GRACE

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."—Lev. 25: 10.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTERESTS OF

GRACE EVAN. LUTHERAN CHURCH, NORTH QUEEN AND JAMES STS.

Vol. I. No. 4.

Lancaster. Pa., July, 1907.

25 Cents a Year.



THE OLD LUTHERAN BELL.

Cast, 1745; Broken, 1886.

Perhaps no bell in America has a history that is more varied, or more interesting, or more suggestive. It was cast in England in the year 1745, by order of Israel Eckerlin, the monastic Prior, or chief of the temporal affairs of the quaint society of Seventh-day Baptists, located near Ephrata, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. Eckerlin took the assumed name of "Onisimus" (see Colossians iv: 9, Philemon, 10). It was proposed to use this bell in calling from their scattered farms and mills the quaint, monkish brethren and sisters for assembly and for worship. The inscription placed upon the Bell, therefore, read as follows:

SUB AUSPICIO VIRI VENERANDI ONISIMI. SOCIET. EPHRAT. PRAE-POSITI AD. MDCCXLV. (By authority of the venerable Onisimus, appointed by the Ephrata Society, A. D. 1745.)

Though the bell had been ordered by the Prior, it was a matter of surprise to these plain people that a ship had arrived at Philadelphia bringing them this unheard-of possession. In their utter rejection of so proud a symbol, it was doomed to be destroyed on its arrival at Ephrata and the pieces buried in the earth. Better counsels prevailed, however, and it was hauled from Philadelphia to Lancaster, the congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity having bought it. It was placed in the steeple of the old church consecrated Oct. 28, 1738. And there. through all the colonial days of the French and Indian war, it rang to announce the meetings of the sturdy townspeople to hear the news from the latest courier, and to call the devout to vorship and instruction. And during the dark days of the Revolution it was undoubtedly this which rang to call together the Continental Congress when, having been forced to withdraw from Philadelphia, it assembled, during the month September, 1777, in the town of Lancaster. And in all the years followiag, upon the old steeple, did this bell continue to ring for the living and toll for the dead.

The new tower of Trinity church was completed up to the belfry in 1786 and the arrangement was begun of ringing a call for fifteen minutes before opening the service. The old bell, with a companion purchased in 1769, continued to ring until 1853, when it was purchased by Mr. Godlieb Sener for the "Washington" Fire Company, of Lancaster, thus linking together the names of Luther and Washington by an odd juxtaposition

GRACE CHURCH NEWS

Published Mouthly by

The Press Committee of the Ushers' Association

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James St.

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of events. In 1882 this company was superceded by the official fire department of the city. It was then re-purchased by Mr. J. Frederick Sener to be generously erected by him as a memorial in the tower of Grace Evan. Lutheran church, an offshoot of "Trinity" congregation. It was then inscribed: Presented 1883, by father, in memory of Charles Sener. Born 1857. Died 1869.

While calling the children of this latest generation to the church of their fathers on Sunday, October 3d, 1886, it became cracked and was thrown out of service. It will be preserved as a relic dear to many hearts on account both of its churchly and its civil record.

This interesting relic will be placed -From a history by the Rev. Dr. C. E. Haupt.

in a prominent place in the new church, probably in the vestibule, if space will permit.

This month is the month when the Liberty Bell is brought most prominently before the mind of the public, but we should be proud of the fact that this bell was cast in 1745, which was seven years before the casting of the Liberty Bell, and has, we think, a history that rivals, if it does not exceed, that of the Liberty Bell.

PERSONAL.

Paul II. Heisey, one of the "Sons of Grace," has returned for the summer vacation to his home, after graduating with honors at the Midland College, of Kaosas. He has already decided upon the Holy ministry as his life work, and we predict for him a long and useful future in the Church.

C. E. Haupt, Jr., of Washington, D. C., spent several days with his parents this month.

William Hasyman, of Williamsport, visited our Sunday School June 16.

JUNE CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEW GRACE CHURCH.

Mrs. A. K. Warfel, Mrs. L. A. Breneman, Mrs. H. Speidel, Chas. J. Nestel, Prof. and Mrs. G. M. Hambright, Isaac S. Aston, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Schutte, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Ernst, Mrs. Dora Gerhart, Mrs. Wilkinson, Joseph H. Raum, Harry E. Raum. Esther E. Kendig, Daisy E. Althouse, Mrs. Neuman, Mrs. H. W. Klenck and Mrs. Susan Hauf. Amount raised by these contributors, \$322.06.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following have been received into the church by transfer at Whitsuntide: Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Aulthouse, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. F. Aument, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Fasnacht, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hartman, Mr. and Mrs. Paris R. Hostetter, Mr. and Mrs. Fred. May.

IN MEMORIAM.

It is with the greatest sorrow that we announce the death of the Rev. Dr. Krotel, of New York city, on May 17. Dr. Krotel was the founder of Grace Lutheran Sunday School, for it was he who appointed the committee to open what was to be the James street branch school in February, 1855. His death is all the more sad from the fact that we expected to have the honored Doctor as the guest of honor at the dedication of the new Grace church.

FINANCIAL.

Financial Secretary Leachey reports \$252.15 offerings from May 7 to June 3d, inclusive: Plates, \$56.55; envelopes, \$195.60. Since his appointment to this office Mr. Leachey reports having received \$1,545.66, which has been spent as follows: General Hospital, \$37.89; Improvement Fund, \$171.57; balance for current expenses. Of the sum devoted to the Improvement Fund, the Sunday School gave \$10.66.

OUR PICNIC.

For several reasons we will not have a picnic this year along the same lines as in former years, but will combine with the Luther League Rally of Lancaster and adjoining counties, which will be held at Rocky Springs Park on July 11. Among the speakers from abroad who will address the mass meeting in the afternoon will be the Rev. Dr. C. L. Fry, of Philadelphia, and the Rev. Dr. T. E. Schmauk, of Lebanon.

SERVICES.

Holding morning services at the new hour of eleven o'clock seems to meet with favor everywhere so far as we have heard, but we think services should begin promptly on the hour and not five minutes after. Neither should there be two long anthems sung during such a short service.

To Our Members and Friends

Through the kindness of friends in the business world we are able to publish and circulate "Grace Church News."

We would therefore ask our people to kindly patronize our advertisers, always remembering to mention "Grace Church News."

This is a fair request, we think, and we hope

This is a fair request, we think, and we hope our people will help us, help themselves, and help our advertisers.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Time and length of session: The session should be held in the morning, and be dismissed ten or fifteen minutes before the morning services in the church. Serious objections exist to the hour after the church services. One is, it interferes with the custom of most people who have luncheon at or near the middle of the day. Another is, the opening of the school is liable to be irregular when the church service is for some reason lengthened. Adults who attend publie service for an hour and a half prefer to go home rather than go to another meeting. The children, more over, are not likely to attend the church service.

The Sunday School, by being a kind of supplement to the church, has not the individual responsibility and character that it should have. The children are not in so good condition as they were several hours earlier. When parents and children cannot be absent from home at the same time, there is more difficulty in securing the attendance of the children. The later in the day children are more or less jaded, are harder to control, and learn a good deal less.

On the other hand, in the morning the scholars are fresh: teachers and officers are not weary. Every one is present for the express purpose of the Sunday School. Then, if church service begins ten or fifteen minutes after the school closes, a larger proportion of children attend than can be secured at any other hour; and at least once a quarter, the entire school can be taken into the church or united in the church service in some way, so as to create on the part of the children an interest in the church services, which can be obtained in no other way.

Every school should have a printed program of the exercises. On the left of each item can be printed the hour, and the program would thus show that every minute of the time allotted to the school is provided for.

During the opening exercises no one should enter the school, and .there should be no moving about through the rooms.

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