

Gilbert Cope
9-11-1920.

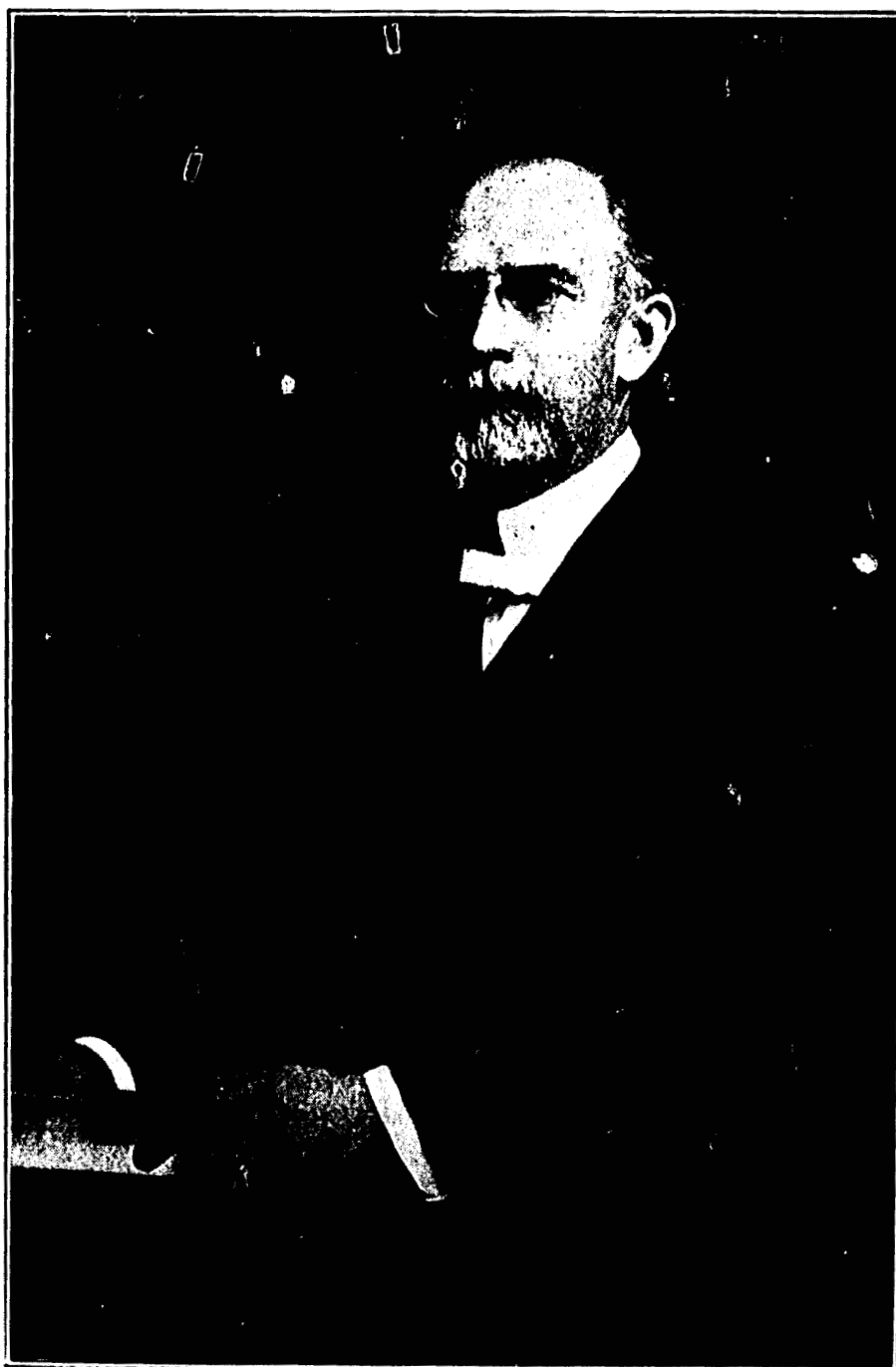
Two Hundredth Anniversary
OF
Middletown Presbyterian Church

Elwyn, Delaware County,
Pennsylvania

Celebrated, September 11th and 12th, 1920

Historical Sketch and Information
With Illustrations

Prepared by the Publicity Committee



REV. WILLIAM TENTON KRUSE, Pastor

Historical Sketch of The Middletown Presbyterian Church of Delaware County, Pennsylvania

By WILLIAM TENTON KRUSE, Pastor

The church here and its burial ground is a spot where much history has been enacted. The organization antedates by fifty years and more the Revolutionary war and the Declaration of Independence, and the site is within five miles westward of where William Penn first landed on the shores of the



THE PRESENT CHURCH

Delaware. Indian chief, British red-coat, and colonial soldier have alike pressed foot upon its sacred soil. Here sleep patriots of the Revolutionary and civil wars, ministers and physicians, and noble men and women from the various walks of life who served well their God, their country and their generation.



Interior of Church 1920

THE
Middletown Presbyterian Church

ELWYN, PA.



TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

1720 - 1920

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11th.

Historical Review

10.30 o'clock.

Hon. William C. Sproul, Governor of Pennsylvania, Presiding.

(Not there)

Organ Prelude.

Long Meter Doxology.

Invocation, with Lord's Prayer.

Special Music.

Psalter—Selection 8, led by the Pastor.

The Gloria.

Hymn, No. 155—"Ye Servants of God Your Master Proclaim".

Scripture Lesson—Isaiah 60. Rev. William R. Houston, First Church, Chester.

Prayer—Rev. S. Harper Leeper, Media Church.

Dedication of Mural Tablet.

Hymn No. 157—"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name".

Historical Address. Rev. William Tenton Kruse, Pastor.

Music.

Greetings:—Rev. Dr. Winfield S. Kreger.

Moderator of the Presbytery of New Castle.

Rev. Dr. John Grant Newman.

Moderator of the Presbytery of Phila.

Our Oldest Daughters, Ridley and Marple:

Rev. Dr. John E. Tuttle, Swarthmore Church.

Rev. Robert F. Stirling, Marple Church.

Prayer.

Hymn, No. 422—"Faith of Our Fathers, Living Still".

Benediction.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 11th.

Presbytery Afternoon

2.30 o'clock.

Rev. Wm. Rankin Huston, Chairman Presbytery's Historical Committee, Presiding

Special Music.

Hymn, No. 301—"Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken".

Scripture Lesson—Psalm 90.

Prayer.

Brief Addresses by Presbytery's Delegation.

Ministers:—Rev. Samuel C. Hodge, Moderator.

Rev. Dr. John B. Rendall.

Rev. Dr. William W. Heberton.

Rev. William Boyd.

Music.

Elders:—Harry Pringle Ford, Olivet Church.

John Welsh Dulles, West Chester First.

C. I. Leiper, Media Church.

William H. Ridgway, Coatesville Church.

Prayer.

Hymn, No. 304—"The Church's One Foundation."

Benediction.

SUNDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 12th.

Morning Worship

10.30 o'clock

The Pastor in Charge.

Organ Prelude.

Doxology.

Invocation with Lords' Prayer.

Psalter—Selection 17.

The Gloria.

Hymn No. 409—"Hail to the Brightness of Zion's Glad Morning".

Scripture Lesson— Psalm 89.

Prayer.

Special Music.

Notices and Offering.

Hymn No. 117—"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past".

Sermon—"Remember the Days of Old,"- Deut 32:7.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin McKee Gemmill,

Stated Clerk Synod of Penna.

Prayer.

Hymn No. 411—"Fling Out the Banner! Let It Float".

Benediction.

Afternoon Session

2.30 o'clock.

Featuring the Sabbath School and Our Young People.

Elder John C. Apgar, Superintendent, Presiding.

Special Music With Exercises.

Addresses by Rev. Henry F. Wilkie and Albert Dutton McDade, Esquire.

Luncheon will be served and social hour enjoyed between the sessions morning and afternoon.

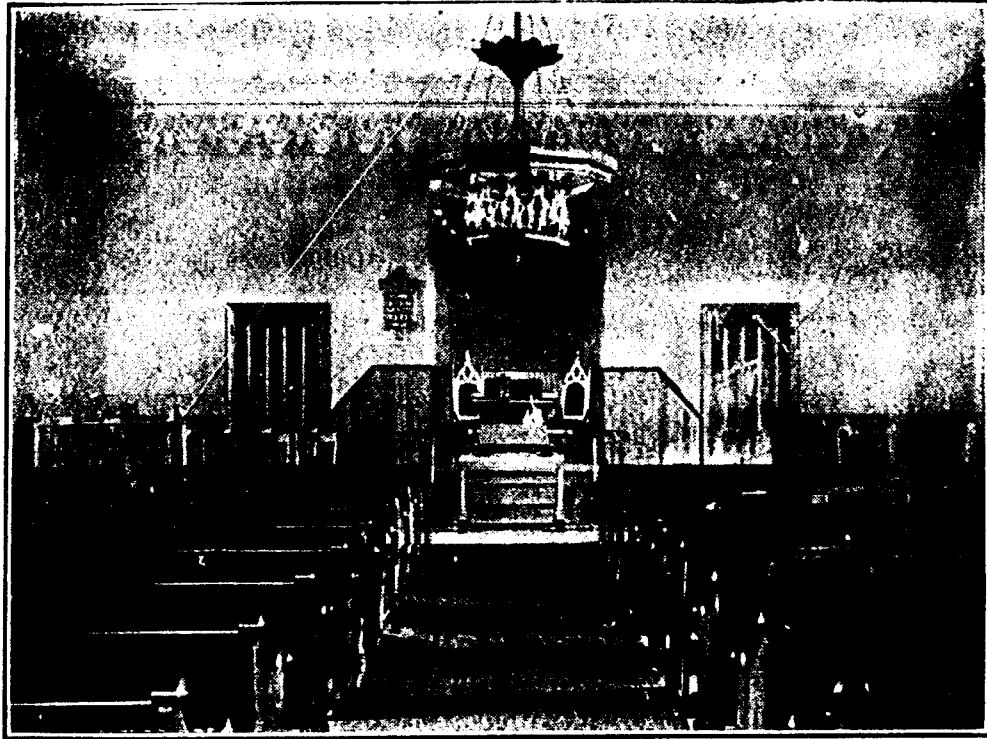
For two centuries now however, the soldiers of the Great King have preempted this sacred spot for Divine Worship and the sacred rites of Christian burial. The historical facts here enacted are abundant and if they had only been adequately preserved would be of surpassing interest. Early in his ministry here the present pastor picked up two Indian arrow-heads in perfect preservation which after long years had worked their way to the surface. Unlike those arrow-heads all the early records of the church have been lost never to be recovered. Tradition long handed down has it that they perished in a fire in the year 1802 that destroyed the home of the pastor, Rev. Thomas Grier, on the Middletown road near where the Bonsall house now stands. The subsequent records earlier than 1846 either were never properly kept or have somehow disappeared, and with a like fate since the 175th Anniversary observed in 1895 the records of the Board of Trustees dating from 1846, in which much valuable information regarding the changes made in the building since 1798 was recorded, were destroyed in the fire which consumed the home and fine library of James W. Howarth, Esquire, secretary of the Board for thirty years on the night of December 12, 1906. Only the Sessional records from the beginning of Dr. Dale's ministry in 1846 are left in possession of the congregation.

However, we know a group of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians were settled in this locality by 1720, and true to their conscience and convictions they soon brought the church with them. Among them we know were McClellans, Lindsays, Blacks, McMinns, Linns, Millars, Hunters, Caldwells, etc., etc. The principal fact relied on along with all the confirmatory circumstances that establish this date is the life-long testimony of Mrs. Mary Ann Howarth, mother of the late James W. Howarth, Esquire. She was born in 1809 and died in 1892. She always said the church was organized in 1720. Her memory would link up with those living at the time the early records were destroyed by fire in 1802. Moreover, Dr. Smith in his History of Delaware County mentions the fact that there stood in the grounds here a stone bearing the date of 1724. That stone has disappeared as others are known to have disappeared. Nor is it at all likely that that stone marked the earliest interment here, for in those days it was the exceptional thing for a grave to be marked by any engraved stone at all. And if God's people begun to bury here it is certain that they had already begun to worship here.

With this introduction this sketch will center around four heads:

1. The acquisition and occupancy of this site. Nothing definite is known prior to 1751. But in that year on the 2nd and 3rd days of August, Henry Caldwell and his wife (widow of Robert McClellan) and the whole family of McCellans, consisting of six sons and five daughters (four of them with their husbands jointly) passed title for the original piece of ground of about three-fifths of an acre together with the "frame building" thereon to a Board of six Trustees, namely John McMicheal, William Lindsay, John McMinn, James Lindsay, Joseph McCloskie and Samuel Black. The deed was accompanied by a Declaration of Trust on the part of these six men (the original parchment of which we still have in our possession) that, "by the direction and appointment of the members or persons belonging to the Presbyterian Society at Middletown under the care of the Synod of Philadelphia and members of the Presbyterian of New Castle," they held the property in trust only "for the benefit, use, and behoof of all persons members of and belonging to the said Presbyterian Society at Middletown to perform divine service in and upon according to the canons and ecclesiastical constitutions of the kirk of Scotland, and for a place to bury their dead."

This evidently was only making legal and placing on record what for



Interior of Church After Renovation 1895



Interior of Church as Rebuilt After Fire of 1879

years had been done by generous sufferance of the owners who now became the donors.

In 1762 two of the members of this Board of Trustees having died, or resigned, their places were filled and the Board enlarged to nine members, as follows, William Lindsay Hugh Linn, James Lindsay, John McMinn, James Black, Charles Linn, Joseph Hemphill and Thomas Trimble. To this enlarged Board on the 10th day of May in that year was deeded, for the consideration of "the sum of three pounds good and lawful money," by Robert McCellan and Agnes his wife nearly an acre of additional ground, no doubt with the view and in preparation for the erection of the stone building which was effected in 1766.

On August 27th, 1822, the Board of Trustees, then consisting of Robert McCellan, Henry Forest, John Craig, Samuel Black, Andrew Lindsay, James Craig and Aaron Huston, took title of Peter Scravendyke, or Philadelphia, "tallow chandler" the deed says, for one-half acre and fifteen square perches of land for the sum of seventy-five dollars for the purposes set forth in the Declaration of Trust of 1751 and rehearsed in the Indenture made in 1803 when the entire property was reconveyed by the surviving Trustees of 1762 to new ones then chosen, which parchment Indenture is in the possession of the church and was recorded in the Recorder of Deeds Office for Delaware County, May 6, 1811.

Again, on August 15th, 1850, the Trustees then existing, namely, Henry Forest, William T. Crook, Samuel Riddle, John C. Beatty, Joseph H. Hinkson, I. Engle Hinkson, Thomas T. Williams, Bernard Vanleer and John Cochran, took title of the heirs of Robert Fairlamb, deceased, for three acres at a cost of four hundred and fifty dollars. This land constituted the newer portion of the cemetery which was plotted and laid out in 1850.

These several grants and purchases made a total of about five and one-quarter acres contained in the church site and burying ground, and the present Trustees have just recently on June 18th, 1920, taken title in the name of the church to three additional acres to be plotted and added to the cemetery, thereby enlarging the church grounds to eight and a quarter acres.

2. The Buildings that have stood there. Previous to 1729 it is not certain that there was a church building of any kind, the congregation then small and struggling meeting as they were able to secure preaching at the home most probably of the owner of the ground where now the church building stands, doubtless the most active and earnest spirit among them and whose name as appears from the old Deed of Trust executed in 1751, already referred to, was one Robert McClellan. For that Deed of Trust sets forth that in August of that year, Elizabeth the widow of Robert McClellan, who by a second marriage was at that time the wife of Henry Caldwell, and her eleven children by her first marriage, six sons and five daughters, had on that date by deed conveyed the plot of ground and the "frame building" thereon to six Trustees for the use of the Presbyterian Society there worshipping as a place of worship forever. Of course, it is possible and such seems to have been the early tradition that there was erected here a small log church from the beginning; if so, it was this rude log structure that in 1729-1730 was superseded by the "frame building thereon" as named in the Deed of Trust. At least we have the definite record of the action of the Presbytery of New Castle in April, 1729, as follows: "The Presbytery agrees and concurs in Brandywine and Middletown in their building a house at Middletown, agreed on by both, provided they continue a united congregation until Presbytery see cause to make a separation, and that they be equally supplied." This joint relation of Middletown with Brandywine seems to have been continued until 1768. The motive and encouragement for this new and more commodious frame

building in 1730 is obvious; for Middletown thereby was enabled for the first time to secure, at least, one half of a pastor's stated labors. There is no doubt but that at that time a frame church building was erected here, and Rev. Robert Cathcart became the first pastor under this joint arrangement with Brandywine.

The frame building served the uses of the congregation until 1766 when it was replaced by a more substantial and commodious stone structure. Those stone walls of 1766 remain hard as adamant through all the changes of the years in the edifice of to-day. In that year "James Lindsay, of Aston Township, and Andrew McMinn, superintended the erection of the new church". That was the statement given by Mr. James McMullin who said he began attending services with his father here in 1795, which statement was recorded under date of August 26, 1852, in the minute book of the Trustees which was destroyed in the Howarth fire in 1906. The writer himself saw and read and noted that statement of Mr. McMullin.

This stone building during the more than one hundred and fifty years of its existence has undergone several modifications and repairs of which we have definite knowledge of three, two of which made it save the walls practically a new building.

In 1798 it was thoroughly repaired, so far as repairs were needed, and the first stove put in the old session house (Could this have been the old original log church?) by which to warm themselves before entering the church after their long horseback rides; for in those days the congregation came on horseback with saddle and pillion for man and wife, sweetheart, child, and friend. Mrs. Howarth the mother of James W. Howarth, who first began to attend Divine service here in 1824, often told her son how the church would be crowded and not a vehicle on the ground, even as to-day the church might be full and not a horse on the ground, the auto having so largely displaced the horse. For years the two old mounting blocks stood here in the yard till at last for non-use they were allowed to crumble away, and the old ford over Chester creek at what was then known as Presbyterian Ford, now called Mt. Alverno station, may still be clearly seen along side of the bridge, and the bridle path leading from it up to the church may still be traced on the adjoining farm.

In 1846, at the outset of Dr. Dale's ministry, the building being "considerably dilapidated," to use the words of the record, it was again thoroughly overhauled and repaired, and enlarged ten feet at the front end, and improved by internal changes, the modern pulpit replacing the one that stood "ten feet above the heads of the people," reached by a staircase and in which the minister disappeared from view save as he stood up to preach or pray. It is believed also in this renovation that the entrance was changed from the middle of the south side to the west end of the building as it to-day. It was further enlarged by the addition of the stone Sunday school room at the east end of the church, entrance to which was had by the door on the right side of the pulpit. But the old-fashioned high box-pews were retained, and it was in this church that in 1858 the first stoves were placed and there being no chimneys the smoke pipe was carried through terra-cotta flues through the roof, which arrangement ultimately proved the occasion of the fire that destroyed the building in 1879.

This fire of 1879, which occurred on the afternoon of Saturday, February 1st, entirely consumed the interior, leaving only the bare walls. The fires had been built, and some of the pipes became overheated and set fire to the roof. The high wind blowing at the time made the effort to save the build-

ing hopeless, and in less than two hours all was in ashes. Immediately steps were taken to rebuild, the effort being to reproduce the old church building in the new so far as neatness, comfort and modern use would admit. The old adamantine walls were found in tact, needing only to be re-studded. For the first time chimneys were put in and a hot-air furnace for heating the building installed. This required the excavation of a section of the cellar, which was done. The old-fashioned box-pews were not reproduced, but the interior was finished in the modern, substantial and comfortable manner which we now enjoy. In this rebuilding, however, the Sunday school room of 1846 was not rebuilt, but was razed.

The rebuilding cost approximately two thousand dollars which the many friends of Old Middletown within and beyond the congregation eagerly oversubscribed, and so rapidly was the work pushed that on Sunday, July 13, 1879, the church was re-dedicated, the pastor, Rev. Thomas D. Jester, conducting the services, assisted by Revs. Drs. J. W. Dale, P. H. Mowry, and Thomas McCauley.

The congregation had already determined to build a parsonage and funds for the purpose were in hand when the church fire arrested this project for the time, but no sooner was the church rebuilt and encouraged by the oversubscriptions this project was at once resumed, and under the leadership of the pastor, Mr. Jester, the existing neat and substantial parsonage, the first the church had ever possessed, was built in 1880. In 1890 under the present pastorate it was enlarged by the addition of four rooms to the rear wing. In 1909 a complete hot-and-cold water system with modern bathroom was installed; in 1913 the hot-water heating plant was installed; and in 1917 the electric lighting system was introduced in both church and parsonage. This beautiful electric light installation was the generous gift of the late Mrs. Maria P. Welles, at the parsonage in memory of her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pancoast, and at the church in memory of her husband, Mr. Charles Salter Welles. In 1895 the interior of the church was thoroughly renovated and decorated, and recarpeted, and again in 1919 the interior has been neatly and tastefully renovated.

3. Those who have served the church as Supplies and Pastors. Among the earliest casual supplies in all probability were Rev. George Gillespie and Rev. Daniel Magill and certainly Rev. Thomas Creaghead and Rev. John Tennent. Mr. Tennent succeeded Creaghead as supply at Brandywine and Middletown in 1729, at the same time he received calls from Lower Brandywine, and Lower Octorara. At the next meeting of the Presbytery he reported that "he had no clearness for accepting either." When the time came to close his supplying at Brandywine and Middletown, in April 1730, he settled at Freehold, New Jersey, where he died two years later, fulling a brief but brilliant ministry.

Rev. Robert Cathcart appears before the Presbytery of New Castle in October, 1729. He supplied this church in connection with Brandywine during that fall. In November 1730, Brandywine and Middletown made him a joint call which he accepted, and he became the first pastor of this church. The exact date of his installation is not known. But he continued to serve the congregation for at least ten years, until 1741, when he resigned to take up his labors with the First Church of Wilmington which was organized in 1740.

For the ensuing interval of twenty years nothing is known, the records of the Presbytery for that period being lost. But in 1759 the existing records of the Presbytery of New Castle are resumed, and we know Rev. William



FORMER PASTOR'S

James W. Dole, D. D.
Alvin H. Parker, D. D.

John L. Janeway, D. D., (Supply)
Rev. Thomas D. Jester

McKennen, or McKannan, was supply in 1763, and Rev. James Davidson in 1764. In November of that year, Middletown and Brandywine jointly called him to become their pastor, but holding the call under consideration until the following spring, he declined it. Again, in March, 1767, the two churches issued a call to Rev. Thomas McCrackin, which call at Synod in Philadelphia, in May of that year, he declined. The two congregations having failed twice in their joint call seem to have terminated in 1768 the union existing between them since 1730, for in that year Lower Brandywine brought into Presbytery a call alone for Rev. Joseph Smith, which he accepted. Middletown undoubtedly continued on with supplies until in 1770 Mr. James Anderson, a licentiate under care of Presbytery, having supplied the congregation received their call. He was ordained by the Presbytery at a meeting held at Middletown, June 23, 1771, and installed the same day as pastor. He remained until his death, September 22, 1793. His body is interred at the southeast corner of the church, where a marble slab marks his grave. The inscription bears witness to his humility and zeal.

"Modest thro' life, an humble path he trod,
And passed his days in service of his God;
To guilty men he preached redeeming grace,
Till death's unsparing scythe cut short his race;
Called by his glorious Master to the skies,
He now enjoys, we hope, the immortal prize."

After his death, the records of Presbytery on June 17, 1794, have this entry: "Mr. John Miller, a commissioner from the congregation at Middletown in Pennsylvania, requests Presbytery to supply that congregation for six months longer, in consideration of which, said congregation agrees to pay the widow of their late pastor their usual yearly stipend. He also reports that said congregation are preparing to pay the widow for the last six months, agreeably to their engagement". This is a fine touch evidencing the considerate treatment with which Middletown has ever regarded her ministers.

Then followed a period of supplies until 1801, among whom were Revs. Messrs. Ralston, Sample, Barr, Robert Smith, Davidson, Sherman, Mitchell, Read, Woods, and Thomas Grier. Mr. Grier was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of New Castle, April 3, 1800, and on December 16, 1801, he was ordained and installed pastor at Middletown. He resigned, September 30, 1808. He was succeeded by Nathaniel Randolph Snowden who, while as it appears was never formally installed, acted as pastor till 1817.

On April 2, 1811, in Presbytery, "Mr. Snowden presented a petition signed by six members of Middletown praying to be set apart from New Castle to Philadelphia Presbytery." The petition was refused. But on September 29, 1813, Mr. Snowden was dismissed by the Presbytery of New Castle in session at New London to the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and on April 16, 1816, Middletown was taken into the care of Philadelphia Presbytery, Synod having so decreed. Thus it was under Mr. Snowden's ministry and by reason of his influence and effort, Middletown was transferred in 1816 to the Presbytery of Philadelphia in whose connection it remained until the organization of the Presbytery of Chester in 1870.

From the resignation of Mr. Snowden in 1817 until the installation of Rev. Mr. Parker in 1833, the church was again served by supplies, among whom successively in order may be mentioned Rev. Nathaniel Todd, Rev. Garry Bishop, Rev. Robert McCachran, and Rev. Mr. Harned. All of these were more than merely occasional supplies, although it is true the list of occasional supplies is quite numerous as may be seen from the Treasurer's

book of that period. But with May 6, 1832, Rev. Alvin H. Parker began to supply regularly, and was installed pastor in 1833. He faithfully served the church until 1839.

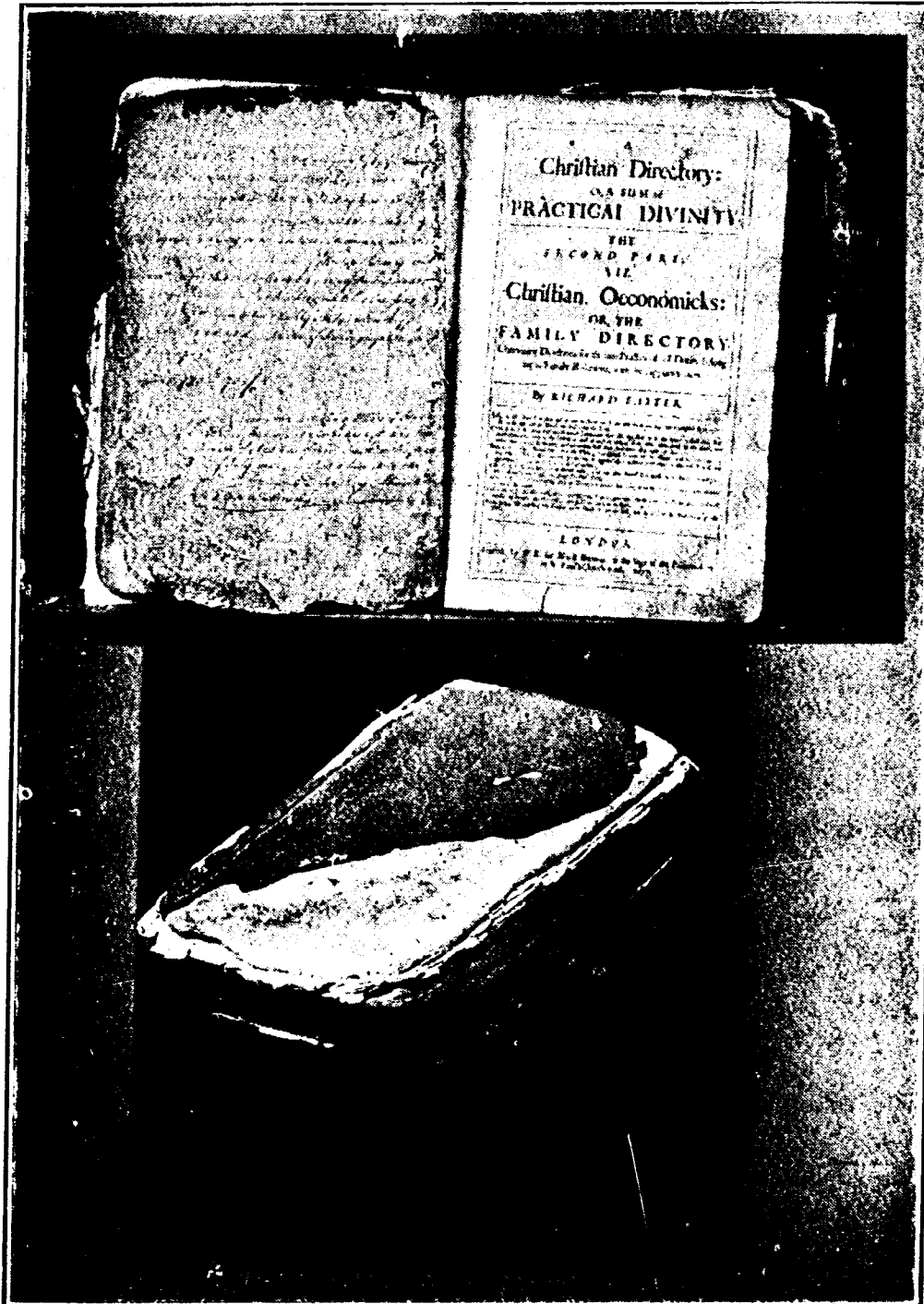
The church again entered on a period of supplies among whom were Rev. John L. Janeway in 1840, Rev. S. P. Helme seems to have fulfilled a brief pastorate in 1841-2, Rev. Thomas Hoge was supply in 1843, Rev. J. Martin Connell in 1844, Rev. William L. McCalla in 1845.

With the coming of Dr. Dale, who was installed May 17, 1846, the church entered on a new period of prosperity. He gathered around him men of influence and consecration, such as John C. Beatty, William T. Crook and John Cochran. His pulpit eloquence attracted an increased congregation. The church building was repaired and enlarged, and a Sunday school room added; the newer portion of the cemetery bought and beautifully plotted and drives laid out according to the plan of 1850. Yet the larger influence of Dr. Dale's ministry, great as it was at Middletown, reached out into the surrounding region, for his parish truly was ten miles square in the heart of Delaware county where his labors in the founding of other churches in such centers as Chester and Media abide increasingly to this day. He, however, continued his watchful pastoral care of old Middletown until he resigned his charge at Media and Middletown on August 3, 1871, when he accepted the call to the Wayne church. But as he continued his residence in Media he never ceased his interest in this church, and when the young pastor, Rev. Thomas Darlington Jester, fresh from the Seminary, was ordained and installed, January 15, 1874, no one more cordially welcomed him than did Dr. Dale.

The church here owes Mr. Jester a debt of undying gratitude. He came to a small and discouraged membership and under his leadership they were instilled with fresh courage and effort. The cemetery had become a wilderness and they again subdued it to beauty. The wall around the southern and eastern fronts was built. And it was under his ministry that the fire of 1879 occurred and the church rebuilt, as also the first parsonage erected. In 1874 the first June Festival was held, netting the handsome sum of approximately five hundred dollars with which the church sheds were built. Ever since this annual June Festival has continued to be a unique and delightful occasion in the life of the church. Among the notable workers who gathered around Mr. Jester may be mentioned Mr. and Mrs. James W. Howarth, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Pancoast, Mr. and Mrs. Judge Tyson, Mr. and Mrs. William G. Vanleer, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Trimble Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Aaron M. Hoskins, Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Welles, Mrs. Thomas Yarnall and Mrs. Samuel Wells, Miss Mary Lousia Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Nelling, Mrs. Jacob Williams and family, as also the Schofield family. These together with their children were then and have continued to be among the most active workers in the maintenance of the church in its temporal and spiritual success.

Mr. Jester's pastorate which closed in July 1889 was succeeded by the present pastorate which began with the third Sabbath of November 1889. This pastorate which happily continues to this present time speaks for itself. Much has been done for God's cause during these thirty years the detailed record of which would be most interesting, but the limits of this sketch have already been exceeded. Suffice it to say that the temporal and spiritual prosperity of the church have been enhanced, the first Missionary Society and Mission Bands, as well as the Christian Endeavor Society, which have been such fruitful blessings, organized, and the Sabbath school actively maintain-

ed so that at times it has had a front-line record. There have been continued and at times large accessions to the membership, so that despite many deaths and removals the present active membership is 160 as compared with 75 in 1889. Especially the missionary and benevolent activities of the congregation have been developed and directed with gratifying results.



BAXTER'S DIRECTORY
The Old Book

4. In conclusion, some notable features in the history of the church are worthy to be mentioned. This is the oldest Presbyterian church in what is now Delaware county. For an even hundred years she stood solitary and alone the only Presbyterian church for fifteen or twenty miles around. She has now become a mother of churches. In 1820 old Ridley now Leiper Memorial was organized. In 1834 Marple was organized. In 1844 Darby First now Glenolden; in 1853 Chester First, in 1854 Darby Borough, in 1866 Media and Chester second, and in 1880 Glen Riddle. All these with the exception of Darby First and Darby Borough were the direct outcome of old Middletown, so that to-day were all the members of these churches in the mother church the membership would run into the thousands.

By 1735 this congregation under Mr. Cathcart's ministry seems to have been well established and well known not only among the colonies but across the seas. For in that year it was that the Rev. Dr. Isaac Watts, of London, presented to the congregation and its ministers along with a copy of his Book of Hymns the precious folio volume of Richard Baxter's Christian Directory, which although much worn and torn by age has survived the waste of years and is still the treasured possession of the church. On the fly-leaf of the old volume presumably in Dr. Watt's own handwriting is the following inscription:

"This Book, called Mr. Baxter's Directory, was given by ye Reverened Dr. Watts, of London, to ye Protestant Dissenting Congregation usually assembling at Middletown in Pennsylvania, that people who come from far and spend the whole day there may have something proper to entertaintain themselves with, or to read to one another between the seasons of worship, morning and afternoon; and 'tis for this end entrusted to ye care of ye Protestant Dissenting Minister who preaches there, and to his successors, to be used by him or them in their weekly studys when they please, and to be secured and devoted to the use of ye congregation on ye Lord's days.

Jan'y 30th, 1735-6.

"The Book is committed to the care of Mr. Benj. Hawley to be carried over to Pennsylvania, and after he has kept it in his own hands and made the best use of it for six months, that is, till the 30th of July next, he shall deliver it to the hands of the present Protestant Dissenting Minister for the purposes before mentioned."

Mr. John P. Crozer speaking of old Middletown under date of October 4th, 1842, wrote:

"This ancient edifice, truly venerable in appearance, was erected by godly men (he was speaking of the stone building of 1766), who have for three-quarters of a century slept in death. This is one of the oldest places of worship in the whole country and its substantial and venerable walls testify that the yeomanry by whom they were erected were willing to honor God with their substance, and in that day when farm-houses were of the plainest and simplest kind, they were willing to pay for a large and commodious edifice, and dedicate it to the worship of Almighty God."

And it may be added that among the yeomanry of that day to whom Mr. Crozer refers, noble men indeed all of them, were the Linsdays who, having built their own brick house in Aston in 1755, like David in his house of cedar, could not rest satisfied to live in their substantial home without their utmost diligence to secure a suitable stone structure for the worship of Almighty God such as they and their compeers erected in 1766. The Lindsay house it still standing, and in the gable end you may see the marble tablet bearing the date.

It is credibly stated that George Whitefield the great evangelist, the Moody and Sunday of his day, preached here to a congregation of some thousands assembled in 1741.

The humble grave of Rev. John Smith in the church yard is worthy of mention. He was an occasional supply here from 1817 and became founder and first pastor of the old Blue Meeting-house, now extinct, and has the honorable distinction of having been the first minister in Delaware county to preach against the evils of intemperance. In this Dr. Dale became his lineal and effective successor, pioneers in the great Prohibition Amendment which has now been happily written into the National Constitution.

Worthy of mention also is the grave of Isaac Snowden, Esquire, which lies in the yard immediately to the rear of the pulpit end of church, the inscription of which is the most classic epitaph in its purity of style and chaste eulogy to be found anywhere. It justifies its transcription in full here.

Sacred to the Memory of
ISAAC SNOWDEN, Esqr.,
Late of Philadelphia
Who departed this life Dec'r 26, 1809
In his 78th year.

Thro a long, various and active life
The approbation of his God, predominant
Over every earthly motive, government his heart
And stamped its seal visibly on every action,
A sincere and humble disciple of Christ
He diffused wherever he appeared the saviour of piety.
Directed by this Heaven-born principle.
He was enabled to sustain the various relations of life
With distinguished honor.

In public life as Treasurer for many years
Of the city and County of Philadelphia
He was inflexibly honest and punctual;
In his private walk and social duties full of charity and zeal,
Of Church judicatories a constant and useful member,
In the patronage and direction of institution of learning;
And benevolence active, prompt and liberal;
To the ministers of Jesus he was ever most affectionately devoted
For the prosperity of Zion and glory of God lay nearest his heart,
This was his supreme, his master passion.
He was an excellent husband and friend,
And a most zealous lover of his country.
To his children his tenderness knew no bounds,
And this strong and ardent affection being at once sanctified and blest
He enjoyed the singular felicity of seeing four of his sons
Enter the sacred desk and proclaim the triumphs of the Cross.
Living with his son* the pastor of this church
To the erection of which he had largely contributed
By his own desire his body is here deposited and in
The fullest assurance of a Glorious Resurrection.

"For me to live is Christ,
To die is gain."

* Rev. Nathaniel Rudolph Snowden.

A marked token of God's favor to Old Middletown and the evidence of the devotion of her people is the fact that she has been a church of long and faithful pastorates. Her ministers have loved to stay and she has loved to have them stay. For the past seventy-five years she has had but three pastors of whom the present pastor continues the third in the succession.

The church here as Jerusalem of old is beautiful for situation, standing on this hill-top whence in all directions the eye sweeps a surrounding country rich in the variety of its beauty and enterprise, overlooking Media, Chester City, and the Delaware river whose channel may be traced as a band of burnished silver in the morning sunlight, and at nightfall you may clearly discern on the face of the sky the reflected lights of Philadelphia and Wilming-

ton. Altogether in itself and in its history, in its memories sacred and inspiring, a beautiful and consecrated spot. Surely her founders chose wisely and well, believing as they most surely did in giving the best of the land to the Lord. Here for two hundred years the people of God have gathered, praised and prayed, have worshipped and served, hoped and rejoiced and buried; and here they gather still on this hill of God as noble a band of loyal servants of Jesus Christ with at least some realization that their heritage is glorious as they remember the days of old when this was the only Presbyterian church for twenty and thirty miles the country around, and when from yonder old "Presbyterian Ford" and along the saddle-paths, from far and near, "the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord."

From out the whole history of these two hundred years one is forcefully impressed with the thought that God has always had a faithful people at Old Middletown. May they ever continue faithful and loyal until the King and the Kingdom come. Amen and Amen.

List of Ruling Elders as Known

Hugh Linn (1770)	William T. Crook (1866)
James Lindsay (1770)	Philip Nelling (1874-1894)
John Millar (1794)	John L. West (1874-1888)
John Evans (1809)	Aaron M. Hoskins (1874-1911)
Samuel Black (1817)	Thomas Pancoast (1879-1908)
John F. Vanleer (1723)	William Grover Vanleer (1882-1910)
John Burt (1843)	August Hormann (1907-1914)
Jacob Habbersett (1843-1851)	William Barnett, Jr., (1907—)
James McMullin (1844-1864)	J. Oscar Howarth, (1907—)
Nathan Shaw (1853)	John A. Yarnall, (1907—)
John F. Vanleer, 2nd (1853-1864)	John C. Apgar (1916—)
Andrew Muir (1853)	Norman D. Maddock, (1916—)

PRESENT OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

THE SESSION—Rev. William Tenton Kruse, Moderator; William Barnett, Jr., J. Oscar Howarth, John Albert Yarnall, John C. Apgar, Norman D. Maddock.

THE TRUSTEES—Dr. D. Wilmot Godon, President; J. Oscar Howarth, Vice President; John P. Huston, Secretary; H. Franklin Konkle, Treasurer; William Barnett, Jr., B. Frank Thomas, John E. Lawton, John A. Yarnall, William Penn Green.

William J. Green, Sexton.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL

The Sabbath School was first organized in 1835. The first superintendent was Miss Lydia Ann Donne, who with her sister, Miss Eliza Donne, were also the first teachers. Among the first scholars were Miss Mary E. Patterson, Miss Margaret (Mrs. Philip Nelling) Patterson, Miss Mary Louisa Williams, Miss Mary Ann (Mrs. Samuel Wells) Rodeback, Miss Amanda (Mrs. Charles Flanders) Hall, Miss Anna (Mrs. William Skill) Hall. From this list as given the writer it would appear, as is so often the case, godly women were



FORMER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Elder John Vance
 Elder Philip Nelling Judge Tyson
 Thomas Tribble Williams

Elder Aaron Hoskins
 Elder John L. West
 Amanda Hall
 First S. S. Scholar



FORMER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

William Barnett, Sr.
Trustee
Elder Thomas P. neconst
Mary Ann S. Howarth

Elder Charles S. Welles

Elder William G. Van Leer
Jorell L. Kelly
Trustee
James W. Howarth
Trustee

the pioneer in the cause. The men it would seem must have come to their aid for through the years the school has been continuously maintained, and there has been a worthy succession of faithful superintendents and devoted teachers



John C. Apgar
John A. Yarnall

PRESENT ELDERS
William Barnett, Jr.

Norman D. Maddock
J. Oscar Howarth



PRESENT OFFICERS

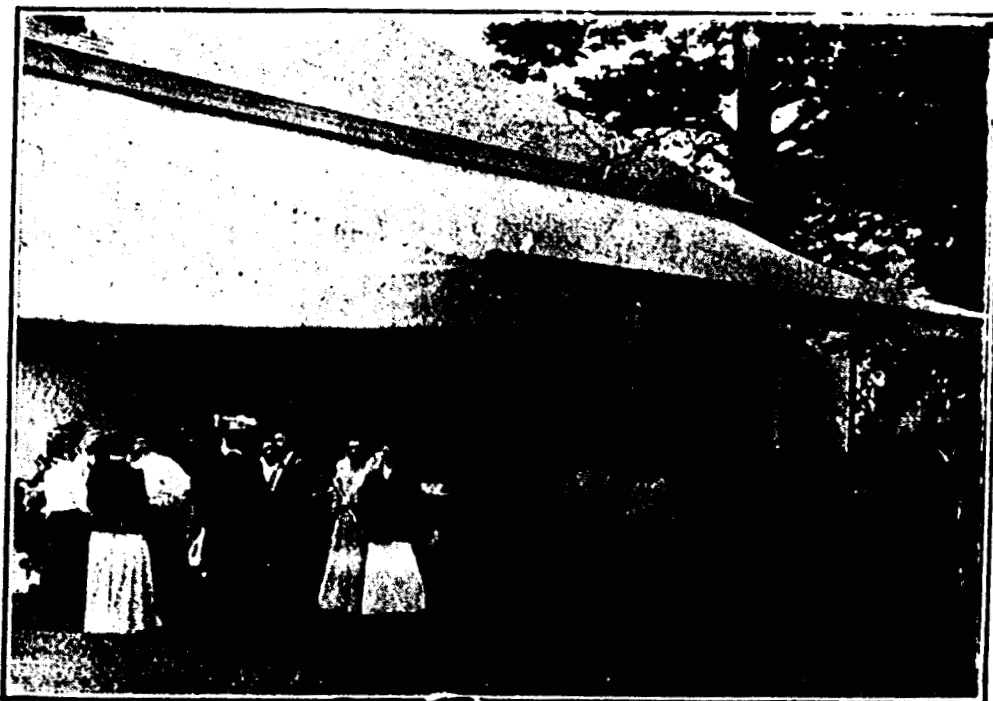
John E. Lawton
Trustee
H. Frank Thomas
Trustee

Dr. D. W. Godon
President of the Board
Treasurer
H. Franklin Konkle

William J. Green
25 Years Sexton
John P. Huston
Secretary

down to this present day. The Sabbath School has been a faithful ally of the church and its work has been richly blessed of God, and many a child has sung even as they love to sing to-day—

"No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little white church on the hill."



A Typical June Festival



The Parsonage

The succession of superintendents for the last thirty years during the present pastorate has been as follows: Elder Charles S. Welles, Elder J. Oscar Howarth, two terms, the Pastor, Samuel Smith Hannum, Bruce P. Tyler, Martin Lonenecker, Ralph F. Kahler, and Elder John C. Apgar, the present incumbent.



FORMER OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Emmeline S. Yarnall
Susanna Tyson

Marla P. Weller
Susan P. Panceast

Amy M. Van Leer
Susanna Fairlamb

bent; Elder John A. Yarnall, Assistant Superintendent; Chester R. Anderson, Secretary; Norman D. Maddock, Treasurer; Miss E. Louise Kruse, Superintendent Primary-Junior Department; Mrs. John A. Yarnall, Superintendent



PRESENT OFFICERS

Mary H. Huston
Clara Howarth
Sue C. Williams

Virginia L. Harrison

Carrie B. Stringfellow
M. Ethelyn Godon
Lillie M. Yarnall

Home Department; Mrs. J. Oscar Howarth, Superintendent Cradle Roll; Miss Anna Angar, Librarian; Miss Sue C. Williams, Organist.

Miss Mary H. Williams has been a faithful teacher in the Primary Department for over forty years, and Mr. Amos Carter, the faithful Treasurer for the past twenty-six years.

The present teachers are Miss Abbie A. Eyre, Men's Bible Class, Miss Susanna T. Bruton, Women's Bible Class, Mrs. C. F. VanHorn, Miss Sue C. Williams, Miss Karlana H. Kruse, in the main school. In the Primary-Junior Department, Rev. William T. Kruse, Miss E. Louise Kruse, Miss Mary H. Williams.

Mite Society

The Mite Society holds monthly meetings at the homes of the members where a business and a social time are enjoyed.

This Society assists the Trustees of the church in a financial way. A festival is held each year in June and the proceeds are given to the Trustees to help defray the church expenses. The festival held in June, 1920, was the forty-seventh annual one held by the society and proved to be one of the most enjoyable and profitable ones ever held. A check for \$326.98 was given to the Trustees as the proceeds of the 1920 festival.

The presidents who served this society since its beginning have been Mrs. Thomas Pancoast, Mrs. Wm. Vanleer, Mrs. James Howarth, Mrs. Samuel Harrison who has been president since 1907. The vice-presidents who have served are Rev. Wm. T. Kruse and the present vice-president, Mrs. D. W. Godon. The secretaries have been Mrs. Jorell Kelley, Mrs. John Huston, Miss Carrie Stringfellow and Miss Ethelyn Godon, the present secretary. The treasurers have been Mrs. Charles Welles, and Mrs. John A. Yarnall who is treasurer at the present time.

Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the Middletown Presbyterian Church

Thirty years ago, January, 1890, this society of the church was organized by our present pastor's wife, Mrs. Wm. Tenton Kruse, our president.

The missionary work of the society includes both the foreign and the home mission work as has been stated, and in these years much good has been accomplished in these fields.

Through the interest of Mrs. Charles S. Welles, our faithful member from the beginning of the organization of this society, the members have contributed regularly to Medical Missions, this most important work on the Foreign Field.

Our Home Mission work has been devoted chiefly to the making of shirts for the Indian boys of Tucson School, Arizona.

The society has purchased the material, made and sent during the thirty years between eight and nine hundred shirts.

We have always been interested in the mountaineers of the South.

During the past few years we have contributed to the Christian Americanization work in Chester. We have subscribed to magazines in both branches of the work, and met all our demands.

When the Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Kruse it numbered twenty faithful women. Throughout the years the number has not varied to any great extent.

As some were called by their Heavenly Father, and others removed from



WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Top Row—(left to right)—Mrs. H. F. Konkle, Mrs. Wadsworth Stoecker, Mrs. J. C. Angar, Mrs. C. E. Van Horn, Mrs. W. J. Green, Mrs. J. E. Lawton.
 (2nd Row)—Mrs. G. G. Ford, Mrs. J. P. Huston, Mrs. Samuel Dewees, Mrs. J. A. Cobourn, Mrs. J. A. Yarnall, Mrs. D. W. Godon, Mrs. James Shields, Mrs. G. W. Reed, Miss Goodheart, Mrs. W. P. Allen.
 (Seated)—Mrs. S. M. Harrison, Miss M. H. Williams, Mrs. W. T. Kruse, Mrs. Levi Roberts, Mrs. E. H. Panoast.

the community, new members were added to the role until today we have twenty-eight members.

Throughout all these thirty years we have had but one president, Mrs. Kruse, who by her beautiful Christian character has guided us through the years so wisely and well.

The following noble and devoted women have been officers.

Vice Presidents—Madam Welles, (dec'd), and Mrs. Thomas Pancoast, (dec'd).

The present Vice-president is Mrs. Jas. W. Howarth, who is also a charter member. The treasurers have been:—Mrs. L. S. Kelley, Mrs. Susanna Fairlamb, (dec'd), Mrs. Chas. S. Welles, (dec'd). Mrs. D. Wilmot Godon is the present treasurer. Those who have held the of secretary were—Mrs. Chas. S. Welles, (dec'd). Miss Carrie Stringfellow, Mrs. Fred Snyder. Mrs. J. Atwood Cobourn is the preesnt secretary.

Mrs. D. Wilmot Godon is the present treasurer.

Those who have held the office of secretary were—Mrs. Chas. S. Welles, (dec'd).

Miss Carrie Stringfellow, Mrs. Fred Snyder. Mrs. J. Atwood Cobourn is the present secretary.

The first Thursday of each month, except June, July and August, is the day on which the society meets, and we members of to-day look forward to that date just as eagerly as did those members in 1890! All-day meetings are held; the morning being devoted to sewing, the afternoon to the business and religious meeting.

And then the delightful noon-day meal with its splendid food and good fellowship has always been a most interesting feature!

With but very few exceptions, the meetings have always been held at the parsonage. Here the members for thirty years have been most cordially welcomed. What a record of faithfulness and love.

Of our President we all say;

"None know her but to love her,

None name here but to praise."

As we look in retrospect over these years we think of our delightful meetings; the hearts we have made happy and the burdens lightened; and above all we thank our Heavenly Father for his care and benignant love to us all.

SUE H. COBOURN,
Secretary.

The Girl's Perseverance Band

Under the leadership of Mrs. Wm. T. Kruse, a missionary society for girls was organized June 22, 1892. The following were enrolled as charter members:—Mrs. Kruse, President, Mary A. Howarth, Ella B. Carter, Agnes Mc-Granaham, Susie H. Welles, Nettie M. Reed, Bertie Fairlamb, Louise Kruse, Karlana Kruse, Grace Schofield, M. Lena Bonsall, Cora Thomas, Bertie Van-Leer.

Mrs. Kruse continued to be its most efficient and faithful president until the band temporarily disbanded in 1918.

This organization sent to Home and Foreign Missionary work in these years \$620.01. The Sitka school in Alaska and the mission school in Canton, China, were always remembered by a pledged sum. Other interests received their share also. In later years a sum was always given to assist the Italian work in our vicinity.

We hope that some one may be raised up to renew the activities of this society which meant so much to those who were privileged to attend its meetings and participate in the work.

The Young Men's Band

The Young Men's Band was organized in the year 1894 by Mrs. Charles S. Welles, who was its faithful President and leader for nineteen years. On account of the death of Mr. Welles she moved to Swarthmore and Mrs. John A. Yarnall, succeeded her as president in 1913. During these twenty-six years an average of ten meetings have been held each year, with an average attendance of six to eight boys.

The charter members were:—Mr. John A. Yarnall, treasurer, Mr. J. Harry Fairlamb, secretary, Mr. Walter Carter, Mr. Thomas Schofield, Mr. Henry M. Jones, Mr. Edmund Jones, Jr., Mr. Charles C. Welles, Mr. J. Oscar Howarth, Mr. Amos M. Carter, Mr. John P. Houston, Mr. Thomas J. Smith, Mr. Marion Fairlamb, Miss Louise Ives Welles.

The members of the Band to-day are:—Mr. Amos M. Carter, Mr. L. Newton Durboraw, secretary, Mr. Chester Anderson, Mr. Willis Durboraw, Jack Yarnall, Stanley Shields, Kessie Shields, Charles Moore, Lemuel Moore, Clarence Bonsall, John Babb, Russell Albright, Mrs. Wm. T. Kruse.

During these twenty-six years \$728.05 has been sent to Home and Foreign Missions to help send the gospel to all the world. This year, 1920, in connection with the 50th Jubilee Anniversary of the Woman's Missionary Society our Band had its share in the Young People's work which was to build a wall around True Light Seminary, Canton, China. We pray for more members and even a better financial report in the next twenty-six years for this Band.

MRS. JOHN A. YARNALL, President and Treasurer.



ROY'S MISSION BAND

(Standing)—John Babb, Lemuel Moore, Chester Anderson, Jack Yarnall, Stanley Shields.

(Seated)—Charles Moore, Kessie Shields, Mrs. J. A. Yarnall, Russell Albright.

The Christian Endeavor Society

The Christian Endeavor Society was organized through the leadership of the pastor, Rev. Wm. T. Kruse, on October 25, 1891. The following were enrolled as charter members. Active members:—Wm. T. Kruse, Charles S. Welles, Mary J. McIntyre, Mary S. Carter, Mary A. Wells, Samuel Hannum, Joshua C. Carter, Wm. G. VanLeer, Mary E. Patterson, Stanfield Yarnall, Mary H. Williams, Amy A. VanLeer, Anna M. Hannum. Associate members:—Ellwood Carr, Francis R. Kelley, Mary Surlily.

Through the years it has had scores of the young people of the church and community enlisted among its active members. The following have served as presidents: The pastor, Rev. Mr. Kruse, Mr. Jas. W. Howarth, Elder Wm. G. VanLeer, Elder Charles S. Welles, Mr. John A. Yarnall, Mr. Charles W. Viguers, Mr. James Alexander, Mr. Martin Longenecker, Elder Norman D. Maddock. The following have served as secretaries: Mrs. Charles S. Welles, Miss Susie H. Welles, Miss Lillie M. Smith, now Mrs. John A. Yarnall, Miss Ida M. Southard, Miss Ella B. Carter, Miss Martha Durboraw, Miss Clara Stringfellow, Miss E. Louise Kruse, Miss Karlana Kruse, Miss Susie C. Williams.

The missionary interest and offering each month has been a feature of the organization from the start.

The service of song has been a glorious chapter in the life of the society.

It would take a volume to record the testimony of the lives of those who have been enriched and blessed and trained in christian service by its ministry through the years and who as preachers and elders and superintendents and christian workers have gone forth into life's work.

ROLL OF THE MIDDLETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELWYN, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA. 1920.

Alexander, Walter Boyd, Media, Pa.
Anderson, Mrs. Belle, Philadelphia.
Anderson, Chester Ross, Media, Pa.
Anderson, John E., Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
Anderson, Robert W., Elwyn, Pa.
Anderson, Mrs. Robert W., Elwyn, Pa.
Annand, James, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Annand, Mrs. James, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Annand, George, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Annand, Mrs. George, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Apgar, John C., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Apgar, Mrs. John C., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Apgar, Anna, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Apgar, Edna Viola (Mrs. Teat), Wilmington, Del.
Ash, Walter P., Coatesville, Pa., R. D.
Ash, Mrs. Walter P., Coatesville, Pa., R. D.
Ash, Bertha Marion (Mrs. Doan), Coatesville.

Babb, John Henry, Elwyn, Pa.
Barnett, Edwin Stevens, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, 7011 Cresheim Road.
Barnett, Sarah, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, 7011 Cresheim Road.
Barnett, Sellers H., Philadelphia, Pa.
Barnett, William, Jr., Mt. Alverno, Pa.
Barnett, Mrs. William, Jr., Mt. Alverno, Pa.

Barnett, William, 3rd, Mt. Alverno, Pa.
 Bitting, Harry S., Williamson School, Pa.
 Bitting, Mrs. Harry S., Williamson School, Pa.
 Bitting, Earl B., Williamson School, Pa.
 Bitting, Harry L., Williamson School, Pa.
 Boyer, Melba Agnes (Mrs. Grafuis), Williamson School, Pa.
 Brunton, Mrs. William, Glen Mills, Pa.
 Brunton, William E., Glen Mills, Pa.
 Bruton, Susanna T., Williamson School, Pa.
 Burns, Mrs. Arthur, Chester, Pa., 1019 Potter St.
 Burr, Harvey R., Williamson School, Pa.
 Burr, Mrs. Harvey R., Williamson School, Pa.

Carter, Amos Murray, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Carter, J. Clemens, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Carter, Mary Ann, Chester, Pa.
 Carter, Mrs. Joshua C., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Carter, Walter Crawford, Chester Heights, Pa.
 Cloud, James Leonard, unknown.
 Cobourn, Mrs. J. Atwood, Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
 Cobourn, Elizabeth, Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
 Cobourn, Laura McClure, Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
 Cobourn, Helen Raymond, Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
 Collett, Ethel Lee Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Conrad, George Earle, Philadelphia, Pa., 1614 So. 56th St.
 Conrad, Paul Lawton, Chester, Pa.

Dengler, George Harrison, Buckman Village, Pa., 1132 Meadow Lane.
 Dengler, Mrs. George H., Buckman Village, Pa., 1132 Meadow Lane.
 Dewees, Everett, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Dewees, Laura, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Dewees, Samuel, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Dewees, Mrs. Samuel, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Dowlin, Ida V., Chester, Pa., 614 E. 14th St.
 Drummond, Ellen Lane, Nanking, China.
 Durboraw, Isaac Newton, Elwyn, Pa.
 Durboraw, Mrs. Isaac N., Elwyn, Pa.
 Durboraw, Isaac Newton, Jr., Elwyn, Pa.
 Durboraw, Willis Conway, Elwyn, Pa.

Eckert, Elwood, unknown.
 Eyre, Abbie A., Williamson School, Pa.

Ford, Ella Franklin, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Ford, George G., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Ford Mrs. George G., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.

Godon, Dr. D. Wilmot, Chester, Pa.
 Godon, Mrs. Dr. and D. W., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Godon, D. Wilmont, Jr., Lancaster, Pa.
 Godon M. Ethelyn, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Green, Horace, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Green, William J., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
 Green, Mrs. William J., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.

Green, Marietta T., (Mrs. Briggs), Chester, Pa., 418 E. 22nd St
Green, William Penn, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Green, Mrs. William P., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Grier, Sterling Murdock, unknown.

Harrison, Mrs. Samuel M., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Hart, Mrs. Charles W., unknown.
Hartley, Clarence, Mt. Alverno, Pa.
Hemmerly, Earl Stephens, Philadelphia, Pa., 41 No. 17th.
Higgins, Lewis Thomas, Media, Pa.
Holmes, Catherine (Mrs. Eghan), unknown.
Hoskins, John Preston, Prof. Princeton, N. J.
Hoskins, Josephine (Mrs. Aaron), Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Hoskins, Thomas Herman, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Howarth, Clara, (Mrs. James W.), William School, Pa.
Howarth, J. Oscar, Norwood, Pa., Harrison and Winona Ave.,
Howarth, Mrs. J. Oscar, Norwood, Pa., Harrison and Winona Ave.,
Huston, John P., Williamson School, Pa.
Huston, Mrs. John P., Williamson School, Pa.

Johnson, Dominick M., unknown.

Konkle, H. Franklin, 2nd and Monroe, Media, Pa.
Konkle, Mrs. H. E., 2nd and Monroe, Media, Pa.
Kruse, Ella Louise, Front and Monroe, Media, Pa.
Kruse, Karlana Henderson, Front and Monroe, Media, Pa.
Kruse, Mrs. William T., Front and Monroe, Media, Pa.

Loebe, George F., unknown.
Lange, Eliza, (Mrs. Ludwig), unknown.
Lawton, Frank Groff, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Lawton, John Edward, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Lawton, Mrs. John E., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Lawton, Lewis Charles, Media, Pa., R. F. D. 2.
Lawton, Milton Lincoln, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Lawton, Mary Perrin, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Lawyer, Grace Rosamond, Elwyn, Pa.
Maddock, Norman Delaplaine, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Malin, Susan P., (Mrs. Edward W.), Media, Pa.
Malz, Mrs. Louis, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Mattson, Harry H., Ridley Park, Pa.
Mitchell, George S., unknown.
Mullin, Jessie, University Hospital, Philadelphia.

McGranahan, Mary Agnes, (Mrs. John G. Dingler), Gary, Ind.

Neeld, George L., Village Green, Pa.

Pancoast, Mrs. Edwin H., Village Green, Pa.
Pancoast, Florence Dutton, Village Green, Pa.
Pancoast, George Thomas, Village Green, Pa.
Pancoast, Mary Lewis, Village Green, Pa.
Parsons, Alga A., (Mrs. Crooks), Lima, Pa.
Powell, William Morris, Moore, Pa.

Pratt, James A., Williamson School, Pa.
Pratt, Mrs. J. A., Williamson School, Pa.
Pratt, Minot Harris, Williamson School, Pa.

Reed, Mrs. Anna K., Philadelphia, Pa.
Reed, George C., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Reed, George W., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Reed, Mrs. George W., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Rennie, Janette S., Swedesboro, N. J.
Rice, Mrs. Maria, Folcroft, Pa.
Ritchie, Louis F., unknown.
Roberts, Mrs. Susan P., Second and Monroe, Media, Pa.

Sager, Bertha Malin, Philadelphia, Pa., 6049 Kingsessing Ave.
Sager, Joseph West, Philadelphia, Pa., 6049 Kingsessing Ave.
Sager, Mrs. Joseph W., Philadelphia, Pa., 6049 Kingsessing Ave.
Scull, John Arthur, Media, Pa.
Sisco, John, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Smedley, Ella Mary, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Smith, Charles R., Chester, Pa., 1033 Parker.
Snyder, Hortense V., (Mrs. Fred W.), Philadelphia.
Southard, Bessie Edith, Elwyn, Pa.
Southard, Ida May, (Mrs. Leon Gilbert), Bushkill Falls, Pa.
Stetler, Joseph L., unknown.
Stiner, Frank T., Moylan, Pa.
Stiner, Mrs. Frank T., Moylan, Pa.
Stoever, Wadsworth, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Stoever, Mrs. Wadsworth, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Stringfellow, Clara B., Media, Pa.
Sweeney, Ethel, Chester, Pa., R. D. 1.
Taylor, William Emmitt, Wilmington, Del.
Thomas, B. Frank, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Thomas, Mrs. B. Frank, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Thumlert, Mrs. Emily J., unknown.

Vance, Margaret, Glen Riddle, Pa.
Van Horn, Charles F., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Van Horn, Mrs. Charles F., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Van Leer, Clarence Harvey, Media, Pa.
Viguers, Charles Wesley, Elwyn, Pa.
Viguers, Mrs. Charles W., Elwyn, Pa.
Viguers, Ida May (Mrs. Taylor), Dover, Del.

Weddick, Elizabeth Lantz, Chester, Pa.
Weimer, George Ellsworth, unknown.
Weischedel, Charles W., unknown.
Weischedel, Mrs. Charles, unknown.
Weischedel, Fred August, Elwyn, Pa.
Weischedel, Mrs. Jacob, Elwyn, Pa.
Weischedel, Mrs. Louis, Williamson School, Pa.
Weischedel, Louis H., Elwyn, Pa.
Weischedel, Minnie F., Williamson School, Pa.
Weischedel, William G., Elwyn, Pa.
Welles, Louise Ives (Mrs. Crawford), Sheffield, Mass.

Whitesides, Harry Page, unknown.
Williams, Helen Lavina, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Williams, Mrs. John, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Williams, Mary Harper, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
William, Susanna C., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.

Yarnall, Albert D., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Yarnall, Mrs. Albert D., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Yarnall, Helen Elizabeth, Elwyn, Pa.
Yarnall, John Albert, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Yarnall, Mrs. John A., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Yarnall, John Albert, Jr., Media, Pa., R. D. 2.
Yarnall, Joseph Stanfield, Jr., Elwyn, Pa.
Yarnall, Laura Elsie, Media, Pa., R. D. 2.

Zebbley, Leroy, Chester Heights, Pa.



Mr. Bitting

COMMITTEES OF THE 200th ANNIVERSARY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:—Harry S. Bitting, Chairman, Rev. William T. Kruse, William Barnett, Jr., John P. Huston, Miss Ethelyn Godon, Miss Sue C. Williams, Mrs. S. M. Harrison.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:—Rev. William T. Kruse, Chairman, Harry S. Bitting, William Barnett, Jr., J. Oscar Howarth, Miss Ella Louise Kruse, Mrs. John A. Yarnall.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE:—J. Oscar Howarth, Chairman, Miss Karlana H. Kruse, Miss Susanna T. Bruton, William J. Green.

MUSIC COMMITTEE:—Miss Sue C. Williams, Miss Louise Kruse, Miss Ethelyn Godon, Miss Ethel Sweeney, Charles F. Van Horn, Charles R. Smith.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:—Mrs. S. M. Harrison, Mrs. D. W. Godon, Mrs. J. E. Lawton, Mrs. J. C. Apgar, Mrs. J. A. Cobourn, Mrs. W. J. Green, Mrs. Samuel Dewees.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE:—Rev. and Mrs. W. T. Kruse, Mrs. J. A. Cobourn, Mrs. S. M. Harrison, Dr. and Mrs. Godon, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Apgar, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Howarth, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Yarnall, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Bitting, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Huston, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Green, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lawton.



VIEWS OF CEMETERY

John Smiths' Grave
Dr. Dale's Mounment

Howarth Lot

Sexton at Work
Tyson Lot



VIEWS OF CEMETERY

North Side View
Stone of 1731
Rear View

Riddle Monument
Parker Mounment
Stone of 1731

PSALTER AND HYMNS
200TH ANNIVERSARY
MIDDLETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 11 AND 12, 1920

PSALTER SELECTION NO. 8

Psalm 26: 8-12

1 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house: and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

2 Gather not my soul with sinners: nor my life with bloody men,

3 In whose hands is mischief: and their right hand is full of bribes.

4 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

5 My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord.

Psalm 27.

6 THE Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear: the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

7 When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh: they stumbled and fell.

8 Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

9 One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

10 For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

11 And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacles sacrifices of

joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.

12 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

13 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face: my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.

14 Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

15 When my father and my mother forsake me: then the Lord will take me up.

16 Teach me thy way, O Lord: and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

17 Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

18 I had fainted: unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

19 Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

20 BLESSED be the Lord: because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

21 The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

22 The Lord is their strength: and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

23 Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

HYMN, No. 155

Ye servants of God your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad His wonderful name;
The Name all-victorious of Jesus extol,
His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

God ruleth on high, Almighty to save,
And still He is nigh—His presence we have:
The great congregation His triumph shall sing,
Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
The praises of Jesus the Angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces and honor the Lamb.

Then let us adore and give Him His right,
All glory and Power, and wisdom and might,
All honor and blessing, with Angels above,
And thanks never ceasing, and infinite love.
—Amen.

HYMN, No. 157

All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let Angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the Royal Diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners whose love can ne'er forget
Thewormwood and the gall,
Go spread your trophies at His feet
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall,
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.—Amen.

HYMN, No. 422.

Faith of our fathers! living still,
In spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy
Whene'er we hear that glorious word:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Our fathers chained in prisons dark
Were still in heart and conscience free;
And blest would be their children's fate
If they, like them, should die for thee:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! God's great power
Shall win all nations unto thee,
And through the truth that comes from God
All mankind shall then indeed be free:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

Faith of our fathers! We will love
Both friend and foe all our strife
And preach thee, too, as love knows how
By kindly words and virtuous life:
Faith of our fathers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.—Amen.

HYMN, No. 301

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion city of our God,
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode;
On the Rock of Ages founded
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See the streams of living waters
Springing from Eternal Love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove;
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage,
Grace which, like the Lord the Giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hovering
See the fire and cloud appear
For a glory and a covering
Showing that the Lord is near;
Thus deriving from their banner
Light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna
Which He gives them when they pray.

Saviour! if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity
I will glory in Thy Name;
Fading is the worldling's pleasure
All his boasted pomp and show,
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.—Amen.

HYMN, No. 304

The Church's one Foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,
She is His new creation
By water and the word;

From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy Bride,
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation
 Yet one o'er all the earth,
 Her charter of salvation
 One Lord, one faith, one birth;
 One Holy Name she blesses,
 Partakes one holy food,
 And to one hope she presses
 With every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation
 And tumult of her war,
 She waits the consummation
 Of peace for evermore;
 Till with the vision glorious
 Her longing eyes are blest,
 And the great Church victorious
 Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
 With God the Tree in One,
 And mystic sweet communion
 With those whose rest is won;
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord give us grace that we,
 Like them the meek and lowly,
 On high may dwell with Thee.—Amen

THE MIDDLETOWN VERSION

of

"THE CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD."

No. 175. in "Great Revival Hymns.

(Adapted by the Pastor; adopted by the School)
 There's a church on the hill-top by the road-
 side,

No lovelier place on the hill;
 No spot is so dear to my childhood
 As the little white church on the hill.

Chorus:

Oh, come, come, come, come,
 Come to the church by the roadside,
 Come to the church on the hill;
 No spot is so dear to my childhood.
 As the little white church on the hill.

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning
 To list to the clear loving call,
 Its tones so sweetly are saying.

"Oh, come to the church on the hill."—

Chorus.

There, close to the church on the hill-top,
 Lie those that I loved so well;
 They sleep, sweetly sleep 'neath the green-
 sward.

How peaceful they rest on the hill.—Chorus

There close by the side of those loved ones,
 'Neath the sod where the love-flowers bloom,
 When the farewell hymn shall be chanted,
 I shall rest by their side on the hill.—Chorus

PSALTER SELECTION 17

Psalm 47

1 O CLAP your hands, all ye people:
 shout unto God with the voice of triumph.

2 For the Lord most high is terrible: he
 is a great King over all the earth.

3 He shall subdue the people under us:
 and the nations under our feet.

4 He shall choose our inheritance for us:
 the excellency of Jacob whom he loved.

5 God is gone up with a shout: the Lord
 with the sound of a trumpet.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing
 praises unto our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth:
 sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen: God
 sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

9 The princes of the people are gathered
 together, even the people of the God of
 Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong
 unto God; he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 48

10 GREAT is the Lord, and greatly to be
 praised: in the city of our God, in the moun-
 tain of his holiness.

11 Beautiful for situation, the joy of the
 whole earth, is mount Zion: on the sides of
 the north, the city of the great King.

12 God is known: in her palaces for a
 refuge.

13 For, lo, the kings were assembled: they
 passed by together.

14 They saw it, and so they marvelled:
 they were troubled, and hasted away.

15 Fear took hold upon them there, and
 pain: as a woman in travail.

16 Thou breakest the ships of Tarish:
 with an east wind.

17 As we have heard, so have we seen in
 the city of the Lord of hosts. In the city of
 our God: God will establish it for ever.

18 We have thought of thy loving-kind-
 ness, O God: in the midst of thy temple.

19 According to thy name, O God, so is
 thy praise unto the ends of the earth: thy
 right hand is full of righteousness.

20 Let mount Zion rejoice, let the
 daughters of Judah be glad: because of thy
 judgments.

21 Walk about Zion, and go round about
 her: tell the towers thereof.

22 Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider
 her palaces: that ye may tell it to the genera-
 tion following.

23 For this God is our God for ever and
 ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

HYMN, No. 409

Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning!
Joy to the lands that in darkness have lain!
Hushed be the accents of sorrow and mourning
Zion in triumph begins her mild reign.

Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning
Long by the prophets of Israel foretold!
Hail to the millions from bondage returning!
Gentiles and Jews the blest vision behold.

Lo in the desert rich flowers are springing,
Streams ever copious are gliding along,
Loud from the mountain-tops echos are ringing
Wastes rise in verdure and mingle in song.

See from all lands, from the isles of the ocean,
Praise to Jehovah ascending on high,
Fallen are the engines of war and commotion,
Shouts of salvation are rending the sky.—
Amen.

HYMN, No. 117

Our God our Help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising dawn.

Time like an ever-rolling stream
Bears all its sons away,
They fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

Our God our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Be Thou our Guard while troubles last,
And our eternal Home.—Amen.

HYMN, No. 411

Fling out the banner! Let it float
Sky-ward and sea-ward high and wide,
The sun that lights its shining folds,
The cross on which the Saviour died.

Fling out the banner! Angels bend
In anxious silence o'er the sign,
And vainly seek to comprehend
The wonder of the love Divine.

Fling out the banner! heathen lands
Shall see from far the glorious sight,
And nations, crowding to be born,
Baptize their spirits in its light.

Fling out the banner! sin-sick souls
That sink and perish in the strife,
Shall touch in faith its radiant hem
And spring immortal into life.

Fling out the banner! Let it float
Sky-ward and sea-ward, high and wide,
Our glory only in the cross
Our only hope the Crucified!

Fling out the banner! Wide and high,
Sea-ward and sky-ward let it shine,
Nor skill nor might nor merit ours,
We conquer only in that sign.—Amen.

HYMN, No. 300

I love Thy kingdom, Lord,
The house of Thine abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.

I love Thy Church, O God,
Her walls before Thee stand
Dear as the apple of Thine eye,
And graven on Thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall,
For her my prayers ascend,
To her my cares and toils be given,
Till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion, solemn vows,
Her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as Thy truth shall last,
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield,
And brighter bliss of heaven.—Amen.

Voo*

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vol 1

Belmont, Pa.



225TH ANNIVERSARY

October 14, 1945



Middletown Presbyterian Church
Elwyn, Pa.

1720 : : 1945

The Organization

THE SESSION

John A. Yarnall, Treasurer	William Barnett, Jr., Clerk
George G. Ford	John E. Lawton, Jr.
Chester A. Gray	Norman D. Maddock
J. Oscar Howarth	George W. Wood

THE TRUSTEES

George G. Ford, President	David McVey
John E. Lawton, Jr.	Alfred Shaw
Charles W. McThenia	Charles L. Smith, Treasurer
Charles R. Miller, Secretary	George W. Wood
William G. Weischedel, Chairman of Cemetery	

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Mrs. George G. Ford	Mrs. John A. Yarnall
Chester A. Gray	

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

George W. Wood, Superintendent	Marion Gaul, Secretary
Louis G. Weischedel, Ass't Supt.	William Weischedel, Treasurer
Mrs. George G. Ford, Primary Superintendent	

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Mildred M. White, President	Betty Boyce, Secretary
Elma Ackland, Vice-President	Peggy Pedlow, Treasurer

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Willard L. Morse, President	Mrs. Robert Stinson, Secretary
Mrs. Raymond Pinch, Vice-Pres.	Miss Josephine Haser, Treasurer

THE MITE SOCIETY

Mrs. Virginia Quinby, President	Mrs. Benjamin Sterling, Treasurer
Mrs. Wilmot Godon, Sr., V.-Pres.	Miss Ethelyn Godon, Secretary

THE A. B. C. BIBLE CLASS

Miss Sue Williams, President	Mrs. Benjamin Sterling, Secretary
Mrs. W. Edgar Crouthers, V.-Pres.	Mrs. Willard Davison, Treasurer

THE BEACON BIBLE CLASS

Mrs. Sheldon Kitchell, President	Mrs. Robert Anderson, Secretary
Mrs. William Smith, Vice-Pres.	Mrs. J. L. Christian, Treasurer

THE TRIAD CLASS

Elma Ackland, President	Sarah Ann Weischedel, Secretary
Mildred M. White, Treasurer	

THE MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Wm. E. Crouthers, President	Julius Filippi, Treasurer
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THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Ruth Pedlow, Choir Director	Dorothy Allam, Organist
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History



The church here with its burial ground is a spot where much history has been enacted. The organization antedates by fifty years and more the Revolutionary War and the Declaration of Independence, and the site is within five miles westward of where William Penn first landed on the shores of the Delaware. Indian chief, British red-coat, and colonial soldier have alike trod its sacred soil. Here sleep patriots of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, ministers and physicians, and noble men and women from the various walks of life, splendid and true and faithful, who served well God and their country in their generation.

For more than two centuries now, however, the soldiers of the Great King have preempted this sacred spot for Divine Worship and the sacred rites of Christian burial. As to the acquisition and occupancy of this site by the congregation nothing is definitely known prior to 1751, all the records having perished in a fire in the year 1802 that destroyed the home of the pastor, Rev. Thomas Grier, on the Middletown road near where the old Bonsall house now stands. But in 1751 on the second and third days of August, Henry Caldwell and his wife (widow of Robert McClellan), and the whole family of McClellans, consisting of six sons and five daughters (four of them with their husbands jointly) passed title for the original piece of ground of about three-fifths of an acre together with the "frame building thereon" to a Board of six Trustees, namely, John McMichael, William Lindsay, John McMinn, James Lindsay, Joseph McCloskie, and Samuel Black. The deed was accompanied by a Declaration of Trust on the part of these six men (the original parchment of which is still in possession of the church) that, "by direction and appointment of the members or persons belonging to the Presbyterian Society of Middletown under the care of the Synod of Philadelphia and members of the Presbytery of New Castle," they held the property in trust only, "for the benefit, use, and behalf of all persons, members of and belonging to the said Presbyterian Society at Middletown to perform divine service in and upon according to the canons and ecclesiastical constitutions of the kirk of Scotland, and for a place to bury their dead."

This manifestly was making legal and placing on record what for years had been done by generous sufferance of the owners who now became formally the donors.

In 1762 two members of this Board of Trustees having died or resigned, their places were filled and the Board enlarged to nine members as follows: William Lindsay, Hugh Linn, James Lindsay, John McMinn, James Black, Charles Linn, Joseph Hemphill and Thomas Trimble. To this enlarged Board on the 10th of May in that year was deed for "the sum of three pounds good lawful money," by Robert McClellan and his wife Agnes, nearly an acre of additional ground, no doubt with the view and in preparation for the erection of the stone building contemplated and which was effected in 1766.

On August 27, 1822, the Board of Trustees, then consisting of Robert McClellan, Henry Forest, John Craig, Samuel Black, Andrew Lindsay, James Craig and Aaron Huston, took title of Peter Scravendyke, of Philadelphia, "tallow Chandler," the deed says, for one-half acre and

fifteen square perches of land for the sum of seventy-five dollars for the purposes set forth in the Declaration of Trust of 1751 and rehearsed in the Indenture made in 1803 when the entire property was reconveyed by the surviving Trustees of 1762 to new ones then chosen, which parchment indenture is in the possession of the church and was recorded in the Recorder of Deeds office for Delaware County, May 6, 1811.

Again, on August 15, 1850, the Trustees then existing, viz., Henry Forest, William T. Crook, Samuel Riddle, John C. Beatty, Joseph H. Hinkson, I. Engle Hinkson, Thomas T. Williams, Bernard Van Leer, and John Cochran, took title of the heirs of Robert Fairlamb for three acres, at a cost of four hundred and fifty dollars.

These several grants and purchases made a total of about five and one-quarter acres contained in the church site and burying ground, and the Trustees have recently on June, 1920, taken title in the name of the church to three additional acres, thereby enlarging the church grounds to eight and a quarter acres.

Previous to 1729 it is not certain that there was a church building of any kind (although it may have been a rude log building), the congregation then small and struggling, possibly meeting as they were able to secure preaching at the home most probably of the owner of the ground where now the church stands, who was doubtless the most active and earnest spirit among them and whose name as appears from the Deed of Trust of 1751, already referred to, was Robert McClellan. Of course, it is possible and such was the early tradition that there was a small log church from the beginning; if so, it was this rude log structure that in 1729 was replaced by the "frame building thereon" as named in the Deed of Trust 1751. We have the record of the Presbytery of New Castle in April, 1729, of "their building a house at Middletown." The motive and encouragement for this more commodious frame building is obvious; for it made possible at least one-half of a pastor's time. Certainly at that time a frame building was erected and Robert Cathcart became the first pastor jointly with Brandywine.

That frame building served the uses of the congregation until 1766, when it was replaced by the more substantial stone structure. Those walls erected in 1766 have remained through all the changes of the years. This stone building, during the more than one hundred and fifty years of its existence, underwent several modifications of which there is definite knowledge of three, two of which made it, save the walls, practically a new building.

The fire of 1879, which occurred on the afternoon of Saturday, February 1st, consumed the interior, leaving only the bare walls. Immediate steps were taken to rebuild. The walls were found intact, needing only to be re-studded. For the first time chimneys were put in and a hot-air furnace installed. The old-fashioned box pews were not rebuilt, but the interior was finished in the modern and comfortable manner so well remembered by the present generation. So rapidly was the work pushed that on Sunday, July 13, 1879, that the church was rededicated.

For the past fifteen years and more with the expanding work of the church and a growing community there was felt increasingly the urgent need of enlarged room, especially for the Sabbath School. Various plans were suggested and efforts made, and suffice it to say in brief that as the outcome the fine plans for the new Church Auditorium drawn by Mr. Benjamin F. Betts, Architect, of Philadelphia, were accepted and paid for.

And on the 25th of August, 1923, at four o'clock of that lovely Saturday afternoon the congregation assembled with welling hearts and fond hopes to break ground for the new House of Worship. Needless to say, various setbacks, hindrances and delays followed. But on Saturday afternoon, September 27, 1924, the corner-stone of the now happily finished, beautiful edifice was formally laid with joyous and appropriate exercises by the new Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. William Tenton Kruse, and the memorable occasion was honored by the presence of the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rev. Dr. Clarence E. Macartney, who delivered the address.

And now today we enter and dedicate to the worship and service of Almighty God Triune, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the completed building. "Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord." Thy blessing be upon Thy people. Amen.

The church here as Jerusalem of old is beautiful for situation. In itself and in its history a consecrated and inspiring spot! Here for over two hundred years the people of God have gathered; and here they gather still on this hill of God as noble a band of loyal servants of Jesus Christ with at least some realization that their heritage is glorious as they remember the days of old when this was the only Presbyterian Church for twenty and thirty miles the country around, and when from yonder old "Presbyterian Ford" (crossing over creek at Mt. Alverno) and along the saddlepaths, from far and near, "the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord."

From out the whole history of these more than two hundred years, one is forcefully impressed that God has ever had a faithful people at Old Middletown. May their tribe ever increase. Middletown's prophetic verse is Isaiah 60:22, "A little one shall become a thousand: I the Lord will hasten in his time." Amen and Amen.

—THE REV. WILLIAM TENTON KRUSE, on the Dedication of Middletown Presbyterian Church, January, 1928.

(History Continued on page 8)



Breaking Ground for New Church, August 25, 1923

MORNING WORSHIP

10.45 o'clock

Prelude—"Toccato Finale" *Bach*
Doxology
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Responsive Reading—Selection 51
Gloria
Apostle's Creed
Hymn 192 (Coronation)
Scripture Reading—Psalm 115
Anthem—"Seek Ye the Lord" *Roberts*
225th Anniversary Choir
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
Offertory—"The Beautiful City" *Wilson*
Anthem—"God So Loved the World" *Stainer*
225th Anniversary Choir
Prayer for Our Men and Women in the Service
Reminiscences The Rev. William Tenton Kruse
Pastor Emeritus
Sermon—"To God Be the Glory" The Pastor
Prayer
Hymn 198
Benediction
Silent Prayer
Postlude—"Blow Ye the Trumpet" *Ashford*

AFTERNOON WORSHIP

3.00 o'clock

Prelude—"Prelude on Amsterdam" *Demarest*
Invocation The Rev. John Donaldson
Pastor, Nazarene Church, Media
Hymn 267
Scripture Reading—Matthew 16:13-19. . . The Rev. John B. Rowland
Pastor, The Wallingford Presbyterian Church
Solo—"The Lord's Prayer" *Malotte*
Prayer The Rev. Harry H. Truax
Pastor, Mt. Hope Methodist Church
Offertory—"Kaleidoscopic Hymnal" *Groton*
Solo—"O Lamb of God" Mr. David Poleri
Greetings—From Philadelphia Presbytery
The Rev. William M. Kieffer, Moderator
From Marple Presbyterian Church
(A Daughter of Old Middletown)
The Rev. Clyde E. Rickabaugh, Interim Supply

Mt. Hope Trumpeters

Song—"The Little White Church on the Hill"

Historical Sermon—"The World of 1720"

The Rev. Charles A. Anderson, D.D., L.L.D.

Manager of the Dept. of History of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

Hymn 266

Benediction.....The Rev. Chester J. Buzzard

Pastor, Media Methodist Church

Postlude—"Hasten Lord the Glorious Time".....Ashford

Reception 4.15 o'clock

All are invited to remain for this time of fellowship, which is to be held in the church parlors.

EVENING WORSHIP

8.00 o'clock

Prelude—"Pilgrim Chorus" Wagner

Invocation Rev. Wallace F. Stettler

Pastor, Lima Methodist Church

Hymn 339

Scripture Lesson

Anthem—"Blessed Be the Lord Our God" Pedlow-White

225th Anniversary Choir

Prayer The Rev. John D. Lindsay

Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Chester

(A Daughter of Old Middletown)

Offertory—"That Beautiful Name" Camp

Trombone Solo—Mr. George Huttenlock

Reminiscences of Other Anniversaries Elder J. Oscar Howarth

Trombone Solo—"Sweeter As the Years Go By" Morris

Greetings from Media Presbyterian Church Mr. John K. Barrall

Elder of the Media Church

(Another Daughter of Old Middletown)

Hymn 104

Sermon.....The Rev. Harvey Bennett, D.D.

Hymn 278

Benediction.....The Rev. William J. Alberts

Rector, Christ Church, Episcopal, Media

Postlude—"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah".....Ashford

Dr. Harvey Bennett, your former pastor, comes to our celebration from the busy pastorate of First Presbyterian Church, Atlantic City, N. J., which has ministered so effectively to a large congregation and a multitude of men and women in the service during these war years. It is a joy to have him with us.

History Continued



The Pastor:
REV. RAYMOND PINCH

To bring this brief history up-to-date it is well to go back to the time when the Rev. Mr. Kruse tendered his resignation to the congregation, which resulted in the Presbytery of Chester dissolving the pastoral relation on October 5, 1924.

Much might be said about this kind, good man whom we are fortunate to have with us on this 225th Anniversary. He has been a man of humble spirit and vigorous mind and one who, at the age of eighty-nine on October 17, 1945, sees more clearly into the implications of many problems than many of us who are much younger. He did not cease to serve Middletown when he preached his last sermon in 1924. This dear man of God has builded his life and his church into the plan and spirit of the Great Builder.

On May 7, 1925, the Rev. Harvey Bennett was installed as pastor. In a special congregational meeting on March

8, 1925, a unanimous call had been extended to Mr. Bennett after he had preached two excellent sermons and impressed the congregation by his sincerity.

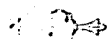
The seventeen years of the Rev. Mr. Bennett's pastorate were years of faithful service. In his time the Church was dedicated and the property and status of the entire Church greatly improved. It may be said that during his ministry the environs of the Church had changed from a rural to a suburban-rural community of many fine homes. Many were added to the Church and Sunday School and the young people were gathered together and became one of the honor societies of Christian Endeavor. The congregation rejoices for him in his having been called to a larger and important work of a metropolitan church, for which service the Master had prepared him.

Rev. Raymond Pinch, the present pastor, was installed on February 9, 1943, after having occupied the pulpit since January 3, 1943. Plans were already under way for the formation of the new larger Philadelphia Presbytery and in June, 1943, the merger of three Presbyteries was consummated and the gavel used was made up from the woods contributed by the oldest church in each Presbytery. Middletown gave wood from the pews which were installed after the fire of 1879.

At the annual congregational meeting held in April, 1944, a plan was approved to reduce the cost of interest on the mortgage. The plan had been put forward by the Trustees upon a suggestion and plan submitted by Mr. Charles W. McThenia, Jr., one of the Trustees. This plan, in substance, was the loaning of money to the church by friends and members, without interest. Here Middletown, through the foresight of her Trustees and the kindness and loyalty of her friends and members; was able, as many churches have been able, to greatly reduce her indebtedness during these last years. At present the indebtedness is scarcely

\$7,000.00 in non-interest bearing loans and \$400.00 to the original mortgage holder.

Truly, we may say, "other men labored and ye are entered into their labors." Let us go on, for "there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed," and "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)."



Our Honor Roll

World War II

Truman Dunlap, Jr.	George Lloyd	Rollin M. Jones, Jr.
Wesley Ford	Richard Stevenson	Harry L. Boyce, Jr.
Andrew Ford	**Theodore McConnell	Harvey Shockley
Walter Ford	Lester Berry	Stanley B. M. McKee
William Sexauer	**John Calhoun	LeRoy W. Miller, Jr.
August Sexauer	John Shaw	James Brown
Milton Jensen	Robert Levis	**William C. Smith
Frank Sydnor	Robert Pedlow	Louis N. Weischedel
Roy Watters	Allan Miller	C. Wesley Viguers
Paul Allam	Damon Watters	Margaretta Ward
Allan D. Morse	John Filippi	Joseph Sipps, Jr.
Robert Arnsdorf	Joseph Calvin	Rces: Cobourn
Howard Collier	William Ginn	**Welsh Godon
Ernest Henry	Etta Barry	**Delphina Andino
Nelson Henry	Robert H. Stinson, Jr.	Arthur Ginn
Taylor Godon	Homer Dunbar	Charles F. Worrihow, III
Charles Habbersett, Jr.	**Robert Anderson	*Andrew DiJohn
Edward Habbersett	Mercedes Barry	William G. Clark, Jr.
John Habbersett	**Lawrence E. Barry	Beatrice Sutton
Charles W. Teer	Walter McVey	Walter Sydnor
Howard Ackland	Edward Shisler	Edna Crouthers
George Gaul	Houston Thompson	William Brown
Alfred I. Shaw	Richard Melrath	

* Made the supreme sacrifice.

** Honorably discharged.

We give thanks to Almighty God, Who in this year of His grace, has brought the terrible war in Europe and the Pacific to an end. Let us pray for His guidance in the maintaining of peace and for the return of our young people to their homes and their loved ones.

Succession of Pastors

Data on the early pastors is: (as far as known)

The Rev. Robert Cathcart	1730-1741
The Rev. James Anderson	1771-1793
The Rev. Thomas Grier	1801-1808
The Rev. Nathaniel Snowden	1809-1817
The Rev. Alvin Hellet Parker, D.D.	1833-1839
The Rev. James Wilkinson Dale, D.D.	1846-1871
The Rev. Thomas Darlington Jester	1874-1889
The Rev. William Tenton Kruse	1889-1924
The Rev. Harvey Bennett, D.D.	1925-1942



Milestones in Building

Founded (probably a log structure)	1720
First Frame Building	1730
Second Church Built—Stone	1766
Church Renovated	1798
Church Renovated and Enlarged	1846
First Stoves Placed	1858
Destroyed by Fire	1879
Church Rebuilt and Re-dedicated	1879
First Manse Built	1880
Manse Enlarged	1890
Church Renovated	1895
Church Renovated	1919
Corner-stone of New Building Laid	1924
New Church Building Dedicated	1928
Church Redecorated	1939

Greetings:

From the Presbytery of Philadelphia:

"The Presbytery of Philadelphia offers heartiest congratulations to the pastor, the officers and the members of the Middletown Presbyterian Church upon the occasion of the 225th Anniversary of the Church. As we consider beginnings of your Church, we are happy to learn that it is the sixth oldest church in our Presbytery, almost as old as the Presbytery, older than any Synod save the General Synod, and much older than the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Your organization is older than our beloved country, began before George Washington was born, and reaches back to within a half century of the founding of Pennsylvania. As we recall your glorious history and your long period of faithful ministry to your community, we rejoice to find the Church at the center of life and progress through the years.

As we look into the future, it is with the reassuring sense that the Church will remain in the midst of the people, sharing their experiences and guiding their lives toward the Perfect Day. I voice the heartfelt prayers and good wishes of the Presbytery when I bespeak God's continued blessing and providence upon your efforts.

Let me add my personal work of congratulation and my sincere prayer that God may bless and use you in the future as He has in the past."

Sincerely,

JOHN K. LYNN, *Stated Clerk.*

From the Rev. William Tenton Kruse, Pastor Emeritus:

I rejoice that Middletown Church has reached its 225th Anniversary. We have shared these twenty-five years with you. We celebrated the 200th on September 11th and 12th, in 1920, as best we knew how, for we had no precedents. The years since with God's blessing have been fruitful in spiritual and temporal growth. They have seen the beautiful new Church built and dedicated. How splendidly the community has changed to a suburban community with very many more fine and comfortable homes. With the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and His full Gospel proclaimed Middletown has a bright future. We need the help of the Holy Spirit.

I commend you to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Your Pastor Emeritus,

WILLIAM TENTON KRUSE.

THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The Executive Committee

Rev. Raymond Pinch, Chairman

Mr. J. Oscar Howarth

Mrs. George W. Wood

<i>Program</i>	Rev. Raymond Pinch
<i>Publicity and Printing</i>	Charles R. Miller
<i>Finance</i>	Charles L. Smith
<i>Reception</i>	Mrs. Charles R. Miller
<i>Ushers</i>	George W. Wood
<i>Music</i>	Ruth Pedlow and Dorothy Allam
<i>Parking</i>	David McVey
<i>Decorations</i>	Mrs. Walter J. Sydnor
<i>Memorials</i>	John E. Lawton, Jr.
<i>History</i>	Rev. William Tenton Kruse

BLESSED BE THE LORD OUR GOD!

An anniversary anthem written especially for the 225th Anniversary by
MISS MILDRED M. WHITE

The anthem music was composed by MISS RUTH PEDLOW, Director of the Choir.

Blessed be the Lord our God,
Who through the ages long
Art ever kind and merciful.
To Thee our lives belong.

All praise be unto God, our King,
Who from this sacred hill
Hath kept Thy light a beacon clear
Through saints who did Thy will.

We praise Thee for Thy goodness,
That it is ours to hold,
This rich and priceless heritage,
Of greater wealth than gold.

We honor all who in this place
Thy work have humbly done.
With all who've prayed and worshipped here
We feel that we are one.

Enable us, O Father God,
Our grateful thanks to bring
In selfless service that was theirs,
Until with them we sing:

Bless be the Lord our God,
Who saw us from above,
Needing Christ, and sent Him down—
Great gift of boundless love.

All praise be unto God, our King,
How wonderful Thy name!
Thy goodness fills our lives with joy,
From age to age the same!