

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., FEBRUARY, 1909.

No. 5.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

The day for the Holy Communion in this church on Sunday, January 31, was cold and windy and the roads were rough. The pastor supposes that this combination of things caused the small attendance at this mid-winter communion; or perhaps it would be better to say that it caused so many members to absent themselves. No doubt some had very good reasons for not coming to church on this occasion, and yet one cannot help but believe that others who were absent would hardly allow such a combination of supposed obstacles to prevent their going to a wedding, to a funeral, or even to a public sale. But perhaps the pastor should rather look on the other side of this matter and be thankful and hopeful that there were as many members present at this service as there were, and some of them came from quite a long distance. If only every one realized that such a bracing atmosphere as that was on January 31 is the best possible tonic a person can take, there would be many more found to be taking the medicine that God gives and fewer that have to resort to the kind that man gives.

On Saturday afternoon, January 30, the pastor, in connection with the preparatory service, confirmed a very interesting class of young persons whom he had instructed since the completion of the new church. A few of them, indeed, had attended instructions before the old church was torn down. Those persons were the following: John F. Renninger, Gertrude V. Renninger, Viola M. Diller, Lillian Eurich, Ada E. Eurich, C. Celeste Fenninger, Caroline M. Livers, Ruth Anna Kling, Anna Elizabeth Eby. The last two also received adult baptism.

The pastor will not begin another class in the Catechism until after the spring communion. In the meanwhile he hopes that parents and others will aid him in securing the attendance of as many as possible upon the instructions when these are resumed.

The pastor may be mistaken, but he has the impression that there is a

growing tendency on the part of the members of this congregation not to take audible part in the confession of faith when the Apostles' creed is used and in the Lord's Prayer. This is to be regretted—as much so as if the members who can sing should abstain from singing audibly. Of course it is better to sing in the heart only than not to sing at all, and so also it is better to believe and to pray in the heart only than not to believe and to pray at all. But there are times and occasions when it becomes all Christians, as with one heart and one voice, to confess the common faith of the Holy Catholic Church, to pray the one prayer our Lord has taught us, and to sing the hymns that give expression to the common thoughts of all Christian hearts. And these times and occasions are whenever even two or three are gathered together in His Name for worship, and in which worship those ancient and sound forms of creed and prayer and hymn are used. Perhaps these remarks apply to the other congregations as well as to Zeltenreich.

The church was comfortably warm on communion Sunday. This is evidence that the heating plant is doing its work effectually. At least the pastor heard no complaint from any one of being cold during the service.

St. Stephen.

The attendance at the mid-winter communion of this congregation on Sunday, January 24, was also comparatively small, the day being unpleasant. Yet the greater part of the members were present and partook of the Holy Communion. Those who were present seemed to take part in the whole service with becoming reverence and appreciation. For the first time in the present pastorate the full liturgical service was used in the preparatory service. The responses, while not general, were devotional in manner. It would be well if the members generally would provide themselves with at least the Form from the Order of Worship, if not with the full Order. There was a time when there was considerable opposition to members of the congregation taking audi-

ble part in public worship, except in singing. This opposition has largely disappeared. It is realized that the pastor has no monopoly of the praying part of the service, not any more than of the singing part.

Rev. I. M. Beaver, of Reading, a nephew of Elder William M. Stauffer, is expected to spend part of Sunday, February 7, in New Holland, and has consented to preach at a special service in St. Stephen church at 10:30 A. M. on that day.

The regular time for service would be at 7 P. M. on that day, but this arrangement has been made because Mr. Beaver cannot remain for a service in the evening. The evening service will be omitted. The pastor, having communion in St. Paul congregation at the same hour, regrets that he cannot be at this special service in St. Stephen. The parents of the Rev. Mr. Beaver are visiting the family of Elder W. M. Stauffer for a week or two.

St. Paul.

While it is not strictly a congregational item (for nothing special has occurred in this congregation since the last issue of *The Gleanings*), it may interest at least some of the readers of this paper that the pastor is indebted to Mr. Joel Fassnacht, a member of St. Paul, for the gift of a Plymouth Rock cockerel, whose weight was nine pounds, two weeks ago, whose plumage is very fine and whose deep, solemn notes, when he crows, are impressive enough to stir up the conscience of any Peter who may have denied his Master.

MARRIED.

At the home of the groom's father, Elder Cyrus Sheaffer in Bareville, January 28, A. Clayton Sheaffer to Miss J. Catharine Fenninger, of Byers-town, a granddaughter of Elder Jeremiah Seldomridge, and a daughter of John M. Fenninger.

"I believe in God," that is a fair and a laudable profession; but to acknowledge God when and wherever He may reveal Himself, this is the only true blessedness upon earth.—Goethe.

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

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FEBRUARY, 1909.

MINUTES OF THE EASTERN SYNOD.

The minutes of this synod, which met in Lock Haven, Pa., October 14, 1908, are printed and are on hand for distribution. As usual there have been given to the New Holland charge only a limited number of copies, not enough in this instance to place a copy into the hands of every elder and deacon in the charge. Those receiving copies will please, after reading them, pass them to other members of the congregation. Besides other matters of interest to all the members of the Reformed Church contained in these minutes, there is also a list given of all the meetings of this synod from its organization September 29, 1847, to the meeting in Lock Haven. This list shows that the synod (then known as the Coetus) met in annual session in St. Stephen Reformed church, New Holland, April 27, 1807, and again on September 1, 1816. At the meeting in 1807 Rev. L. L. Hinsch was president and Rev. John T. Faber was recording secretary. The president preached the sermon, choosing as his text, Phil. ii, 5. At the meeting in 1816 Rev. Casper Wach was president and the Rev. Dr. William Handel recording secretary. The text of the president's sermon on this occasion was II. Cor. iv, 5. These sermons were preached from the same pulpit which is now in use. What a long and interesting list it would be if we could name every minister of the Reformed Church who has preached in this historic church during more than a century of years. Though the Reformed Church was a small body a hundred years ago, yet the fact that the synod met in the New Holland church twice within ten years evidences the fact that New Holland, with its then new and imposing church, was deemed a desirable place in which to meet. What interesting matter it would be to read if we had a full record of all that occurred during these two meetings of the synod. Unfortunately there is not a single reference in the local church record

to these meetings. Incidentally the pastor happens to know that there was one occurrence in connection with these meetings that could not well be a matter of record at the time. One of the young ministers in attendance at the second of these meetings in New Holland was Rev. Diedrich Willers, who had fought in some of the battles of the Napoleonic campaigns in Europe, and was subsequently the pastor of the Reformed church in Fayette, New York, for many years.

This young minister became acquainted with a daughter of Matthias Sherk (perhaps he was a guest of the family during the meeting of the synod) and what so often happens when two young persons representing two sexes meet during the sessions of ecclesiastical assemblies—and we have an illustration of the truth of this statement by a similar occurrence at such a meeting in New Holland much less than a century ago—they appear to have fallen in love with one another and were subsequently married. The pastor in his young days, as a student for the ministry met Dr. Willers, then an old and venerable man, at meetings of the synod on several occasions, and when he came to New Holland and was actively engaged in raising funds for the remodeling of the St. Stephen church he one day received a letter from Hon. Diedrich Willers, of Fayette, New York, a son of Rev. Dr. Willers, and formerly Secretary of the Commonwealth of New York, in which he stated the facts here stated. He subsequently contributed \$25 towards the window in memory of his grandfather, Matthias Sherk, placed in the remodeled church. Most of the members of St. Stephen know that this Matthias Sherk donated the ground on which the church stands, as well as that included in the original cemetery. Mr. Sherk was also the baumeister, that is, the superintendent, during the building of the church. Its substantial character, often weathering the storms of more than a century, proves that the superintendent superintended.

DEATHS.

Mrs. Mary Catharine, wife of Alvin E. Sprecher, died after a brief illness in her home, New Holland, January 10, 1909, aged 38 years, four months and 16 days. Mrs. Sprecher was baptized in infancy, and was confirmed by the pastor in St. Stephen Reformed church, New Holland, April 3, 1896. She was frequently in poor health,

and did not attend the services in the church regularly during recent years on that account. She was a faithful wife and a kind mother. While her health was impaired of late the end came nevertheless unexpectedly and was a shock to her family and friends. She was buried from St. Stephen church January 13. She leaves a husband, two children and one grandchild to mourn her departure.

St. Stephen Reformed church lost one of her most loyal members in the death of Sarah Ann Grimley who, after an illness of only a few days, peacefully fell asleep January 13, at her home in New Holland, aged 74 years, 10 months and 24 days. She was born in Montgomery county, Pa., February 20, 1834, and was baptized in infancy. About the middle of the last century she, with her parents, Frederick and Elizabeth Grimley, came to Lancaster county, locating at first near the Welsh Mountain and afterwards in New Holland. Miss Grimley (for she was never married) was confirmed by Rev. Albert Halfenstein in St. Stephen church, April 24, 1853. Those who were confirmed with her in the same class were Julian Diffenderfer, Angeline Brubaker, Mrs. Maria Wiest, Elizabeth Shaeffer and Elizabeth Palmer. The pastor does not know whether any of these persons are still living. From her confirmation to the last communion preceding her death Miss Grimley rarely failed to be present at this service, as the records show. She was always to be relied on as a faithful and conscientious worker in the church. Her most prominent and conspicuous Christian grace was her love of giving. Although her worldly means were limited she always found ways and means by which she could indulge in the pleasure of giving. She was accustomed to hard labor during her whole life, and she still, within a week before her death, wrought with her stiffened, toil worn hands for others in order not only to supply her own limited needs, but that she might also have something to give away. She exemplified to a remarkable degree the saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Sarah Ann Grimley left but little of this world's goods behind her, but the pastor shall be much mistaken if she does not prove to be one of the richest members of the Church of Christ he ever buried, when the treasures of the everlasting inheritance are distributed on the day of Judgment. The funeral services were held in St. Stephen church January 16, and she was laid to rest in the family lot in the adjoining cemetery. Farewell, till we meet again.

Reformed Church Gleanings.

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BAPTISMS.

At the house of the parents on Roberts avenue, New Holland, January 24, Charles Kahl, son of Chauncey D. and Anna K. Rutter, born May 19, 1907.

At the home of the parents, near New Holland, January 27, Ruth Stauffer, daughter of John L. and Clara E. Mentzer, born November 6, 1908.

The words that a father speaks, in the privacy of his home, to his children are not heard by the world, but, as in whispering galleries, they are clearly heard at the end and by posterity.—Richter.

The consciousness of duty performed gives us music at midnight.—George Herbert.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for February are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

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

St. Stephen.

Sunday, 7th., 10:30 a. 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., Preparatory service 9:30 a. m., Holy Communion, 10 a. m.
Sunday, 21st., 2 p. m.



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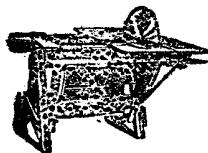
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