

Reformed Church Gleanings

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

Vol. 2.

NEW HOLLAND, PA., MARCH, 1909.

No. 6.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

On Saturday, February 6, the pastor and his wife had a surprise on hand when visiting, by special invitation, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Weinhold on the Sharp farm. It happened that Rev. H. J. Hillegass and family and Mrs. D. W. Gerhard and family, having similar invitations, were also present. Mr. Weinhold is a member of Salem church, and Mrs. Weinhold, of Zeltenreich. Thus the two pastors and the family of the deceased pastor of both families represented by the host and hostess on the occasion were brought together under the same roof and sat at the same table. This was a rare and exceptionally pleasant occurrence. Mrs. Martha Sharp, of Lancaster, the mother of Mrs. Weinhold, and the mother and brother of Mr. Weinhold, were also present. If Mrs. Eliza Sheaffer, of Lancaster, the grandmother of Mrs. Weinhold, had also been present—and her absence was greatly regretted—four generations would have been present at the baptism of the child noted elsewhere in this number of the *Gleanings*.

One of the sections of the large window in the Sunday School room was taken and paid for by Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Seldomridge, of Ephrata, since the last issue of the *Gleanings*. There are still two sections of the large window, and two small windows in this room which are not taken. If at all possible these windows will be disposed of before the remaining inscriptions will be put in place.

At the last service the pastor hoped to meet the members of the Finance Committee and make arrangements for the collecting of the one thousand dollars remaining on the church. But the members of the committee were not on hand, and nothing could be done. It is hoped, however, that the members of the committee, as opportunity offers, will collect this money during March. There is hardly a good

excuse to allow this debt to remain for another year.

St. Stephen.

The pastor is giving those who attend the mid-week service some practical talks during the Lenten season. It is a matter of regret that all the members and friends of the congregation do not attend these services.

At the monthly meeting of the consistory, on the first Sunday in February, forty-five dollars were appropriated towards the payment of the apportionment. The treasury of this congregation is probably in better condition than it has been for many years. If all the members do their duty in this direction there need be no deficiency at any time.

The Sunday School is getting ready for the Easter service. What has become of some of the young men of the Sunday School?

St. Paul.

The pastor and his wife spent a day visiting the family of H. W. Oberholtzer, of Akron, and that of C. E. Seldomridge, in his new house in Ephrata, during February, and also the family of Daniel Snader, Bareville. St. Paul will lose some faithful attendants when this family moves to Ephrata this month.

BAPTISMS.

At the home of the parents, February 6, by Rev. H. G. Hillegass, assisted by the pastor, Paul Sharp, son of J. R. and Martha Weinhold, born December 17, 1907.

At the residence of the parents, New Holland, February 20, Emily Elizabeth daughter of George and Lydia A. Keiser, born June 4, 1908.

Every beginning is difficult, says the proverb. True enough, no doubt, in a certain sense; but with a more comprehensive truth one can say, every beginning is easy; and the highest steps on the ladder are the most difficult to reach.—Goethe.

FOREIGN MISSION SUNDAY.

The services and envelopes sent by the Foreign Mission Board were distributed among the members of the three congregations; the pastor explaining, at the same time, the purpose of the board. Some of these envelopes have been returned containing contributions for the objects designated by the donors. Many more, no doubt, will be handed in during the coming Sundays. The contributors may rest assured that the amounts contributed by them will be faithfully turned over to the objects as designated on the envelopes by each one. The services, while not used in a public way as designed, nevertheless may be of benefit to those who carefully read them, as they contain matters of information which may benefit all.

There are three things in this world which deserve no quarter—Hypocrisy, Phariseism and Tyranny.—Robertson.

Lord, grant me one suit, which is this: deny me all suits which are bad for me.—Henry Fuller.

They who disbelieve in virtue because man has never been found perfect, might as reasonably deny the sun, because it is not always noon.—Augustus Hare.

Faith alone can interpret life, and the heart that aches and bleeds with the stigma of pain, alone bears the likeness of Christ, and can comprehend its dark enigma.—Longfellow.

Some people carry their hearts in their heads; very many carry their heads in their hearts. The difficulty is to keep them apart, and yet both actively working together.—Marcus Hare.

Let woman never be persuaded to forget that her calling is not the lower and more earthly one of self-assertion, but the higher and diviner calling of self-sacrifice.—Kingsley.

Any man may commit a mistake, but none but a fool will continue in it.—Cicero.

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

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MARCH, 1909.

THE LAYMEN'S CONVENTION.

A Laymen's Convention was held in St. Paul's Reformed church, Lancaster, February 18. Afternoon and evening sessions were held. There was a good attendance of elders, deacons and others from the charges within the bounds of the Classis of Lancaster. The pastor was present by invitation, as were also many other pastors of the Classis of Lancaster. The New Holland charge was represented by Elder George W. Bair, of Zeltenreich; Elder Henry J. Besore, of St. Stephen, and Elder Ezra H. Burkholder, of St. Paul. In looking over the members constituting the convention, the pastor was very favorably impressed with the appearance and numbers present as well as he was with the addresses delivered during the sessions. If every Classis in the Reformed Church in the United States can equal the personnel of this convention of Laymen, there is cause for congratulation all around, upon the character and ability of the large army of men who are at present active in the Christian warfare in our division of the hosts of the Lord. One who has been in a condition to notice the representative assemblies of the Reformed Church during fifty years cannot fail to recognize and rejoice in the fact that there has been a great advance in the intelligence, alertness and character of the laymen generally found at such gatherings. True, the Reformed Church has always been favored and blessed in having noble laymen, strong in the faith and heroic in their loyalty, but their kind has certainly multiplied and their race increased remarkably in late years.

The convention at Lancaster was composed of laymen within the bounds of Lancaster Classis only. There is another convention of laymen to be held in Harrisburg March 16-18, which is intended to be constituted of representatives from, at least, the Synods of the East, the Potomac and Pittsburg. This ought to

make a large body of men. The consistories of the New Holland charge have not deemed it well to send delegates to either of these conventions. But any member who wishes to attend the meeting in Harrisburg can have his membership certified by the pastor and secretary of the congregation to which he belongs. This will insure his recognition in the convention.

The laymen's movement is an extensive form of activity in most of the denominations at present. Its activity manifests itself chiefly in the interest of missions, especially Foreign Missions. This is professedly, at least at present, the purpose of the movement in the Reformed Church. There is no definite plan fixed upon yet as to the form this movement shall ultimately take in the way of organization. The pastor sincerely hopes that it may not result in the formation of another denominational society among the men of the Reformed Church similar to the Woman's Missionary Society. The Reformed Church has one organization for all its activities and under its constitution provision is made for the needs and duties of every man, woman and child under its care.

The multiplication of organizations, or societies, within its bosom not only is very expensive in the operation of the added machinery, but also has the tendency to dissipate the strength, to interfere with the harmonious activity and to impair the integrity of the regular organization. Besides this, any association that parallels the regular organization of the church in any form of its activity, should never have been tolerated. No similar association would be tolerated in the civil government.

Nevertheless such conventions when held within prescribed limits may be of large benefit to the individuals attending them. Only we must never forget that the great work of any denomination, as of the Christian Church at large, is done by individuals who lead Christlike lives in the family and the congregation. If whole-hearted work and worship are wanting here, conventions of any and every kind are ineffective for permanent good, except as they may tend to make men and women more faithful to Christ in their daily life at home.

This is an age of clubs rather than of homes and of associations and conventions rather than of family life. There is no better constitution and by-

laws for the regulation of the family than the Bible. If the Book is neglected in the training of a family all the literature of the day, and of all days, as well as all clubs, associations and conventions, will prove miserable failures as substitutes.

A LOST BOOK.

The oldest church record in the keeping of its pastor is that of Zeltenreich, which was procured by the congregation in 1766, under the pastorate of Rev. John George Wittner. The late Rev. D. W. Gerhard, D. D., formerly the pastor of the New Holland charge, informed the present pastor that during his pastorate there was a record of this congregation in his possession which was procured in 1746, and contained memoranda from that date to 1766, thus covering a period of twenty years previous to the record now at hand. This older record has disappeared and no one seems to know what has become of it. Elder B. F. Besore recalls seeing it some years ago, but the immediate predecessor of the present pastor, the Rev. F. A. Rupley, does not recollect seeing such a record during his pastorate. Where is it? It does not seem probable that it has been destroyed. Those who saw it say it is nearly square, dark in color and bound in leather. Such an old record, even if it does not contain a full account of the transactions of the period of the twenty years preceding 1766, is invaluable to the congregation; and if it should not be recovered it is a permanent and serious loss to the congregation. All records of churches are valuable, and the older they are the more valuable they become. Let us hope that this lost book may yet be found. It is the purpose of the pastor to translate and publish in the *Gleanings* the memoranda contained in these old records. The record of St. Stephen commences with the completion of the church in 1801 under the pastorate of the Rev. John Christian Wilms. Both these records are in German script and in some instances the names are difficult to decipher. By doing this these old records will be put into a form that will secure the permanency of the historic facts contained in them, even though the books themselves should be destroyed or lost. The first English script appears in 1834 in the record of St. Stephen. Both the old records of Zeltenreich prior to this time were kept by pastors who wrote and preached only in German.

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To see without envy the glory of a rival shows a worthy man; to rejoice at it, a good heart; but to contribute to it a noble soul.—Anon.

The past and the future illumine only the great, as the rising and setting sun only gilds the mountain tops.—Anon.

Even in leaving an humble place, the man of worth leaves a great void, for the sphere of his usefulness always goes beyond the bounds of his position.—Anon.

Men of long experience, without learning, have often proved of more benefit to society than learned men without experience.—Anon.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for March are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

Sunday, 14., 2 p. m.
Sunday, 28th., 10 a. m.

St. Stephen.

Sunday, 7th., 7 p. m.
Sunday, 14th., 10:30 a. m.
Sunday, 21st., 10:30 a. m.
Sunday, 28th., 7 p. m.
Sunday School, 9:15 a. m. every Sunday.
Mid-week service at 7:30 p. m. each Wednesday.
Catechism at 6 p. m., every Sunday.

St. Paul.

Sunday, 7th., 10 a. m.
Sunday, 21st., 2 p. m.



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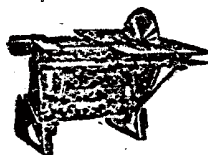
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