

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., AUGUST, 1908.

No. II.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

At last the day for the dedication of the church has been definitely fixed. This date is Sunday, August 16. The painting is finished; the ladies have cleaned the floor of the auditorium and this part is now ready for the carpet. After this is laid, the placing of the pews will be the last work to be done in this part of the church. After the pews are placed, the floor of the Sunday School will be cleaned and the carpet laid. As the furniture of this room is also on hand but little time will be required to put this into shape for the dedication. The Building Committee, at the suggestion of the Carpet Committee, has agreed to have both floors covered with the same kind of carpet. The entire cost of this part of the work will be about \$225, and it is understood that when all the collections for the carpet are turned in the cost will be fully met. The members of the Carpet Committee have done very well and the congregation should fully appreciate the zeal and energy of the young ladies. As there ought to be good, substantial door mats provided, it will be a good thing to have a surplus with which to procure them. On Saturday, July 25, public sale was made of the surplus material. About \$45 was realized. The surplus material not damaged is to be returned to the firms from whom it was bought and the proper credit given.

On Thursday and Friday, July 30 and 31, some of the members of the committee and a few others graded the ground around the church. This was no easy task on hot days, and it may take still more work to put the grounds in good shape. But patient and persistent labor accomplishes much in this world, and there have been some notable examples of patience and persistency in the work of erecting this church from the beginning to the end, which is now so near. And those men and women whose patience never grew weary under disappointments and whose persistency never faltered under discour-

agements in the work, it is to be hoped, shall at least sometimes be remembered with gratitude by those who shall hereafter enjoy the fruits of their labors.

The members of the choir have been meeting twice a week of late, to get ready for the dedicatory service. Good reports of the attendance and interest manifested at these meetings have reached the ears of the editor.

The program of the dedicatory and post-dedicatory services will be issued as soon as arrangements have been completed. At this time we are assured of the presence of Rev. J. S. Hartman on the day of the dedication and that of Rev. F. A. Rupley, Jr., on the following Sunday when the union communion will be held. It is not yet definitely known who will preach the sermon at the dedication. As already announced in the county papers the dedication service will take place at 10 A. M., and a post-dedicatory service at 2 P. M., August 16. At this latter service a number of ministers will deliver short addresses. At both services offerings for the building fund will be received. Envelopes will be handed to all present. These envelopes have blank spaces for the names of the contributors and the amounts contributed. A special record will be kept of the names and contributions. It is desired, therefore, that all contributors should use these envelopes and fill the blank spaces distinctly. To this end all should bring lead pencils.

What of the financial condition? There has been no embarrassment so far. All bills have been paid soon after they were presented. All bills not yet presented should not amount to over \$2,000. This does not include the pews, altars, pulpit, etc., for the auditorium, or the chairs for the Sunday School room. But there are unpaid subscriptions and cash on hand sufficient to pay these bills, which altogether will amount to about \$875. It will be seen, therefore, that if we can raise about \$2,000 before and on the day of dedication the congregation will have its beautiful church

free from debt. This can easily be done if all are willing to do what they can. The committees mean to be active in the next two weeks to accomplish this desired end. The treasurer will make a statement to the congregation on the day of the dedication of the receipts and expenditures up to that time.

What is the cost of the whole work when completed? It is impossible to answer this question definitely at this moment, but the treasurer and the Building Committee are of the opinion that, in money, this cost will not be much above or below \$10,000. This is about \$2,000 more than the original estimate. But the committee only followed the expressed judgment of the chief contributors in using only the best materials in the construction of the church. The best Peach Bottom slate was used for the roof instead of the metal shingles suggested by the architect, and consequently the roof construction had to be much stronger to bear the greater weight of the slate, and copper was used for the valleys and as covering for the roof of the tower as well as the floor of the belfry instead of tin. All this has added to the original cost of the building; but it is certain to prove to be economy in the years to come. The question confronting every member and friend of the congregation now, is, what proportion of the \$2,000 is he or she able and willing to contribute so as to be able with heart and voice to sing the Doxology on the day of the dedication.

A few more of the windows have been taken. There are still a number in the Sunday School room that are not engaged by any one up to this time. The inscriptions will not be placed in the windows lately taken, or to be taken, until after the dedication, so that the work can all be done at the same time. Persons desiring to pay for the windows not yet engaged will please make their intention known as early as possible.

The Albert Rutter family has contributed twenty dollars for the pulpit Bible. The Bible is on hand and is

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

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AUGUST, 1908.

in very substantial binding. Its net cost was \$14.50. The Rutter family has donated the balance of the \$20 to the general fund. Deacon John S. Livers is donating the collection plates. Chairs for the choir are not yet provided for by the committee. About a dozen of them are needed. Who will donate them? All the other furniture is either on hand or has been ordered. The paint has been removed from the old altar and it has been repainted to correspond with the other furniture, and is to be placed in the Sunday School room as a desk for the superintendent. The old book case has likewise been renovated.

No provision has been made yet for lighting or heating the church. At present there will be no service at night and no heating is needed until fall. After the dedication these matters can be attended to as needed. The committee has received bids for heating the church, but has not taken action upon them. These bids were received last fall when it was hoped we should be able to occupy the church during the winter.

If the weather shall prove to be pleasant on the day of the dedication the hitching ground may prove to be too small to accommodate all the teams. It is probable that additional accommodation may be provided in the vicinity of the church grounds, if needed.

All persons bringing baskets of provisions for the luncheon will find abundant room for them on the tables in the cellar. It is recommended that they label their baskets and place them in the cellar upon their arrival at the church. Unfortunately there is only limited accommodation for the feeding of horses in the sheds.

It was suggested that the committee might furnish eatables at a fixed price for those who wish to remain the whole day, but it was decided that such a course would be out of harmony with the spirit of the day, and the occasion. This is a time for free

will offerings, but not a time for barter of any kind. It is to the credit of the congregation, as well as of the committee, that hitherto all the money that has been contributed toward the construction of the church has been asked and given without appealing to any motive except that of giving as unto the Lord. No fair or festival has ever been mentioned as a means of raising money for this cause. The Reformed Church has long ago set its face against such methods of "making money." And on the day of the dedication there will be no methods of this kind tolerated. If every one brings materials for the luncheon no one need to go hungry. This does not mean that those who presume that they will be fed without making previous arrangements with others may not be disappointed. This is only intended as a caution to the thoughtless, and not as an expression of the spirit of inhospitality.

In all probability arrangements will be made with livery men to meet the trolley cars in New Holland during the day and to convey those persons who are without arrangements of their own, to and from the church. The nearest points from the trolley to the church (about 1½ miles) are the west end school house and the rotary above New Holland.

The church, no doubt, will be more than filled on the day of the dedication. Efforts, however, will be made to accommodate all who come in good time. In addition to the seating provided in both rooms the undertakers, Henninger and Bowers, have kindly consented to give us the use of their chairs for the occasion. By proper and careful arrangement on the part of the ushers a large number of people can be seated in the available space within the building.

THE UNION COMMUNION.

It is proper and customary to hold a communion in a new church on the Sunday after its dedication. In this case, by action of the three consistories of the New Holland charge, the communion in the new church on August 23 will be a service in which St. Stephen and St. Paul will unite. It is to be hoped that all the members of the three congregations who can do so will be present. It was in the old log church which once stood on this ground in which the ancestors of some of the living members of all three of the congregations partook frequently

of this holy sacrament of the body and blood of our Lord. The Seldomridges, Diffenderfers, Eckerts, Snaders, Besores and others of today are the Aneal descendants of those whose names are on the lists of the communicants in the days of the old log church, more than one hundred and fifty years ago. This should be a time of refreshing.

THE GLEANINGS FOR AUGUST.

This copy of the Gleanings is almost exclusively devoted to the interests of the Zelttenreich congregation. But this is natural and justifiable under the circumstances. The dedication of this new church is in itself a matter of absorbing interest to the community at large as well as to this particular congregation by whom and in whose behalf it has been erected. At the same time it is also of vital interest to the Reformed Church in this whole community. A strong congregation at Zelttenreich, well housed and in a flourishing condition, will mean for the general welfare of the Reformed Church in this section of Lancaster county, especially, an ever increasing force and factor for that kind of good which a positive Christianity can alone beget and foster. A strong country congregation is not readily found in these days, for rural congregations are generally in a condition of quiet decay. The pastor shall be very much disappointed if this historic congregation will not put on new vigor and manifest powers of vitality that will astonish and please all who love our Zion. At the same time it will furnish good material in the future, as in the past, to other Reformed churches, not only here but elsewhere also.

MEETING OF THE JOINT CONSISTORY.

The members of the joint consistory will please meet in the new church at 1:30 P. M. August 16, to take such action as may be required in reference to the apportionment, and to consider the future interests of the Gleanings.

MARRIED.

At the parsonage, July 21, R. Fred. Gerth, of Millersville, to Miss E. Sue Carpenter, of Fetterville.

Repentance draws us nearer to God than sin can separate us from Him.—Anon.

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DIRECTORY.

PASTOR.

Rev. John G. Noss, New Holland.

ZELTENREICH.

Elders.

Jeremiah Seldomridge, Kinzer R. F. D.
George W. Bair, New Holland.
Cyrus Shaeffer, Bareville.

Deacons.

Harry Diller, New Holland R. F. D.
James W. Brubaker, New Holland R. F. D.
Louis C. Leberman, New Holland R. F. D.
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Sunday School.

Elias Groff, Superintendent.
Clifford Townsley, Secretary.
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George Keyser, Librarian.

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Elders.

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A. V. Walter, M. D., Brownstown.

Deacons.

Isaac P. Mull, Voganville.
Andrew F. Shrom, Voganville.
Charles E. Seldomridge, Voganville.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for August are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

Sunday August 16th., 10 a. m. and 2 p. m.

Saturday August 22nd., Preparatory service, 2 p. m.

Sunday August 23rd., Holy communion, union service, 10 a. m.

Sunday August 30th., 2 p. m.

St. Stephen.

Sunday August 9th., 10 a. m.

Sunday August 23rd., 7:30 p. m.

Sunday August 30th., 10 a. m.

Sunday School at 8:45 a. m. every Sunday.

St. Paul.

Sunday August 9th., 2 p. m.

Whether the pitcher strike the stone, or the stone the pitcher, woe be to the pitcher.—Spanish.

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SOME PROVERBS OF THE NATIONS.

Adam got a hoe, and Eve a spinning wheel, and thence come all the nobles.—Danish.

Better the world should know you as a sinner than God know you as a hypocrite.—Danish.

Vows made in storms are forgotten in calms.—English.

Anger is a good servant, but a bad master.—Greek.

He whose days pass without enjoying and imparting is like the bellows of a smith; he breathes indeed, but he does not live.—Hindu.

What God has wet He will dry.—Russian.

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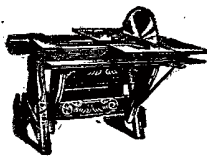
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