

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., JANUARY, 1909.

No. 4.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeitenreich.

The mid-winter communion will be held in this congregation at 10 A. M., Sunday, January 31. The preparatory service and confirmation of catechumens will take place at 2 P. M. on the preceding Saturday.

While the attendance at the regular services has been good so far this winter, there were very few members present at the Christmas service. The offerings at this service, as usual, are given to Bethany Orphans' Home. The absence of so many of the members caused the offerings to be rather small. Those who wish to contribute to this worthy cause will please hand their offerings to the treasurer of the congregation, Mr. John Flickinger. Every member and friend should have the opportunity, and make use of it, too, to help the orphans of the Church, for they are in a special sense the lambs of the Good Shepherd and the children of the Father.

It will soon be time to raise that thousand dollars remaining as a debt upon the new church. Let each member and friend think over the matter, so that when called upon there may be a ready response in the way of a pledge toward the cancellation of the note. There is no question as to the ability of the congregation to pay this balance, and we shall all feel the better for having a share in the good work. It will be a joy to every member to hear on the coming first of April that the beautiful church is without incumbrance.

St. Stephen.

The Christmas service by the Sunday School was of an unusually interesting character. The service was well prepared, the singing being especially good. The general verdict of the large congregation present was that it was the best service of this kind held for many years. The offerings for Bethany Orphans' Home by the school amount to \$15, the same as last year.

At the monthly meeting of the consistory held after service, January 3,

the treasurer, William M. Stauffer, reported that all bills were paid up to date, and that a balance remained in the treasury. At the same time it was ascertained that a number of the members did not contribute in the regular way to the support of the congregation. The deacons were instructed to call on the members again to secure pledges for regular contribution. So far the envelope system, which was introduced some years ago, has proved to be satisfactory. The only regret is that quite a number of the members do not make as faithful use of the system as they could. The book of the treasurer always shows who contributes regularly, and who does not.

At the same meeting Miss Emma Noss was received into the membership of this congregation by certificate from St. John's Reformed church, Philadelphia.

A large granite monument has recently been put up in the cemetery of St. Stephen by T. M. Storb & Sons to take the place of the marble head and foot stones on the old Storb lot.

The mid-winter communion in this church will be held at 10:30 A. M. Sunday, January 24. The preparatory service at 2 P. M. on the Saturday preceding.

St. Paul.

The mid-winter communion will be held in this church at 10 A. M., Sunday, February 7. The preparatory service at 9:30 A. M., on the same day.

Elder Ezra H. Burkholder has secured a deed for the Barstler lot in New Holland. He proposes to erect a house on this lot during the coming spring and summer, and when completed he expects to remove from Farmersville to New Holland.

This church was recently thoroughly cleaned and a new carpet placed on the pulpit platform.

It is always more hopeful—always, as I think, more philosophic—to throw the blame of failure on man, on our own selves, rather than on God and the perfect law of His universe.—Charles Kingsley.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO COMMUNE.

The pastor desires to suggest that in this solemn service it is customary and reverently proper that the bread should be received by the communicant with the hand ungloved. Also that the communicant should assist the pastor to raise the cup to the lips by guiding it with the right hand. The wide brims of the hats now worn by ladies frequently so hide the whole face of the communicant that from the higher place from which he administers the elements the pastor cannot see whether the wine in the cup reaches the lips of the communicant or not. This is embarrassing to both the pastor and the communicant, and this suggestion is made so as to avoid any unseemly occurrence in administering and partaking of this Holy Sacrament. And in this connection it may also be suggested that it is deemed improper, not to say irreverent, when kneeling in prayer at the communion service, or at any other for that matter, to turn the back on the altar. We do not do it when we stand in prayer, and neither should we do so when we kneel. Reverence in the sanctuary is becoming to the worshiper.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The new constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States, which was declared at the last meeting of the General Synod, held at York, in May, 1908, to have been adopted by the necessary two-thirds of all the classes in the Church, is now the organic law for the Reformed Church in this country. As this new Constitution differs, in many respects, from the old it is necessary for all the members who wish to become acquainted with this fundamental law for the government of the Church to which they belong, to procure copies. The pastor will see to it that a supply shall be on hand in the near future to accommodate all who may desire to buy a copy.

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

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JANUARY, 1909.

NEW YEAR.

The year 1908 is gone. Its records are made. Nothing that was done by us can be undone, and nothing done that was neglected. Each day brings its opportunities for doing good and doing evil. So also the year. The good we have done God and our hearts know; the evil is not hidden from either one. God had given us time in which to do good, and not evil, just as He has given us tongues with which to bless and not to curse. For us to do evil is to use amiss the time that is allotted to us. Even neglect to do good when time and opportunity are present, is to do evil. For it is written: "To him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

As we cannot undo what was done in the past, nor do what was not done, it is useless to fret ourselves by vain regrets. The only good use we can make of our past mistakes is to try to avoid making them again. Today, this year, should be devoted to the betterment of our manner of life. And this can only be done by allowing Him, who makes no mistakes, to control our thoughts, our words and our actions. To forget and to neglect the truth that the Perfect One only can help us toward perfection is to reject the only possible aid to our better living during the present year. On the other hand, if we trust in our own wisdom and strength, either to avoid the repetition of our past errors, or to increase in the ability to know and to do better in the present and the future than in the past, we put our confidence where there can be nothing but failure. Perhaps we have done the same kind of trusting in the past and, of course, had the same kind of failure. Error only can come from the erring. Infallibility cannot come from the fallible. God alone can make us better. Trusting in God or trusting in ourselves measures the difference between wisdom and folly. It is written: "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom" and "he that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." May He

who has given us being and has brought us to the beginning of this new year enable us so to use this new measure of time that it may be profitably employed to His honor and glory, to the edification of all with whom we come in daily contact, as also to our own well being. Certain it is that, soon or late, the days and years shall cease for us in which we can do either good or evil, for "the night cometh when no man can work." "See then, that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." In all human probability some of us, at least, shall not be able to come to the end of this new year in our present tabernacles. May it be our blessed assurance that when that time comes "we have a building of God an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

DEATHS DURING THE PAST YEAR

The following deaths of members of the New Holland charge have occurred during the year, 1908: Mrs. Lydia Hoover, Mrs. Susan B. Mentzer, Mrs. Annie M. Mentzer, Mrs. Ellen Seldomridge, all members of St. Stephen, New Holland, and Mrs. Sarah Schrader, of St. Paul, Voganville. Besides these, the pastor also officiated at the funerals of the following: Miss Annie Lousa Diller, daughter of Isaac Diller, Intercourse; Wesley R. Bair, son of Franklin and Mrs. Bair, of near Ellwerth; Mrs. Sarah E. Hull, New Holland, and Amelia Elizabeth, daughter of William and Bella L. Steffy, of Intercourse. This list shows that there have been an unusual number of deaths among the confirmed members in the New Holland congregation (St. Stephen), one in St. Paul, and none at all in Zeltenreich.

JOHN CALVIN.

July 10, 1909, will be the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of this great Reformer, at Noyon in Picardy. His admirers all over the world propose to celebrate this day. A committee of our General Synod prepared an elaborate program of suggestions for its fitting observance by our churches. The Reformed churches of Europe have made special arrangements for honoring Calvin's memory at this time.

Among all the Reformers he stands foremost as a thinker, as an exegete, as a constructive theologian, as a leader of men. Back of him was no

glamour of being the embodiment of the national spirit, as in the case of Luther.

The nations which fell under the sway of Calvin's system became the stout defenders of civil liberty, of constitutional rights over all human despotism. The man who firmly plants his feet on the rock of divine sovereignty cannot be afraid of anybody, whosoever he be, in whose nostrils is the breath of life. Do we wonder that the fourth centennial of the birth of such a man stirs the pulses of men to quicker action?—The Reformed Church Year Book.

ON THE SICK LIST.

Mrs. Lemon R. Boyer is seriously ill at her home near New Holland, and Mrs. Anna Skramusky, at the age of 89 years, is patiently awaiting release from her afflictions.

MARRIED.

At the residence of Rev. Christopher Noss D. D., Lancaster, December 9, 1908, by the pastor, John H. C. Heffner, of Reading, to Miss Rena N. Durand, of Mount Holly, New Jersey.

BAPTISM.

At the home of Lemon R. Boyer, Sr., near New Holland, January 7, 1909, Mary Ellen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lemon R. Boyer, Jr., born August 20, 1908.

DEATH.

Amelia Elizabeth, infant daughter of William and Bella L. Steffy, of Intercourse, died December 27, 1908, aged 2 months. Interment on the following Tuesday in St. Stephen cemetery, New Holland.

I do not know why we should delay our tokens of respect to those who deserve them, until the heart that our sympathy could have gladdened, has ceased to beat. As men cannot read the epitaphs inscribed upon the marble that covers them, so the tombs that we erect to their virtue often only prove our repentance that we neglected them when with us.—Horace.

Religious principles inculcated in a child's heart are like golden nails which time drives in faster, and no philosophical claw can completely draw out.—Anon.

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DIRECTORY.

PASTOR.

Rev. John G. Noss, New Holland.

ZELTENREICH.

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

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James W. Brubaker, New Holland R. F. D.
Louis C. Leberman, New Holland R. F. D.
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ST. PAUL, VOGANVILLE.

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Deacons.

Isaac P. Mull, Voganville.
Andrew F. Shrom, Voganville.
Charles E. Seldomridge, Voganville.
John M. Good, Ephrata, R. F. D.

The heart needs not for its heaven much space, nor many stars therein, if only the star of love has risen.—Richter.

Many men employ the first part of their life to make the other part miserable.—La Bruyere.

Noble blood is an accident of fortune; noble actions characterize the great.—Goldoni.

Rest satisfied that whatever is by the appointment of heaven is right and is best.—James Hervey.

A man has no more goods than he gets the good of.—Scottish.

To forget a wrong is the best revenge.—English.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for January are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

Sunday, 3rd., 10 a. m.,
Sunday, 17th., 1 p. m.
Saturday, 30th., Confirmation and Preparatory service, 2 p. m.
Sunday, 31st, Holy Communion 10 a. m.

St. Stephen.

Sunday, 3rd., 7 p. m.
Sunday, 10th., 7 p. m.
Sunday, 17th., 10:30 a. m.
Saturday, 23rd., Preparatory service, 2 p. m.

Sunday, 24th., Holy Communion 10:30 a. m.

Sunday, 31st, 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, 10th., 10 a. m.
Sunday, 24th., 2 p. m.

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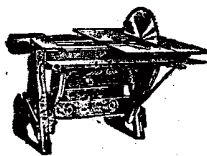
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