter of Mr. Omar J. and Mrs. Mary A. Kling.

### DEATHS DURING THE YEAR.

There have been only three deaths in the charge during the year: Alta Catharine Knobb, of near Intercourse, June 6; Elmina Acker, in the General Hospital, Lancaster, August 16, and Charles Haag, New Holland, also in the General Hospital, Lancaster, April 2. St. Stephen congregation lost an active and faithful member and the pastor a devoted friend in the death of Charles Haag. His seat in the church was seldom vacant.

## CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for December are as follows:

#### St. Stephen.

Sunday Dec. 8th., 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Sunday Dec. 15th., 7 p. m.

Sunday Dec. 22nd., 10:30 a. m.

Christmas Dec. 25th., 10 a. m.

Sunday Dec., 29th., 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Sunday School at 9:15 a. m. and Catechism at 6 p. m. every Sunday.

Mid-week service at 7:30 p. m., each Wednesday.

#### St. Paul.

Sunday Dec. 15th., 10 a. m.

Sunday Dec. 29th., 2 p. m.

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