Chapter V

THE CHURCHES OF LANCASTER COUNTY

1. The Circuits of Lancaster County, 1843-1946

From the year 1843 onward the Lancaster Circuit was limited in area to Lancaster County. In the year 1846 East Pennsylvania Conference was divided off from territory of which it had been a part since the year 1800. At the same conference session (1846) a new circuit was created, called the New Holland Circuit. The first statistical report appearing in annual conference minutes is for the conference year 1848-49. Lancaster Circuit then was composed of seven organized classes having a total membership of 212. New Holland Circuit consisted of four classes having a membership of 122. Both preaching appointments and classes are listed in the report for 1850-51. Lancaster Circuit then had twenty-four appointments, eight classes, and 204 members; New Holland Circuit had eleven appointments, five classes, and ninety-six members.

The total number of circuits (sometimes called stations when in reality they were circuits), in the county for the period, 1843-1946, number thirty-nine. A certain circuit-name appears for a time, then after a lapse of years reappears under the same name, though differently constituted. When the circuits were large the usual practice was to appoint two ministers to each. The first one named was the "preacher in charge," or the senior preacher; the second named was the junior or assistant preacher. Occasionally a minister appointed by the stationing committee did not serve. Such appointments are not given in the following lists. The lists here given are of ministers who served the charge during the year-terms indicated, whether by appointment at annual conference session or in the interim of conference sessions. More than two names may appear for a given conference year because of these interim appointments.

The circuits of Lancaster County in the chronological order of their formation and the years during which they continued are: Lancaster (continued 1), 1843-68; New Holland, 1846-1946; Pannabecker's (Hopeland 1), 1855-56; Columbia (1), 1860-1869; Mountville, 1862-1887; Mt. Joy (1), 1867-1871; Florin, 1871-1946; Brunnerville (1), 1874-1875; Conestoga, 1875-1885; Intercourse, 1875-1946; Paradise (Hopeland 2), 1875-1882; Mt. Pleasant (1), 1876-1878; Lancaster (2), 1878-1881; Pequea Valley (1), 1879-1887; Manheim, 1871-1946; Quarryville, 1881-1884; Marietta (1), 1881-1892; Ephrata, 1882-1899; Paradise (Hopeland 3), 1883-1886; Mt. Pleasant (2), 1884-1888; Manor, 1885-1946; Ironville, 1887-1888; Lancaster (3), 1888-1890; Pequea (2), 1888-1946; Mt. Pleasant (3), Feb. 1889-Oct. 1889; Mt. Pleasant (4), 1890-1893; Marietta (2), 1891-1895; Neffsville, 1891-1946; Chestnut Grove, 1893-
1896; Lancaster (4), 1893-1896; Mt. Joy (2), 1896-1901; Marietta (3), 1901-1903; Refton, 1901-1946; Centerville (1), 1905-1906; Centerville (2), 1907-1918; Cordelia, 1906-1907; Columbia (2), 1919-1925; Brunnerville (2), 1924-1946; and Silver Spring, 1925-1946.

The alphabetical order of circuits, years continued, and ministerial appointments follow. These, and all similar lists, should be consulted in determining: First, to what circuit a church or class was attached; and second, in determining the name of the minister serving the individual class or church.

Brunnerville Circuit (1), 1874-75; George Shindler, 1874-75.
Brunnerville Circuit (2), 1924-46: (See under Brunnerville Church)

Centerville Circuit (1), 1895-06: Oliver Mease, 1905-06.


Columbia Circuit (1), 1860-69. (See under Columbia Church.)


Conestoga Circuit, 1875-85: A. H. Kauffman, 1875-80; M. P. Sanders, 1880-82; G. W. Lightner, 1882-84; and J. D. Freed, 1884-85.


Ephrata Circuit, 1882-89: (See under Ephrata Church).

Florin Circuit, 1871-1946: (See under Florin Church).


Hopeland Circuit (2. Paradise), 1875-82: J. D. A. Garman, 1875-77; S. M. Hummel, 1877-78; Joseph Weirich, 1878-81; C. Walter, 1881-82.


Intercourse Circuit, 1875-1946: (See under Intercourse Church).


Lancaster Circuit (1 continued), 1843-68: Samuel Seiders and Jacob Wenger, 1843-44; Samuel Seiders and Henry Staub, 1844-45; Henry Staub and Simon Noll, 1845-46; David Gingrich and George Gilbert, 1846-47; Jacob Sholler and George Gilbert, 1847-48; Jacob Sholler and David O'Farrel, 1848-49; David Gingrich Jr., and David O'Farrel, 1849-50; David Gingrich Jr., and Isaac Norcross, 1850-51; John Fohl and George A. Mark, 1851-52; John Fohl and John Stamm, 1852-53; John Stamm and Israel Carpenter, 1853-54; George A. Mark and Paul J. Riland, 1855-56; Jacob Brewer and Christian Kauffman, 1858-59; Joseph Young Jr., and Jacob Doerkson, 1861-62; J. B. Daugherty and Lewis Peters, 1864-67; and Rudolph Kauffman, 1867-68.


Manheim Circuit, 1871-1946: (See under Manheim Church).


Marietta Circuit (1), 1881-82: Newton Shannon, appointed by East German Conference; but G. W. M. Rigor, serving Mt. Joy, and I. H. Albright, serving Florin, report at the end of the year, from East Pennsylvania Conference. So Marietta must have changed in attachment during the year.


Marietta Circuit (3), 1901-03: Martin Groff, 1901-03.

Mt. Joy Circuit, 1862-1887: (See under Mountville Church).


Mt. Pleasant Circuit (1), 1876-78: John G. Smoker, 1876-78.

Mt. Pleasant Circuit (2), 1884-88: John G. Smoker, 1884-86; Theodore Wagner, John G. Smoker, 1886-87; and John G. Smoker, 1887-88.


Mt. Pleasant Circuit (4), 1890-93: H. F. McNelly, 1890-93.

Neffsville Circuit, 1891-1946: (See under Neffsville Church).

New Holland Circuit, 1892-1946: (See under New Holland Church).

Pequea Valley Circuit, 1879-87: Z. C. Mower, 1879-83; J. O. Clippinger, 1883-84; and M. P. Sanders, 1884-87.


Quarryville Circuit, 1881-84: John G. Smoker, 1881-84.

Refton Circuit, 1901-46: (See under Refton Church).

Silver Spring Circuit, 1925-46: (See under Silver Spring Church).

2. The Churches of Lancaster County.

Brunnerville Church. Warwick Township

The Brunnerville Church had its beginning in a class of members who worshipped in homes of members in the village by the same name. The Rev. Henry Dissinger (1819-1887) lived in the community and had some part in promoting its organization. It may have been the reviving of a work begun in the nearby community of Lexington. The Rev. Samuel Seiders, serving the Hopeland (Pannabecker's) Circuit in 1855, reported an appointment at Lexington. In 1860 it was still on the same circuit.

In 1869 a church lot was bought and the church erected. The lot, 60x152 feet, was sold by Isaac Shoemaker and wife Sophia to the trustees of the congregation: Peter Althouse, Andrew Minnich, and John Nessinger, for the sum of $55. The Rev. G. D. A. Garman, serving the Schaefferstown Circuit, was pastor at the time.

The first Sunday School, organized in 1866, was a union school, and met in a schoolhouse. In 1881 the school was reorganized as a strictly United Brethren school. Joseph Weirich, pastor, was the first superintendent. Those succeeding him in that office were: Henry Keith, Jacob Clair, Hiram Meck, Jacob Schultz, T. Jeff Hartranft, Frank Royer, Emanuel Habacker, Frank Royer, C. G. Carpenter, C. Hardman, M. M. Weber, C. S. Hartranft, James George, A. M. Shissler, John Nessinger, Edgar Miley, and Roy Hoffer.

James Shoop was pastor, 1871-73. In 1871, William Gass was class leader, Peter Althouse, assistant class leader, and Isaac Shoemaker, steward. The church roll, in 1871, in addition to these three names, had the following: John Hirst, Henry Hirst, Henry and Catharine Dissinger, Sophie Shoemaker, Catharine Brunner, Susanna Gass, Andrew and Sarah Minnich, Lydia and Mary M. Minnich, Zacharias Demmy, Mary A. Althouse, Anna Berkenbein, Mary Habacker, David Sherk, Jefferson Melly, and Sarah Nafsinger. By 1880, the class had increased to forty-five in number. The church remained with the Sinking Spring Circuit, 1869-73. It was placed on the Schaefferstown Circuit in 1873. In 1874, Brunnerville Circuit was created, and remained so for but one year, George Shindler was the pastor. From 1875 onward, Brunnerville Church was affiliated with the following circuits: Hopeland, (Paradise), 1875-82; Manheim, 1882-83; Hopeland, 1883-86; Lititz, 1886-89; Lancaster, 1889-90; Lititz,
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1890-1911; Hopeland, 1911-13; under Lititz quarterly conference, 1913-17 and 1919-23; Lickdale, 1923-24.

Brunnerville constituted a charge in 1918. M. D. Kendig was the minister. While the church was under the Lititz quarterly, the following pastors served: B. M. Breneman, 1913-14; Amos Martin, 1914-17; A. W. Dambach, 1917-18; M. D. Kendig, 1919-20; C. C. Hollingsworth, 1920-21; Conray Curry, 1921-23. Pastors serving since it was a second time constituted a charge were: F. E. Druckenbrod, 1924-26; Oscar Sneath, 1926-27; R. G. Becktel, 1927-1929; Grant N. Miller, Harry W. Zechman, 1929-30; H. M. Tobias, 1930-35; W. C. Grosz, 1935-37; Harold Peiffer, 1937-40; Warren L. Strickler, 1940-41; Warren L. Strickler, Oscar Buch, 1941-43; Chester Hartman, 1944; and Calvin R. Miller, 1945-46.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Peiffer, conference year 1937-38, the church building was painted and renovated. A pulpit annex was added, and lights and pulpit were installed. The present membership numbers 111, the Sunday School enrollment, 139.

Centerville Church, East Hempfield Township

To the Rev. Abraham R. Myers of Mountville belongs the credit for establishing a church at Centerville. A Sunday School was organized by him in 1885 which met in the Centerville schoolhouse. J. Francis Smith, pastor of Ironville Circuit, reported an appointment at Centerville in 1887. Three years later at a quarterly conference held at Mountville a trustee board was elected, consisting of the Rev. Myers, A. B. Weaver, John W. Lehman, Lewis C. Wennenholt, Jacob Gibble, Jonas G. Stehman, and J. H. Witmer, for the purpose of erecting a church building. The congregation was somewhat hesitant in securing ground for this project. A visit to a grove located near the school building brought the group to a favorable decision. These trustees purchased four acres and ninety-two perches, mostly woodland, for the sum of $594.78, March 30, 1891. One year later, three and one-half acres of this plot were sold. Part of this tract was later repurchased for burial of the dead.

Plans for the building being presented, and the deed having been
secured, a frame church, 36x48, was erected. John Maley was the builder. The house of worship was dedicated by the Rev. Hiram B. Dohner, presiding elder, on September 4, 1892. The class was not organized until November following. Thirty members formed the new class, and a week later twenty-three additional members were received.

Considering that there was no organized class at the time, the building project was something of a venture. The cost of the land was more than met by the sale of part of it. From 1891-94 the congregation paid $2,507.64 on the building cost. Six years after building, additional work was done on the structure. The building was painted inside and outside, carpeted, an altar rail and pulpit chairs placed. The improvements completed by July 1898, amounting to $348.16, were paid for at the time.

Through the years following other improvements were made. In 1920 a furnace was installed. The church was remodeled in 1924 at a cost of $866.20. To meet the demands of a growing Sunday School, an attractive chapel was annexed to the rear of the main building in 1942, costing five hundred dollars. Daniel L. Shearer was pastor at the time.

Centerville church has always kept in step with the general development of departmental organization. The Sunday School at the time of dedication of the church had an enrollment of 152 members, with an average attendance of 92. In 1893 a Young People's Christian Endeavor Union was organized with thirty members enrolled. Four years later a W. M. A. was organized with eight members. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Lizzie Newcomer; Vice President, Mrs. Clara Hess; Secretary, Mame Baker; and Treasurer, Naomi Sload. The Society has had only four presidents during these years: Mrs. Newcomer, 1897-99; Mrs. Amanda Shenk, 1899-1908; Mrs. Amy Bowers, 1908-37; and Mrs. F. L. Nixon, 1938 to the present.

In 1933 the Silver Spring charge bought a parsonage. It is at an excellent location about a mile west of the Centerville Church, on the Lancaster-Marietta pike. Each of the three churches, Centerville, Ironville, and Silver Spring, composing this charge, bore its proportional share, amounting to more than one thousand dollars.

Abraham R. Myers, founder and organizer of this congregation, was born in Manor Township, June 18, 1850, and died May 23, 1908. In early life he was a school teacher. Later he engaged in the mercantile business in Mountville. His love for christian work led him to apply for quarterly conference license. This was granted him by the Mountville quarterly held September 4, 1882. He was admitted into annual conference in 1893, and ordained three years later. After the close of his service at Centerville in 1892, he served the Middletown church and later Lancaster Covenant Church.

Centerville Church was with the Ironville Circuit 1887-88, J. Francis Smith, pastor. Its affiliation with circuits from 1882 to 1891
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is uncertain. It was a part of Marietta circuit 1891-92. In 1892 it was constituted a charge. The pastors appointed were: Abraham R. Myers, 1892-99; I. N. Seldomridge, 1899-1900; G. B. Raeser, 1900-01; B. M. Breneman, 1901-04. It was with Refton for one year, 1904-05, S. G. Kauffman, pastor. For one year, 1905-06, it was a charge, O. L. Mease was the pastor. It was with Refton again in 1906-07. It was constituted a circuit in 1907, and remained so until 1918. Ministers appointed were: O. L. Mease, 1907-09; J. R. Bowermaster, 1909-10; C. A. Lynch, 1910-11; S. G. Kauffman, 1911-13; O. R. Brooks, 1913-17; C. A. Sollenberger, 1917-18. From 1918-25 it was affiliated with Refton and West Willow. From 1925 onward it has been a point on the Silver Spring Circuit.

Columbia, Salome Church

John Wright procured a patent for a ferry in the year 1730 and built a ferry-house at “Shawanah Indian Town,” the future site of Columbia borough. The ferry was used until, and even after, the first bridge crossing the Susquehanna at that point was erected in 1814. A remark by Bishop Newcomer comes to mind in this connection. Under date of April 26, 1814, he wrote in his Journal, “Today I rode through Columbia. They are building a bridge across the Susquehanna River at this place; this is a wonderful undertaking; where will the inventive genius of man stop?” The following November he rode across the new bridge. Columbia was on his route of travel as he came across from Strickler’s near Hallem, York County, and either went out to the Rev. John Christian Smith’s in West Hempfield, or down to the Herr’s in the Manor. The events of a meeting held jointly by the Methodists and the United Brethren in Columbia in 1804 have been previously stated. The United Brethren, however, established no work in Columbia at that time. It was not until the year 1846, when some families moved to Columbia who had United Brethren learnings, that our church had its beginning there. Among these families were those of Christian Hershey and Solomon VonNieda. The ministers serving the Lancaster Circuit began holding services in these and other private homes. Those on the circuit, 1858-59, were Joseph Young Jr., and Christian Kauffman. They organized a class consisting of: Christian Hershey, leader; David C. Wayne, steward; Sarah and Mary Wayne, Elizabeth Hershey, Catharine Hoffman, John Rhinehart, H. Lewars and Mary Lewars, Susan Hoffman, Henry Fordney and Lovina Fordney, Mary Lewis, J. C. and Elizabeth Meldram.

Services were also held in a schoolhouse next to the lots on which the first church building was subsequently erected, in 1860. Samuel Shock, by deed dated April 7, 1860, conveyed part of lots numbered 29, 30, and 31, a plot of ground facing on Perry Street, eighty-six feet, and extending along Third Street, seventy-six feet, to Jonas Garber, Christian Hershey, and David C. Wayne, trustees, in trust, for the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, to erect or build or cause to build a house of worship, for the consideration of nine-hundred dollars. The cornerstone was laid July 1, 1860 by the Rev.
William B. Raber, of Pennsylvania Conference. The structure was completed by November and dedicated on the 11th of that month by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner.

G. W. Scott, appointed pastor in that year, came to our conference from Allegheny Conference in 1860, and in 1862 withdrew and joined the Baptists. He reported a membership of sixty at the close of his year. Annual conference made an appropriation of two-hundred dollars to launch the project. The second year Lewis Peters was appointed and an appropriation of $150 was made. Mountville and West Hempfield (Ironville) churches were attached to Columbia in 1862. The Rev. Peters continued to serve for a second year. The following year, Mountville was detached. G. W. Miles Rigor served the charge three years, Joseph B. Daugherty, one year, 1866-67.
During two years, 1867-69, Columbia was attached to Mountville Circuit. W. S. H. Keys served the circuit the first year, A. H. Kauffman assisted him the second year. Columbia became a station in 1869. The Rev. Keys continued with the church that year. He reported a membership of 201 at the close of his three years with Columbia church.

In the first decade of its history as an organized congregation, the church had a varied experience. There was a decided growth in membership. In its third year the membership was sufficiently large to form two class-meeting groups. Christian Hershey and Augustus Pelan were the leaders, David C. Wayne and J. Hinkle were stewards. In the year 1868-69 the church had three class leaders, three assistant class leaders, four stewards, and a leader for a juvenile class. This latter was unique for the time, we believe. It is the only instance of its kind on record in quarterly conference proceedings for that period, to come under our observation. The work, however, was greatly handicapped by a debt on a church which was inadequate to meet the needs of the congregation. Resolutions dealing with this situation were passed in annual conference sessions of the years 1865 and 1866.

The first church building was greatly improved in 1877, though still too small. Three years later some thought was given to the erection of a new church at a more favorable location. Consequently in 1885 a new site was purchased. It was a plot of ground fronting eighty feet on Fifth Street, and extending along alley H sixty-two feet. The trustees at the time were: John C. Klingbeil, Thomas S. White, Uriah Sourbeer, Aaron Dyer, and David Welsch. The purchase price was $1,200. The cornerstone for the new church was laid August 4, 1886. A two-storied brick structure sixty-two by forty-eight feet in size was erected. Jacob Sneath, who made some valuable contributions to the local church and the conference, was the contractor for this church building, as also for the first. The new sanctuary, now bearing the name of "Salome" was dedicated to sacred worship by Bishop E. B. Kephart, Sunday, October 9, 1887. Its total cost was $12,542.55, of which amount all but $1,500 had been provided before the day of dedication. Cyrus D. Harp, pastor, 1885-88, gave leadership to this glorious achievement.

Columbia was a growing community. Its favorable location and enterprising citizens, by developing industries and excellent mercantile, financial, and other institutions, attracted new inhabitants. Salome church experienced a corresponding growth. Its increase in membership was consistent, but periodically, it was well-nigh phenomenal. A. A. Long became its pastor in 1893, and during his first year he added 250 members to the church roll. In 1894 additional property was bought, its house of worship enlarged, the original building improved, and new equipment installed, at a total cost of $5,051.30. S. C. Enck came to Salome church in 1898 and remained fourteen years. Under his effective ministry the church took new strides. In 1901, a house having all modern conveniences,
located at 123 North Fourth Street, was bought for use as a parsonage at a total cost of $3,750. Two additional properties were secured in 1910 at a total cost of $4,700: one at 504 Walnut Street, which has for some years now been used as a pastor's residence; the other on Fifth Street. At the close of Dr. Enck's pastorate, the membership numbered 617.

In 1917 and 1929 respectively, the properties at 506 and 512 Walnut Street were purchased—total cost, $5,800. In 1932 an annex, fifty by fifty feet, was added to the main building to provide additional room for an overcrowded Sunday School. Dedication services were held May 22 of that year by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, assisted by the pastor, A. L. Haeseler. The cost of the annex, and other considerable improvements made to the main building, was $5,080.68.

The properties at Nos. 13-21 North Fifth Street were bought in 1942 with the view of using the area for church parking. It is evident that the congregation's ministerial and lay leadership has had a long-range expansion in mind in buying these properties which lie adjacent to each other. Plans have been laid and preliminary drawings are complete for the erection of a modern church plant consisting of: Church, Christian education, and parsonage buildings. The sum of seventy-five thousand dollars is in hand to begin this enterprise as soon as materials are available. Dr. H. J. Behney is now in the eighth year of his ministry with this congregation. He already has to his credit that of giving leadership to the erection of two modern church plants; viz., Manheim and Shamokin First. Handicaps created by war emergencies have prevented launching the building project of his present parish.


Denver, Trinity Church

When U. S. G. Renn was pastor of the United Brethren church in Ephrata, he felt the need of a church in Denver, Pennsylvania. In the year 1899 he preached several times in the borough of Denver, arousing considerable interest. On September 3, 1899, a class was organized consisting of the following members: Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. McGill, Mrs. Alice E. Kurtz, and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Shuler. The first revival meeting was held in Shirk's Hall, better known as the old Fire Hall, on Railroad Street. This
meeting began February 12, 1900, and closed March 26. The following persons were converted: Mrs. Kate Flory, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, Jennie Sweigart, Mrs. Ephraim Renninger, Mrs. Elizabeth Eberly, Mrs. Henry Hartman, Mrs. Ada Sweigart, Mrs. Eliza Stark, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hagy, Nora Renninger, Sadie Becker, Cora Becker, Stella Eberly, Callie Greeninger, Carrie Shiffler, William Renninger, and Mrs. James Showalter. All of the above united with the church March 25, 1900, excepting Mrs. Eliza Stark, who joined one week later. Some time after this revival service the congregation moved across the street to the third floor of Wolf's Hall, where services were held regularly until the church was built.

At a quarterly conference held at Ephrata March 7, 1900, the following board of trustees was chosen: E. B. Wolf, A. R. McGill, Isaac H. Miller, all of Denver, and Charles Yeager and C. E. King of Ephrata. The first meeting of the board was held in the home of E. B. Wolf on March 26. The trustee board met again on May 11, 1900, at which time a lot of ground was purchased from the Hon. J. A. Stober of Schoeneck, Penna., for $425. Later, thirty-five additional feet were purchased from Ephraim Renninger for $280. On June 12, 1900, ground was broken for the church building. The cornerstone was laid July 8, 1900. The services for the day opened with a prayer and praise service at 6:00 a.m. in Shirk's Hall. The Sunday School session followed at 9:00. From the Hall they went to the park in Denver, where the preaching service was held in the pavilion. U. S. G. Renn, the pastor, had charge of the service. The Rev. H. T. Denlinger of Lancaster preached the sermon. In the afternoon at 2:00 o'clock the members and friends of the congregation assembled at the site of the church building on what was then known as North Union Street (now North Main Street), where the cornerstone-laying ceremonies took place. The Revs. Renn and Denlinger gave short addresses. The evening services were held in the park pavilion. After a spirited song service, the Rev. Denlinger preached.

The church was dedicated November 25, 1900 by Bishop E. B. Kephart, assisted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent. Friday evening before the dedication, the first service was held in the church with the pastor, S. L. Rhoads, preaching the sermon. Saturday evening the message was given by Dr. Lowery. The cost of the church was $5,476. The cash offering on the day of dedication amounted to four hundred dollars. The building committee consisted of E. B. Wolf, I. H. Miller, A. R. McGill, and E. S. Hagy. The contractors were Messrs. B. H. Kegerrise, Ephraim Renninger, and E. A. Kurtz. The church was originally lighted with gas, but, in September 1912, electric lights were installed. The auditorium measures 32 by 58 feet and the Sunday School room is 20 by 32 feet in size. During the administration of Ira R. Fortna the basement was enlarged and a new heating plant installed.

When S. L. Rhoads was assigned to the Denver charge there was no parsonage. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shimp, who lived across the street from the church, invited the preacher and his wife to move
into their home for the winter. Later the house, number 422 Main Street, next door to the church, was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Renninger as the parsonage. The following trustees were elected: Ephraim Renninger, J. W. Horst, and Stephen Gensemer. December 21, 1919, the trustee board of the church and the parsonage board merged into one with the following trustees being elected by the quarterly conference on the above date: A. D. Meisky, Ephraim Renninger, H. Palm, Emanuel Hagy, and Robert Mowery.

The first bell cracked after it was in use a short time. It was sent back to the factory to be repaired. After these repairs were made it cracked the second time. On July 14, 1902, the board decided to purchase a new No. 44 steel alloy bell. This bell is still being used.

Harry M. Mentzer received his quarterly conference license to preach at a meeting of the quarterly conference in Denver in the year 1912.

In the year 1937 approximately twenty-five persons withdrew their membership from the church and formed another organization. This was a severe blow to the congregation, but the members rallied and decided that the church must go on. Even though handicapped for lack of leaders, the church forged ahead, making considerable progress each succeeding year. The church today is better in every way than it has ever been in its history. The church debt has been liquidated, the assessments paid in full with a nice balance in the treasury, and members are being added each year.

The following ministers served this church: U. S. G. Renn, 1899-1900; S. L. Rhoads, 1900-03; Amos Lehman, 1903-05; S. G. Kauffman, 1905-08; J. E. Keene, 1908-09; W. W. Fridinger, 1909-14; M. H. Miller, 1914-18; O. G. Romig, 1918-20; B. M. Breneman, 1920-32; Ira R. Fortna,
Eby’s (Union) Church, Rapho Township

The Eby’s Church, known also as Union and as Strickler’s, though no longer regularly used as a house of worship, made such a great contribution to United Brethrenism that its history deserves recording. The building erected of brick in the year 1851 is still well preserved. It is located in Rapho Township on an elevation of ground along a country road which branches off northward from the Mt. Joy-Manheim road, about two miles east of Mt. Joy.

Though the congregation at Florin had a house of worship nine years before the congregation at Eby’s, the latter may have been the earlier of the two congregations. A comparison of church rolls shows that by the year 1861 both were of about equal membership strength. Eby’s was the first of these two congregations to entertain an annual conference. The annual conference held March 1-5, 1841, was entertained by this class. It was held in “Strickler’s Schoolhouse,” or as the minutes have it: “Rapho Schoolhouse No. 3.” This school building, erected of stone, stood along the same road along which the church now stands, on Strickler land. The successor to the older school is called, “Elm Tree School,” and is located southwesterly from the site of the original building. The meeting of annual conference was the earliest held in that particular section of Lancaster County.

Suppose we drop in on this session to make some observations. Bishop Jacob Erb is the presiding officer, with the Rev. John Fohl, one of two presiding elders, as vice chairman. The conference, when the session opens, is composed of seventy members, all ministers, of whom twenty-eight answer the roll on the first day. Eight additional respond on the second day and thirty-four do not attend any session. Only twelve out of the total membership held conference appointments during the year just closed. Three of the charges respectively were served by two ministers, so there were but nine charges. They were as follows: Chambersburg Station, Chambersburg Circuit, Baltimore City, York Mission, York Circuit, Carlisle Circuit, Dauphin Circuit, Lebanon Circuit, and Lancaster Circuit. The presiding elders are John Fohl of the Chambersburg district and John Light of the Lebanon district. Casper Light is elected to record the minutes in the German language and Martin Lohr to make the English record. Here, seated on pupils’ benches, the ministers are giving rapt attention to the devotional address of Bishop Erb, based on Corinthians, first epistle, chapter three. He is now, at the age of thirty-six years, in the course of holding his last round of annual conferences during the first quadrennium of episcopal service. Following the devotional address, election of officers, and roll call, the examination of ministers, both present and absent, consumes all the remaining time of the first day’s session and all of the second day’s session. During the course of the examination, four are reported as having withdrawn, one asks for a
A review of the remaining three days of the session follows. Ten candidates for the ministry appear before the committee, and five additional names of men not present are proposed for license. Eleven of the fifteen applicants are received. One minister was received by transfer. Four were voted elder's orders and were ordained. The death of the sainted Felix Light of Lebanon was reported to the session. The Bishop, presiding elders, and ministers paid over the monies they received. These, together with miscellaneous collections and income, amounted to $1,362.21. This amount was divided among those who served the conference, on the basis of $160 to married men, and $80 for single men, with a few exceptions. No money was held over, consequently there was no need for a conference treasurer. Conference voted to form a Home Missionary Society. It was virtually a conference society—its purpose, to augment the meager salaries ministers were then receiving. Twenty-four ministers subscribed $176 as an initial fund. Officers were elected and a committee of three was appointed to draw up a constitution.

When the report of the stationing committee was read, five ministers who held appointments during the previous years, received no appointments at this session. Bishop Erb was appointed to serve the Baltimore Church, which he did the next quadrennium while also serving a second term as Bishop. The Revs. Fohl and Light were elected presiding elders. Conference voted to meet at Funk's Schoolhouse, Dauphin County, then adjourned.

The work at Eby's was greatly strengthened by the influence of one of the venerable ministers of the conference, Daniel Peiffer, who was a long-time resident of the community. His second marriage was to a young widow of the neighborhood, which accounts for his locating here. He was born in Germany, October 21, 1785. In 1815 conference granted him exhorter's license, minister's license in 1818, and elder's orders in 1820. The Rev. Peiffer was junior preacher on the Hagerstown Circuit, 1819-20, and senior preacher of the Virginia circuit, 1820-21. From 1821 to 1826 he continued as an itinerant, serving during part of the period on the Lancaster Circuit. While on this circuit he became acquainted with Miss Barbara Hershey, a young daughter of a well-known United Brethren family of Manor Township. On September 6, 1825 he was married to Barbara Hershey, daughter of the Rev. Abraham Hershey and Maria Herr Hershey, Bishop Newcomer officiating at the Hershey home. After a comparatively short period, the first Mrs. Peiffer died, her death occurring on December 26, 1836, at the age of thirty-two years, five months and twenty-six days. Her body was laid to rest in the family burial plot located on the Hershey homestead at Creswell, Manor Township.

Apparently from that time forward, the Rev. Peiffer held a local relation in the Conference. Having located in the Eby's neighbor-
hood, his interest and influence in conference and local church matters continued. He missed only a few sessions of annual conference up to the time of the division of the area in 1846. His wisdom in counsel was recognized in that he was appointed to the stationing committee as late as 1852. He was last present in 1860. Over a period of a decade he was one of but a few men who received aid from the Benevolent Fund. "It was within the recollection of Father Peiffer that most of the pioneer incidents of our Church's history transpired, and it was, in consequence, with great pleasure that younger ministers sat listening to Father Peiffer as he related the experiences of his earlier ministry. As a minister he was sound in doctrine and instructive in his discourses. His life was exemplary." He died on September 20, 1868. His mortal remains were interred in the cemetery adjoining the Eby's Church.

Why this church should have been called "Union Church" is not apparent. A wooden block set in the west gable bears the inscription, "Union Church built, A.D. 1851, by the United Brethren in Christ." The deed states that John Strickler, John G. Clair, and George Eby, trustees of the members of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ of Rapho Township and vicinity, on May 6, 1851, purchased seventy-nine perches of land for the consideration of thirty dollars. Other denominations worshipped there, but apparently none but United Brethren had any financial interest in the property.

John G. Clair, whose name appears as one of the trustees, later became a member of annual conference, being admitted in 1859, ordained in 1863, and served for two years, 1862-64, charges in Pennsylvania Conference; and Highspire, Halifax, Harrisburg, Pine Grove, and Susquehanna Circuits in East Pennsylvania. He was born in West Hempfield Township, held local membership, first at Eby's, then at Mt. Joy, in which town he spent his later years and died.

The Eby family lived about two miles north of the church, in the valley of the Back Run Creek. It was a rather large family. The names of George Eby, Jacob Eby, and H. S. Eby appear on the trustee lists. George Eby's name also comes up in connection with the purchase of a lot for the Mt. Joy church. Jacob Eby was married to Esther Shoemaker, who after his death married the Rev. Peiffer. The Stricklers were also very numerous in the community, several of whom were members of the congregation. John S. Bradley was for many years secretary of the quarterly conference, and member of the trustee board. Christian M. Breneman, later a member of Mt. Joy, served as class leader and trustee.

Benjamin M. Breneman was very active at Eby's before removing to Silver Spring. He taught various public schools in Lancaster County. The writer, when a lad of six years, attended school under him for a term in the neighboring district, at Hossler's. Benjamin M. Breneman served as class leader, Sunday School superintendent, and secretary of the quarterly conference. He heard the call to the
Christian ministry, was licensed by a quarterly held on the charge, at Ironville, February 10, 1900. In 1901, he received annual license, and was ordained in 1909. The charges he served were: Marietta Circuit, Centerville Circuit, Harrisburg Circuit, Hopeland, Refton and West Willow, and Denver. Ephraim Hertzler and wife united with the Eby's Church, August 10, 1877. Brother Hertzler served on the trustee board. These parents had among other children, a son, Clayton, who as a young layman, took a very active part in the life of the congregation. Some years later he was a member of the Otterbein Church, Lancaster. The Rev. G. Edgar Hertzler, son of Clayton, is now numbered among the talented young ministers of the conference.

During the winter of 1898, the Rev. L. R. Kramer had a great revival at this church. He reported to the quarterly conference held in March that a meeting had been in progress four months in which sixty-four souls were converted. Following this meeting a Y. P. C. U. was organized with Abram N. Stauffer as president. The Church at that time also had a W. M. A. The Sunday School had an enrollment of seventy-five members. Like many other rural churches, this church in time began to decline in strength due to the removal of its members to town and city churches, so that now, though its activities have ceased, nevertheless, its influences live on.

The congregation at Eby's was served by pastors on the following circuits: the Lancaster Circuit prior to 1866; Mt. Joy Circuit, 1866-71; Mt. Joy Station, 1871-76; Florin Circuit, 1876-89; Ruhl's, 1889-92; Chestnut Grove Circuit, 1893-96; Marietta Circuit, 1896-1903; Florin Station, 1905-15; Brunnerville Circuit, 1916-18; Florin Station, 1919-46. From 1903 to 1905 it was a station or charge. M. E. Bachman was the pastor.

Elizabethtown, St. Paul's Church

The itinerant and lay preachers traveling back and forth between their appointments with the Florin class and the Gingrich's (Hillsdale) class made appointments to preach in and about Elizabethtown. The classes at Florin and Gingrich's were well organized and had houses of worship at the time. One of these itinerants was the Rev. David Gingrich Jr. He lived on a farm about a mile east of the town. When the class was organized, and probably before, he was a member of the group worshipping in its environs. He was born in the year 1802, was granted annual license in 1833, was ordained in 1835, and served the following circuits: Lancaster, 1846-47, 1849-50; Dauphin, 1847-48, and Berks, 1852-53. Having no more worlds to conquer, as it were, he was not afterward appointed by conference. Preachers were plentiful in those days, there being more than three times as many preachers as there were charges. They had to take their turn in serving the available conference appointments.

Joseph Hammaker (1814-1877) was also a member of the Elizabethtown class. He received annual license in 1842 and elder's orders in 1850. The work and influence of these men and others and
the existence of the two nearby churches were contributing factors in beginning work at Elizabethtown. Another, though more remote influence in this, as in many other communities, was Newcomer's work in an earlier period. He makes mention that in 1797 he preached near Elizabethtown to a numerous congregation, a preacher of the Moravian Society being among his hearers. Incidentally, it may be said, the Moravians had established themselves and had erected a house of worship near Milton Grove, four miles to the east.

By 1853 there was an organized class. David Gingrich, George Reider, and Samuel Geyer, trustees for the Elizabethtown class, by deed dated May 28, 1853, came into possession of a plot of ground fronting 196 feet on the Manheim Road and extending sixty feet along an alley, with a meeting house erected thereon. A brick structure, about thirty by forty feet in size, had been built by the Church of God. The said congregation, however, had not received a deed from the owner of the lot, so he sold the church and lot to the United Brethren—the sale price was $700. After some changes had been made, the edifice was dedicated by its new owners.

From a church record, now held by a church removed from Elizabethtown about twenty miles, which church was then one of thirteen appointments on the Lancaster Circuit, we copied the names of the members of the Elizabethtown church. Those on the roll from 1861 to 1863 are as follows: David and Mollie Gingrich, Joseph and Catharine Hammaker, George Reider, John, Mrs., Catharine and Elizabeth Reider, William and Rebecca Barnes, Samuel and Elizabeth Balmer, David, Mrs., and Anna Brenemen, Fanny Brill, Thomas Buck, John, Susanna and Mary Eichelberger, Samuel and Catherine Geyer, Maria Good, Elizabeth Hoffman, Christian Kapp, Benjamin, Esther and Fanny Lehn, Elizabeth Meckley, John and Elizabeth Nauman, Jacob and Catharine Shaeffer, and Magdalena Shearer. Forty-nine additional names were added in the period, 1864-71, making a total of eighty-four members on this particular record. Here is evidence that the congregation made commendable progress.

Eight years later when I. H. Albright, serving the Florin Circuit, became its pastor, the membership had been so reduced in numbers that the brethren at Elizabethtown wanted to abandon their work. Certain circumstances prevailing at the time in conference ranks give ground for a reason why this change had taken place.

For a number of years, prior to the forming of East German Conference, the language question was a very live issue both on the floor of annual conference and of general conference. The action of general conference by directing, in 1869, that a German Conference be formed, prevented more serious losses, but the old sores remained for a long time. Secondly, there was an unfavorable attitude toward the rising educational institutions. Many of our people wanted nothing to do with "factory-made" preachers. In the third place, was the influence of George Hoffman and his followers, who formed the Hoffinanite or United Christian denomination.
Among the conference ministers, and member of the Elizabethtown Church, was George Reider. He had been licensed and ordained in the years 1858 and 1863, respectively. In 1870 conference ordered his name erased from the conference roll. Conference proceedings further show that David Gingrich Jr. had some grievances. The committee dealing with the same in 1870 made a report, but the substance of the report does not appear on the minutes, so it cannot be said what conclusions were reached. Nevertheless, it is a fact, that his name does not appear on the conference roll in 1870, nor after. About two months after that session of conference he drew up his last will and testament, in which he made a bequest of $1,000 "to the Missionary Fund of the United Brethren Church," and also directed that his funeral services "be conducted according to the rites and ceremonies of the U. B. Church." At the time of the probating of the will a rather unusual item was included: "David Gingrich died the fourth of September in the year 1874, at half-past four in the afternoon."

Dr. Albright, instead of heeding the wishes of the Elizabethtown Church representatives at the session of quarterly conference, suggested to hold on another year. Faithful pastoral work at this appointment, and the re-organization of the Sunday School marked the beginning of a turning tide of progress.

The church bought in 1853 was rededicated, June 12 of the same year. Repairs and improvements were made in 1887, costing $700. William Behney, and the ladies of the congregation led by Mrs. Kate Hoffman, Mrs. Harriet Brown, and Mrs. S. K. Barnes, did noble service in securing funds to meet the cost of improvement. Isaiah Baltzell, presiding elder, assisted by the pastor, S. R. Gipple, held rededictary services.

A new church was erected under the pastorate of H. M. Miller. He began to solicit funds in 1901. The next year definite steps were taken to erect a new building on the site of the old. Building operations began in 1903. The cornerstone was laid May 10, with appropriate exercises conducted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, assisted by the pastor, and the Rev. J. B. Funk. It was dedicated by Dr. William M. Bell, secretary of Foreign Missions, on December 20, 1903. The board of trustees at the time consisted of: D. B. Shirk, Dr. G. R. Kersey, J. H. Stern, David H. Myers, and B. L. Geyer. The project cost approximately $12,000:

In 1909 a house adjoining the church property was purchased, remodeled, and made desirable for the pastor's residence. A constantly growing membership demanded that larger accommodations be provided. A basement was constructed and fitted out under the original Sunday School building to house the Beginner and Primary Departments, in 1912. Later the basement under the main building was dug deeper and made suitable for a dining room and social meetings.

The next step was the erection of a Sunday School Chapel. A structure of brick, 49 by 73 feet in size was added to the church
proper. From its rear it has the appearance of a three-story building. Large windows admit abundance of daylight to the basement or lower floor, which houses the children's division. An assembly room and five large classrooms comprise the second or main floor. The gallery provides room for nine classes. Curtains and accordion doors are so placed that there can be individual classwork on each floor.

The committee which planned and supervised this project, in conjunction with the pastor, Dr. Joseph Daugherty, were: B. G. Lehn, J. H. Stern, I. E. Shoop, D. H. Myers, and B. L. Geyer. The improvements on the original building and the cost of the new structure approximated $37,600. The cornerstone was laid October 5, 1924, by conference superintendent, Dr. S. C. Enck. Bishop William M. Bell dedicated the Chapel April 5, 1925. A great host of people came to the services of the day, replete with inspiration and fellowship. Eight visiting pastors representing various denominations were present in the afternoon. Evening services were held.
THE CHURCHES OF LANCASTER COUNTY

... during the week following. The speakers for the six nights in their order were: H. M. Miller, and I. N. Seldomridge, two former pastors; and H. E. Schaeffer, D. E. Long, P. B. Gibble, and O. T. Ehrhart.

Paul E. Fridinger has been pastor since 1942. Under his administration the congregation is continuing its forward march. It now numbers 859 in church membership, a net increase of seventy-five in three years. The Sunday School enrollment stands at 815, with an average attendance of 451 for the year 1944-45. Dr. Albright was right when in 1879 he advised the brethren at Elizabethtown to "hold on for another year."


Ephrata Church

A tender ministry of service to the sick took M. J. Mumma, pastor of the New Holland Circuit, to Ephrata in 1871. Three members of the Ranck's Church had moved to Ephrata some time previously; they were Mrs. Burton Keemer, and Mr. and Mrs. William Sprecher. The Keemers had a son by the name of Cyrus whose illness gave occasion for the Rev. Mumma to make his visit. The young man professed conversion, was baptized, and took the vows of the church. He died in the faith in August of the same year.

There arose a strong desire on the part of these persons to have regular preaching under the auspices of the United Brethren. At a quarterly meeting held on the circuit in the spring of 1872, William Sprecher of Ephrata, Levi Hoover of near New Holland, and John R. Boyer of Hinkletown were constituted a board of trustees to undertake the building of a church at Ephrata. In the same year a lot was purchased, but being found unsuitable, the site was abandoned and a second purchase made. The latter was on Church Street, the site of the present church. Ephrata was then a crossroads town of less than one-hundred houses and shops. Without a church organization and with but a small prospective constituency, the trustees-elect held a meeting on June 24, 1872, at which time it was decided to build a brick edifice, 32 by 42 feet in size.
There was no delay in getting started on the building. The cornerstone was laid on July 28 by W. S. H. Keys, then pastor of Trinity church, Lebanon. By December the building was completed and the house of worship dedicated on the 2nd of the month by the Rev. Lewis Peters, presiding elder of the Reading District, assisted by pastor Mumma. Several weeks of revival services followed. At the close of these services the church was organized with thirty-six members. In 1882 the sanctuary was renovated. A new six-hundred pound bell was placed in 1886.

Additional ground was secured in 1887. J. J. Yeager, John Fessler, C. E. King, D. S. VonNieda, and A. R. Keperling were trustees at the time. A parsonage was erected to the left of the original church property in 1890, and dedicated early in the following year. The house and lot cost fifteen-hundred dollars. The house was modernized and enlarged in 1911 at a cost of seventeen-hundred dollars. Extensive interior and exterior improvements were made to it in 1920-21.

The congregation outgrew its first house of worship. In 1891, consideration was given to the erection of a new church. Plans were laid to erect a two-storied brick structure, forty-four by seventy feet in size. The cornerstone was laid July 24, 1892, by the Rev. C. J. Kephart, assisted by the Rev. J. A. Lyter and the pastor, J. Francis Smith. The cost was $5,600, of which amount three-thousand dollars was paid by the end of the conference year. It was dedicated December 4, 1892, by Bishop Nicholas Castle, assisted by the Rev. H. B. Dohner and J. G. W. Herrold, pastor. The dedication took place on the corresponding Sunday of the same month exactly twenty years after the dedication of the first edifice. The church membership now numbered 140, and the Sunday School enrollment was 175.

During C. E. Boughter’s administration, 1903-10, the indebtedness of the church was cancelled, and improvements on the church building made and paid to the amount of approximately two-thousand dollars. He received a large class of members in 1906.

Dr. C. A. Lynch, on graduating from Bonebrake Theological Seminary, May, 1921, was appointed pastor. Forty-eight members were added during his first year. In 1922 a new Moller pipe organ was installed, costing $4,200. The entire amount was raised in a campaign of three weeks’ duration. Bishop William M. Bell dedicated the organ on June 11th. In this connection the Golden Anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated. Services were held during the following week.

This ever thriving church in a thriving community took a decided forward step by the erection of a Christian Education building. In 1926, additional ground was purchased adjoining the church property on the right. It cost $9,500. An official board meeting held April 5, 1933, set the wheels in motion to plan for a new church and church school that would meet present and future needs. Architectural plans having been carefully made, ground was broken for the first unit, that of the church school building. The cornerstone was laid
by appropriate ceremonies on July 21, 1935, Dr. J. A. Lyter officiating. The unit being completed, services of consecration were held May 17 to 24, 1936. Bishop Grant D. Batdorf preached on the morning of the 17th, and in the afternoon performed dedicatory rites. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, preached in the evening. On evenings of the following week, the speakers were: Monday, Dr. C. A. Lynch, president of Lebanon Valley College, and former pastor; Tuesday, Paul E. V. Shannon, son of A. L. Shannon, a former pastor; Wednesday, J. M. Walters, former pastor; Thursday, LeRoy R. Walters, son of J. M. On Friday evening a pageant-drama, “Let There Be Light,” was presented under the direction of Miss Dorothy Willits.

The new building must be carefully inspected to be fully appreciated. It is a three-storied stone structure of Gothic design, and embodies all the best traditions of ecclesiastical architecture. The masses and proportions of the building, together with the entrances, the bays, and the art windows, combine to produce a most pleasing appearance. The interior is so planned and furnished that all standard educational requirements are met. There is a corridor running lengthwise through the building on each floor. Doors open to plastered classrooms on both sides of these corridors. Assembly rooms for the several departments are located in proper relation. Adequate restrooms, coatrooms, supply cabinets, and other facilities are provided.

Dr. E. M. Rhoad, pastor of the congregation, 1925-43, directed his lay co-workers in this great achievement. Two committees were
in charge: a planning committee and a building committee. The combined personnel of these committees was as follows: C. S. Yeager Sr., H. H. Hoffman, Menno W. Hess, F. S. Weaver, Horace W. Weaver, J. R. Wertsch, William D. Bryson, L. H. Hackman, Harry S. Gerhart, John G. Willits, and A. H. Berkenbine. The total cost was $83,730.52. All financial obligations were met by the time of the ninth anniversary, which was observed May 13, 1945, during the pastorate of L. R. Walters, Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, directing the note-burning service and preaching the sermon.

The Sunday School had its beginning at the time of the church organization. It was discontinued for a few years, but reorganized in 1876. The Women's Missionary Society was organized during the ministry of P. A. Bowman. In the time of C. A. Mutch's pastorate, special support to foreign work was begun. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. King had this work at heart for many years and gave it generous support. Miss June M. Hartranft, who had been deaconess since 1942, was consecrated as a missionary by Bishop Batdorf at a service held in the local church on January 21, 1945, Drs. S. G. Zeigler and John F. Musselman also being present. She sailed for the West African mission field on February 17 following. The congregation's interest in foreign mission work has measurably increased through intimate relationships with its own missionary whom it is partially supporting through special contributions.

Stephen Raby, David Gockley, and Lloyd Crall, young men of this church, have been licensed to preach. H. H. Hoffman, Leroy Wolf, John R. Wertsch, William D. Bryson, J. L. Schneck, L. H. Hackman, and John Willits compose the trustee board. Head officers of the several Women's organizations are: Mrs. William Zwally, Mrs. Harry S. Stoner, Mrs. A. H. Berkenbine, Mrs. Harry Richwine, Mrs. Anna Kauffman, Mrs. L. R. Walters, and Eva Fisher. Horace W. Weaver was for many years lay representative to annual conference. Galen N. Barry currently serves in that capacity. J. Harry Hibshman, grandson of John R. Boyer who was one of the first trustees, Mary Binkley, Mrs. J. P. Burkholder, Eva Fisher, Mrs. Daisy Eitnier, Mrs. Anna Kauffman, and Mrs. Levi Beck, present members, witnessed the cornerstone laying of the second building.

From 1871 to 1877, Ephrata Church was affiliated with New Holland Circuit. The ministers were: M. J. Mumma and A. H. V. Gosweller, 1872-73; M. J. Mumma and John H. Groff, 1873-75; and J. F. Mower, 1875-77. Ephrata was a station, 1877-79. Ministers appointed were: S. R. Grabill and Israel Groff, 1877-78; and Israel Carpenter, 1878-79. It was attached to Manheim Circuit, 1879-82, and P. A. Bowman was the minister. Ephrata has been a station since 1882, however, there were other churches attached to it until 1899. From 1882 onward, the following ministers served the charge: P. A. Bowman, 1882-84; Michael A. Salt, 1884-86; L. R. Kramer, 1886-89; J. Francis Smith, 1889-92; J. G. W. Herrold, 1892-93; J. G. W. Herrold, then A. L. Shannon, 1893-94; A. L. Shannon, 1894-96; U. S. G. Renn, 1896-99; U. S. G. Renn, then G. B. Raezer, 1899-1900; M. J.
Falmouth Church, Conoy Township

In the extreme northwest of Lancaster County lies the village of Falmouth. When Joseph Daugherty and Jacob Doerkson traveled the Lancaster Circuit in 1861 there was a class at Falmouth, and in that year it was attached to said circuit. But there is no mention of the Falmouth class in the conference proceedings from that time until the year 1889.

The county court records show that there were authorized trustees in 1888. By deed dated February 13, 1888, John Metzler, Ephraim Brinser, Abraham Cobaugh, Eli Ruth, and Aaron Bender, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ congregation at Falmouth paid one-hundred dollars for a plot of ground fronting on the public road fifty feet and having a depth of 150 feet.

A frame building costing $1,250 was erected, and was dedicated June 16, 1889 by the Rev. H. B. Dohner, presiding elder. H. D. Lehman was the pastor. In 1922 the building was improved, a new heating plant was installed, and new carpet placed, incurring an expense of $702. The pastor at that time was E. M. Rhoad.

In the spring of 1937, when Grant N. Miller was serving the charge, the interior was redecorated, the woodwork refinished, new pews and pulpit installed, and a beautiful painting, "Christ in the Garden," was placed in the pulpit alcove. Reopening services were held beginning Sunday, June 13, with Bishop G. D. Batdorf preaching the first sermon, and former pastors bringing the messages during the week.

The church has a membership of ninety-two, the Sunday School an enrollment of ninety-seven, with an average attendance (1945) of sixty-nine.

While the church is located in Lancaster County, its nearest neighboring United Brethren churches are in Dauphin County, with which it has been affiliated since 1888, as follows: in 1888 it was attached to Royalton; in 1889 (October), to Fishburn's; in 1891, to Royalton; in 1901, to Hillsdale, and has remained a part of the Hillsdale charge since that year.

Trustees serving at the present time are: John Dibeler, Harry Dibeler, Roy G. Feeser, Benjamin R. Fink, and Clyde Fink. These persons all have long time service in various official capacities. Additional local officers are: Roy Fishel, secretary of the Sunday School; Mrs. Marlin D. Seiders, president of the Christian Endeavor Society, Mrs. Robert Brenner, secretary and Miss Lillian Rutherford, treasurer.
This church has the distinction of being the first erected by the United Brethren in Lancaster County. The church is mentioned in our conference minutes by all the names which the village bore throughout the periods of its history. For a time there were two United Brethren churches in Florin. The site of Florin was a farm in the possession of Christian Hertzler. He laid out a part of his farm in building lots in 1812. It had on it a strong spring of water, which accounts for it receiving the name, Springville. The name was later changed to Spring Garden. In 1880 its post office name became Florin.

United Brethren preachers, beginning about the year 1834, held services in a schoolhouse which was erected in 1829. It was a small one and a half story frame building. Another school building having been erected, some public-spirited citizens enlarged the original and made use of it as a Town Hall. This building remains standing at this date.

The influence of the Revs. George Geyer and Daniel Peiffer had much to do with the beginning of our work at Florin. George Geyer Sr. resided on a farm located about a mile northwest of Florin. The Hersheys lived a mile southeast of the village. Services were held at these farm residences as well as in the school house.

The first class was organized in the year 1839. It consisted of ten persons, viz., John Geyer and wife Elizabeth, George Geyer Jr., and wife Catherine, Christian Hershey and wife Elizabeth, Charles Zeller and wife Martha, and Philip Greiner and wife. The class met for a year at the home of George Geyer. In 1840-41, services were held at the house of John Geyer, in the village, now in the possession of the descendants of George A. Geyer. A great revival was held in this home in the winter of 1840-41. When the attendance greatly increased, the place of meeting was changed to the school house. The meeting continued three months and resulted in sixty-two conversions, many of them uniting with the class.

Daniel Funkhouser was traveling the Lancaster Circuit when the class was organized. Jacob Wenger was the minister, 1840-41; J.
Adam Sand and Henry Stably, 1841-42; and Christian Peffley and Henry Esensy, 1842-43. John Light was presiding elder of the district, 1840-42, and his brother Casper Light, 1842-44.

The church was built in 1842 on lot numbered 119, on Church Street, in the town plan. The ground was donated by Philip Greiner and Jacob Geyer. James Menaugh Sr., contractor, erected a brick building thirty by forty feet in size. It was in this church that the 1846 session of conference was held, which session carried out the mandate of the preceding general conference in making the Susquehanna River the dividing line between East Pennsylvania and West Pennsylvania Conference, so-named at the time. Bishop Glossbrenner presided at this session.

Names of members on an old church roll, 1860-61, number thirty-five. Another great revival was held in the winter of 1864-65. New names listed on the church roll, February 19, 1865, number thirty-eight. The church made excellent progress at that time. In 1860 a number of members of the Florin church went into the new organization at Mt. Joy. This was to be expected inasmuch as these persons lived in Mt. Joy, or in close proximity.

The congregation at Florin experienced considerable difficulty during the following decade. Forming of a German Conference in 1870 did not meet the situation at Florin. Seemingly there were a number of persons who wanted to be affiliated with the German Conference, but the geographical boundary established excluded the Florin Church from said conference. The church had four local classes, one of which was a "German Class." In 1875 this class of twenty members withdrew from the main body and formed "The German United Brethren in Christ." They never called themselves a Church. A board of trustees consisting of David B. Meyers, John Stoll, Henry P. Bear, and Andrew Stoll, bought a small tract of land from Christian Shoemaker (another of their number). It was located on the north side of the pike, in the western limits of the village. They erected a brick church. The stone in the southern gable has the inscription: "Built by the German U. B., with the help of others, 1876."

This group was served by John Lowery, 1876-77; Amos Graul, 1877-80; William Lamey, 1880-81; and Lewis Fleisher, 1881-82. The existent circumstances were from time to time brought to the attention of the annual conferences concerned and dealt with by the presiding elders, and special committees. What events took place between the year 1882 and 1889, official records do not show. The following resolution is on record:

That the First U. B. Church of Florin, now known as the Glossbrenner Chapel, be recognized as the U. B. Church of Florin.²

A second stone on the church has the following, "Ceded to the M. E. Church and dedicated, June 15, 1890." More recently the
The structure has been much enlarged by the Brethren Church as one of their houses of worship.

The Rev. H. M. Miller started the movement that resulted in the erection of a new church in Florin. Construction was begun under Amos Lehman's pastorate, and finished under that of N. L. Linebaugh. The cornerstone was laid, August 4, 1907, by Dr. S. C. Enck, assisted by I. E. Runk, and pastor Lehman. The building erected of cement block, by Harry Keener, contractor, cost $4,000. It was dedicated December 8, 1907 by Dr. Lawrence Keister of Lebanon Valley College. The Rev. Linebaugh worked very hard to complete this building.

The second building was renovated in 1928 during the pastorate of J. C. Deitzler. The pulpit was changed from the east to the west end, new pews were installed, new light fixtures and heating plant were added, at a cost of $2,500. The church was reopened on August 5th.

Ten years later an annex of brick was added. The cornerstone was laid October 3, 1937 by the pastor, Ira W. Funk, assisted by the Rev. H. M. Miller. Dedicatory services were conducted February 27, 1937. Dr. O. T. Ehrhart performed the customary rites and preached the sermon, Dr. O. L. Mease assisted. This addition added greatly to the facilities for Sunday School work, having well-arranged and well equipped class rooms in the basement and on the main floor. Its cost was $10,171.69.

A parsonage costing $633.71 was erected in the year 1878, during the administration of P. A. Bowman. Improvements were made to it in 1889. It was renovated and modernized in 1933 at a cost of $1,188.

Harry C. Kotler received quarterly conference license by vote of this class, as did also Harvey K. Geyer. John F. Musselman, who has a long and distinguished career as missionary, preacher, teacher, and superintendent in our African Mission Field, is a native son of Florin and of this congregation.

Those who have served as superintendents of the Sunday School are: Henry H. Sherrick, John Booth, Samuel S. Stacks, T. N. Hostetter, George A. Geyer, H. Gainer, H. L. Stoll, N. S. Gantz, and C. E. Musselman. The Women's Missionary Association has a membership of 106.

Before the year 1867 the Florin Church was an appointment of the Lancaster Circuit. From 1867 to 1871, it was affiliated with the Mt. Joy Circuit. Its pastors were: Henry E. Hackman and William Evers, 1867-68; David O'Farrell and Gorge Stoll, 1868-69; and J. C. Mumma, 1869-71. From 1871 onward the charge is variously called a circuit or a station. The pastors during the period are: John R. Reitzel, res. and C. Seltzer Meiley, 1871-72; C. Seltzer Meiley, 1872-73; George A. Loose, 1873-75; Israel Groff, 1875-76; Jacob P. Smith, 1876-77; P. A. Bowman, 1877-79; Isaac H. Albright, 1879-82; J. L. Nicholas,

Green Hill Church, Conestoga Township

The Rev. Tobias Finefrock, a local preacher, felt the need for religious service for the people living in the western end of Conestoga Township. He began holding services in a schoolhouse located near the site of the present church. Later, preaching services were held in the home of Charles Campbell. A revival meeting conducted in this home resulted in the conversion of fifty-four persons, most of whom were adults.

A half-acre lot was bought for seventy-five dollars, and a frame church was erected in 1887. Daniel R. Shenk, John Clark, Joseph Aston, Michael Shenk, Joseph Rankin, Maris Gainer, and Edward Boyd, trustees, acted for the class in the purchase of the lot. The house of worship was ready for dedication in the winter of 1887-88, but snow drifts made travel impossible so that it was deferred until June 10. Bishop Ezekiel B. Kephart officiated at the dedication, assisted by H. B. Dohner, presiding elder, and the pastor, J. F. Smith.

Henry Smith was the first Sunday School superintendent and class leader. The church had a membership of twelve, and the Sunday School an enrollment of twenty.

When W. E. Sherriff was the pastor an addition costing $3,400 was erected to the main building to provide better accommodations for Sunday School work. Dr. H. F. Rhoad preached the sermon on the occasion of the reopening, March 5, 1933.

The church has always been attached to the Manor Circuit.

Highville Church, Manor Township

If the Highville Church had been erected in the Rev. Abraham Hershey's time, he could have reached it in a ten-minute walk from his home, for Highville Church is within a mile and a half of brother Hershey's homestead, which stands to the northwest, near Creswell. But as the groups of United Brethren worshippers were small and much scattered, and the erection of meeting houses was too remote a possibility, there were no such buildings in Manor Township until eighteen years after his death. The first to be erected was the Stehman's church, located about five miles to the northeast of the site of the Highville Church and approximately the same distance east of the Hershey farm.

The gospel seed sown by the Rev. Hershey in the neighborhood where he lived took firm root. John Stehman, the founder of
Stehman's Church, and trustee at Highville, was thirty-eight years of age when Abraham Hershey died. If by some miracle the silence of the years should break forth in declaring the good works of our early church fathers residing in Manor Township, we would know just who were the persons converted under his ministry to carry forward his work. It requires no stretch of the imagination to believe that John Stehman and his generation heard and deeply felt the gospel call in brother Hershey's time.

A quarterly conference held on the Mountville Circuit selected John Stehman, Rudolph Kauffman, and Henry Manning Jr., trustees for a church at Highville. They bought three-fourths of an acre of ground along the public road from Creswell to Safe Harbor—a spot "beautiful for situation," from Adam Frey and wife Mary, at the cost of fifty dollars. The deed is dated November 7, 1868. The cornerstone has the date 1868. A year later, Adam Frey was elected in the place of Rudolph Kauffman, and was also elected class leader. Daniel Frey was class steward.

On May 1, 1869, the trustees made the following report on finances, dealing with the new church, to the session of quarterly conference:

Whole amount, cost of church, $3,390.50; amount of cash collected, $1,719.30; to be collected on subscriptions, $1,280.46; due the treasurer, beside the above unpaid subscriptions, $171.20; whole amount of debt, $390.74.

John Eberly was the first Sunday School superintendent. Abraham H. Kauffman was the minister. Fifty-one members were reported at the close of the year, 1869-70. According to presiding elder reports, the church was renovated in the years 1881, 1887, and 1901.

At the 1932 session of annual conference the boundary committee recommended that Highville Church become a separate charge.
The congregation felt that it was strong enough to launch out as such, and conference passed the recommendation. Ralph H. Wolfe, who had been pastor of the circuit, was then appointed to the new charge. It had a membership of 217, a Sunday School enrollment of 315, with an average attendance of 208.

Nearly eleven acres of ground located north of the Creswell-Safe Harbor Road were purchased in 1923. Approximately four acres were retained for church use. A large, modern brick parsonage was constructed, providing for every comfort a pastor might desire. It was dedicated January 22, 1933 by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent. The cost of construction was $6,523.66, of which amount $3,016.66 was raised in cash and subscriptions. A frame building, twenty by thirty feet, was erected at the western end of the grounds. It serves as a garage and, in addition, provides room for equipment incident to outdoor social and recreational activities.

In the fall of 1937 the congregation purchased and installed a new Hammond electric organ, costing $1,410. Dr. Enck dedicated the organ January 9, 1938. Five years later improvements were made to the interior of the sanctuary, shrubbery was planted, and a new bulletin board erected. Anniversary exercises were held September 12, 1943.

Trustees serving the congregation at the present time are: William Eshleman, Harry Eshleman, Harvey G. Frey, John Herr, Willis K. Shalebly, David W. Frey, and C. Lester Gehr. Officers of the church organizations are as follows: Class Leader, David W. Frey; organist, Mrs. James Stoner; Sunday School: Raymond E. Frey, superintendent, Edna Mae Glick, superintendent of Juniors, Charles Herr, secretary, Kathryn Shalebly, pianist, Albert Eshleman, treasurer, Mary Shalebly, Cradle Roll superintendent, Mrs. C. R. Swartz, Missionary superintendent, and Earl Shalebly, chorister; Women's Missionary Association, Mrs. C. R. Swartz, president, Mrs. Walter Burket, treasurer, Mrs. Earl N. Frey, secretary, Mrs. James Stoner, pianist; Otterbein Guild, Miss Edna Swartz, president, Missionary superintendent, and Earl Shalebly, chorister; Women's Missionary Association, Mrs. C. R. Swartz, president, Mrs. Walter Burket, treasurer, Mrs. Earl N. Frey, secretary, Mrs. James Stoner, pianist; Otterbein Guild, Miss Edna Swartz, president, Miss Grace Keperling, treasurer, Miss Anna Mary Swartz, pianist, and Miss Mary Stoner, secretary.

Samuel Stoner, Charles W. Wolfe, and Ira C. Keperling have received quarterly conference license by vote of this congregation. C. R. Swartz was appointed to this charge in 1943. He is giving much time to supervising surveys and making studies of rural-church areas as secretary-treasurer of the East Pennsylvania Conference Commission on Town and Country Church. His activities have extended to other conferences.

 Ministers serving the Highville church prior to the time when it was constituted a separate charge are found under the following circuits: Mountville, 1868-75; Conestoga, 1875-85; and Manor, 1885-1932.
Hopeland Church, Clay township

The section of Lancaster County in which the Hopeland Church is located was more or less open territory for the preachers of the three circuits which surrounded it. It cannot, therefore, be definitely stated who the first preachers were to come into the vicinity of Hopeland. Samuel Seiders, appointed to the Berks County Circuit in 1845, preached in the barns of Gideon Weidman and Jacob Snyder during that year. In the spring of the following year Simon Noll preached at Gideon Weidman's on a Sunday evening, and that was the beginning of a revival meeting which continued for some weeks. The meeting was held on the premises of Jesse Pannebecker, a member of the German Reformed Church. It resulted in eighteen conversions, among whom were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Landis, parents of Dr. J. P. Landis, who for many years was connected with the work of Bonebrake Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio.

These converts, with some others, were organized into a class of charter members consisting of: Joseph and Veronica Snyder, Gideon and Judith Weidman, Joseph and Caroline Landis, John and Polly Geise, Jesse and Kate Pannebecker, Peter and Margaret Fidler, Christian and Margaret Dullabohn, William and Susan Richardson, Samuel Ruth, Sr., and Sarah Ruth, Henry and Catherine Cassabalm, and David and Sarah Carpenter. The minds of the members turned to the need for a house of public worship. Jesse Pannebecker, Joseph Snyder, and Gideon Weidman were elected by the quarterly conference of the charge to erect a building. A deed dated June 21, 1847 shows that the above trustees bought 170 perches of ground at the cost of thirty-one dollars, from John Lowry and wife Elizabeth, and the church was erected and dedicated in that year. The Rev. Noll remained on the charge until the spring of 1848, and received sixty members during the two-year pastorate.

Hopeland is a rather recent name for this church. It was first named Pannabeckers, after one of its trustees. Mr. Pannabecker withdrew from the congregation in 1859 and all the money he contributed toward the erection of its building was returned to him. In the boundary committee report of 1860 it is called "Stone Church." The building was constructed of stone, consequently, from a material viewpoint; it bore a well-deserved name for a short time. It was built against a hillside. There was a basement, well-lighted and airy, in which a free school was conducted until the erection of the first school building in Newtown in the year 1880. However, the Rev. Noll who began a second pastorate with these people in 1860, did not like the name "Stone Church." He called it Paradise Church, and it retained this name until the year 1910 when Hopeland first appears in conference proceedings. The village, situated a half-mile northward, called Newtown, later was changed to Hopeland.

In 1889, under the pastorate of the Rev. A. L. Shannon, the original church building was practically rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of three thousand dollars. It was dedicated free of debt, October 27,
1889 by Dr. C. J. Kephart, president of Lebanon Valley College, assisted by H. B. Dohner, conference superintendent. John H. Miller, Jacob H. Hackman, Hiram L. Erb, David M. Weidman, and George Ruth constituted the board of trustees.

The congregation made extensive improvements to its house of worship in 1909, and was rejoicing in the experience of material and spiritual prosperity when a calamity suddenly came upon it. Lightning struck the building on the night of March 6, 1910, and it was completely burned out. A brick building, costing seven-thousand dollars, was erected to take its place. The board of trustees acted as a building committee: Evan S. Wolf, David Wertsch, S. H. Stump, George Ruth, and John H. Miller. The new edifice was dedicated November 13, 1910 by Dr. I. H. Albright, assisted by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent. The Rev. B. M. Breneman led the people through the alternating dark shadows and bright sunshine over a period of four years.

During the pastorate of W. E. Shoop, 1913-17, a parsonage was constructed, and, by improvements made upon it from time to time, it has been made into a very desirable manse. The parsonage lot is separated from the church lot by an east and west road. During M. B. Groff's terms of service a metal ceiling was placed in the church, a choir loft built, and the entire interior of the church redecorated.

G. Jay Umberger was appointed pastor in 1935 and remained with the congregation six years. During his administration changes were made in the area west of the original property. In 1936 ground across the Clay-Hopeland road was purchased. With the cooperation of the Department of Highways, the said road was relocated, eliminating a dangerous curve by the church cemetery. By the assistance of the Works Progress Administration and the diligent labor of the men of the church and the community, the area was properly graded, and it made a great change in the setting of the church property and its environs. The entire project cost the congregation $4,267.27 in cash, but in actual value was worth considerably more. Two years later a stone wall was built about the yard of the parsonage grounds at a cost of $608.40.

The spiritual progress of the Hopeland Church has kept pace with its material advance. All departments of work are well organized. Considerable interest has been shown in dramatics. The latest presentation, during the One Hundredth Anniversary Celebration, June 8-15, depicted the origin of the United Brethren denomination, and that of the Hopeland church in particular. In very recent years foreign work has been supported which called for funds above the assessed benevolent budget.

Plans were made during the pastorate of Clair M. Hitz to make certain improvements consisting of the installation of a new heating system, renovation of the Primary room, providing room for the heating plant, a Sunday School room, and an organ chamber. These plans were carried out during the early months of the pastorate of
• A. L. Haeseler, who was appointed in the fall of 1946. A new Moller pipe organ costing $4,156 was dedicated at the time of the centennial celebration.

Gideon Weidman, one of the first trustees, was a member of annual conference, 1851-76. He preached locally, and was a very great help to the local church of which he was a member, serving faithfully in various capacities. The Revs. S. C. Enck, H. M. Miller, and F. E. Druckenbrod were recommended for quarterly license by vote of the Hopeland class. Dr. Enck's biography will appear at another place in this volume. The Rev. Henry Milton Miller, son of John H. and Susanna Fidler Miller, was born at Hopeland March 2, 1866. He united with this class at the age of sixteen years. He attended West Chester State Normal School, and Lebanon Valley College. He received ministerial credentials as follows: quarterly license, 1887; annual license, 1889; and elder's orders, 1896. He served one student charge and six full-time pastorates. From 1926 to 1941 he was Field Secretary for Quincy Orphanage and Old People's Home. He won many friends for said institution and through friendly solicitation many thousands of dollars have been contributed toward its support. On September 8, 1946, he fell asleep in the Lord.

Ministers who served this church are found under the following circuits and stations: Berks County Circuit, 1845-55; Pannabecker's Station, 1855-56, Samuel Seiders; Sinking Spring Circuit, 1856-59; Myerstown Circuit, 1859-60; Sinking Spring Circuit, 1860-68; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1869-71; Sinking Spring Circuit, 1871-73; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1873-75; Brunnerville Circuit, 1874-75; Paradise Circuit, 1875-82; Ephrata Circuit, 1882-83; Paradise Circuit, 1883-86; Ephrata Station, 1886-89. Since the church has been a station, first, Paradise Station, then Hopeland, the names and terms of pastors are as follows: A. L. Shannon, 1889-90; J. G. W. Herrold, 1890-92; D. S. Eshelman, 1892-93; M. E. Bachman, 1893-95; W. W. Fridinger, 1895-98; G. F. Bierman, 1898-1900; I. N. Seidomridge, 1900-01; Charles Bauer, 1901-02; S. M. Hummel, 1902-07; B. M. Brenneman, 1907-13; W. E. Shoop, 1913-17; N. I. Fake, 1917-23; Clarence Mease, 1923-25;
Intercourse Church, Leacock Township

United Brethren work centering about the Christopher Grosh home and the Ranck's Church spread southwesterly to the village of Intercourse. Services were held in the Old Pond Schoolhouse beginning about the year 1839. Later, the worshippers met in private homes, among which were those of Catherine Zook, and Mr. and Mrs. David Ranck. The members of the first class were: Charles and Mary Sweigart, John, Mary, and Charlotte Miller, David Ranck, Christian Fink, Catherine Zook, and John and Julia Church.

Trustees were elected by a quarterly conference held on the New Holland Circuit of which the class was a part. In 1850 William Given, Daniel Weidman, and Augustus Rodgers drew up plans and specifications for a brick building thirty by thirty-five feet, making a written statement covering every detail. This very interesting document closes with:

The house is to be finished on or before the third day of December, Anno Domini, 1850. . . . Given under our hands, at Intercourse, the 15th day of June, A. D. 1850.

A comment may be made here which would be apropos to scores of similar building projects during the middle of the last century. When once these church fathers made up their minds to build, they actually got at it and proceeded with dispatch.

The three men above mentioned were grantees for a deed, dated May 19, 1851, whereby a plot of forty-six and one-half perches of ground was transferred by David Ranck as grantor, for the cost of fifty dollars. The deed shows that a church had already been built upon the ground bought. It was located on the east side of the road branching off southwardly from the Old Philadelphia Pike. Daniel Weidman, the reader will recall, was a son-in-law of Christopher Grosh, and a member of Ranck's Church. The pastor at the time was Jacob Brewer.

A plot of ground adjoining the church lot on the south was donated to the church by David Ranck, and in 1871 the original building was enlarged by adding ten feet to its length. A steeple was erected and a bell placed therein. Reopening services were conducted in the fall of the year by the Rev. Lewis Peters, presiding elder, and the pastor, M. J. Mumma. A house next to the church, on its left, was bought in 1892 for use as a parsonage.

Three years later solicitation for funds was begun with a view to build a new church edifice. H. M. Miller came to the charge in that year. The response was good and building operations began. The building committee consisted of: A. R. Kurtz, H. M. Miller, J. E. Zook, I. N. Parmer, and John M. Beam. This building was completed by late fall and dedicated to sacred worship by Dr. C. J.
Kephart, December 20, 1896. Beautiful memorial windows replaced the originals in 1906, when W. H. Boyer was pastor. They are memorials to the following persons: Augustus Rodgers, Mrs. A. M. Hoar and children (by Newton C. Hoar), Stella and Paul Plank (by Abraham and Park Plank), David Ranck and wife (by J. B. Hutchinson and wife), H. B. Slack and family, John K. Diem and family, Jacob Davidson and family, and John N. Beam and family.

This congregation which is rapidly approaching its centennial anniversary has from time to time taken note of its beginning by special anniversary services. We have before us the program and souvenir booklet of its Semi-Centennial Anniversary, June 9-16, as prepared by Z. A. Weidler, pastor, 1900-01. Dr. S. D. Faust of Union Biblical Seminary preached two sermons on June 9. Speakers during six nights of the week following were: the Revs. I. M. Groff, M. A. Salt, William Beach, P. A. Bowman, S. G. Kauffman, and Dr. H. U. Roop. All but the last mentioned were former pastors. On June 16, the Revs. M. J. Mumma and H. M. Miller, also former pastors, preached. In the afternoon neighboring pastors, the Revs. A. K. Wier and J. G. Smoker, made brief addresses.

The church register of officers was as follows: Class leader, John B. Hutchinson; church trustees: John E. Ellwerth, Joseph Murr, John Beam, Peter Plank, and A. R. Kurtz; parsonage trustees: J. Frank Brubaker, Samuel B. Sauder, and A. R. Kurtz; Sunday School officers: John N. Beam, John E. Zook, Miss Bessie Slack, and Miss Nettie Diem; Young People's officers: John B. Hutchinson; H. B. Slack, Miss Mary Rodgers, J. M. Beam, and Miss Elsie Hoar; Ladies' Aid Society: Mrs. S. B. Sauder, Mrs. Z. A. Weidler, Mrs. H. L. Hoar, and Charles M. Slack; Stewards: H. B. Slack, I. N. Parmer, S. B. Sauder, J. E. Ellwerth, J. E. Zook, J. W. Beam, and Charles M. Slack.

Trustees serving at the present time are: Leonard Miller, George Littlejohn, J. Earl Ranck, Gordon Kling, and Durward Shirk. Officers of the several departments of the church are: Sunday School, J. Earl Ranck, George Littlejohn, Jane Kling, Katie Loar; Women's Missionary Society, Mrs. John L. Smoker, Agnes Rutter, Mrs. Durward Shirk; Otterbein Guild, Cora J. Kling, Mary V. Kling, Virginia Lichty; and Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. George Littlejohn, Agnes Rutter, Mary Rutter.

Prior to 1875, ministers serving the New Holland Circuit, and probably earlier, the Lancaster Circuit, were pastors at Intercourse. From 1875 onward ministers serving the charge were: John K. Fisher, 1875-77; John D. Killian, 1877-79; J. S. Riddle, then Israel Groff, 1879-80; Israel Groff, 1880-81; E. L. Hughes, 1881-83; J. N. Munden, 1883-84; J. N. Munden, then S. D. Faust, 1884-85; Lewis Peters, 1885-86; M. A. Salt, 1886-88; P. A. Bowman, 1888-Feb. 89; Z. C. Mower, Feb. 1889-Oct. 89; Z. C. Mower, then M. P. Sanders, Oct. 1889-90; M. P. Sanders, 1890-91; C. G. F. Miller, 1891-92; S. G. Kauffman, 1892-95; H. M. Miller, 1895-99; William Beach, 1899-1900; Z. A. Weidler, 1900-01; C. E. Boughter, 1901-03; J. E. Keene, 1903-04; F. L. Stine, then...
THE CHURCHES OF LANCASTER COUNTY


Ironville Church, West Hempfield Township

The village in which this church by the same name is located, received its name from the fact that there was a blast-furnace close by, on the west, and upon the northeast a large deposit of hematite iron-ore. The village is one of a half dozen or so of small clusters of homes scattered over the “Chestnut Hill,” a continuous range of hills bordering on the Susquehanna River at Chiques Rock and extending across Hempfield Township in an eastern direction. The mining and manufacturing industries added a considerable number of inhabitants to the earlier population which consisted of farmers cultivating small plantations.

The furnace was known as “Cordelia Furnace,” which accounts for the naming of “Cordelia Circuit.” In this immediate neighborhood lived the Rev. John Christian Smith. Here his son Gideon was born, who traveled the Lancaster Circuit in the years 1827-28, and 1831-32. The work and influence of these men evidently formed the background for the United Brethren work in West Hempfield. Forty years before the church was built, Christian Newcomer on several occasions visited at the house of the Rev. Smith Sr. At the southern base of Chestnut Hill lived the family of John Forry, Mrs. Forry being a niece of Newcomer. He very frequently stopped there.

The deed for the church lot specifies that the title was vested in the “Trustees of the Society of Religious Congregation styled the United Brethren of Chestnut Hill, in West Hempfield Township.” This lot was located a half mile west of the present church, immediately south of the Reading and Columbia Railroad. An aged citizen of the community pointed out to the writer the spot where this building stood. An old atlas verifies the location. Curtis Gray sold twenty-five perches of ground for the consideration of one dollar to John Huber, John B. Stehman, and Jacob Eshleman, trustees. Huber and Stehman were also trustees of the Mountville church, which establishes a connection between the two churches. John B. Stehman was the son of the Rev. John Stehman whose name comes up in connection with several other congregations. Eshleman was of the local community. The church was erected in 1857.

The following names compose the church roll, 1861-62: Christian M. and Sarah Morgan, George Rettew, M. A. and Sophia Ried, Aaron R. and Christian Lutz, Elizabeth Mellinger, Elizabeth Detweiler, Frederick, Lydia, and Barbara Gramm, May A. Hinkle, Catherine Leamich, Mary A. and Anna Conklin, Grace A. Meldrum, Fannie Eshleman, Joseph and Sarah Dellinger, Catherine and Mary Hogen-
doubler, Anna Bruckhart, Mary Neff, Edmund and Susan Hawthorn, Ebby Runyon, Henrietta Irvin, Elizabeth Brennan, Susan Kauffman, Henry and Mary Moore, Charles and Anna Swammer, Elizabeth Brown, and Henry May.

Trustees through the earlier years, following the organization of the class, were: Edmund Hawthorn, M. A. Ried, Christian M. Morgan, Aaron R. Lutz, Henry May, Lewis Mohn, Jacob Bard, John Kauffman, Jacob Walborn, and William Way. Some of these brethren also served in other local church official positions.

A new site was purchased in 1871. This, located in the village, contained one acre of ground and cost the congregation five-hundred dollars. A well-kept cemetery is located within the area. A new frame building was erected in 1871. This building was repaired and refurnished in 1889. Reopening services were held September 15. S. R. Gipple was the pastor. The expense incurred, together with a former obligation, was secured. The main building was enlarged, electric lights were installed, and new carpet laid, in the year 1925. The conference superintendent, Dr. S. C. Enck, assisted by the pastor, A. W. Dambach, conducted reopening services, November 28. Sufficient funds to cover the expense incurred amounting to $2,085.69 were provided.

No one looking at the building now would suspect that this was once a frame building. In 1934, the original was veneered with brick. A well-lit basement was constructed for Sunday School work. New pews were placed in the sanctuary. The clear-glass windows were replaced by stained glass. The building has a very attractive and modern appearance. W. C. Blatt, pastor, with the cooperation of his people, brought this enterprise, costing $5,733.76, to a successful completion. Appropriate services were held June 24. Five years later a new Hammond Organ was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Metzger. The young people of the Sunday School bought a new Lester piano. The total value of these presentations was $1,850.

The present church membership numbers 189. Excellent work is being done in all departments, as the following memberships show: Vacation School, 49; Intermediate C. E., 50; Women's Missionary Association, 35; Otterbein Guild, 30.

Pastors appointed to the following circuits or charges served this church: Lancaster Circuit, 1856-62; Columbia, 1862-64; Mountville, 1864-67; Ironville Mission, Rev. J. Francis Smith, pastor, 1887-88; Florin, 1888-91; Marietta, 1891-95; Chestnut Grove, 1895-96; Mt. Joy, 1896-1901; Centerville, 1901-04; Silver Spring, 1904-05; Centerville, 1905-06; Cordelia, 1906-07; Centerville, 1907-18; Florin, 1918-19; Columbia, 1919-25; Silver Spring, 1925-46.

Lancaster City Churches. Introductory

The permanent work of our denomination in Lancaster City
begins with the year 1884. But in every decade, beginning with
the year 1800, our ministers preached in the city, and during one
period at least, we had full possession of a house of worship. Our
leaders keenly felt the need of missionary work within the city and
recognized the strategic significance of a church in a city where
father Otterbein held an important pastorate. However the rural
background of our preachers and laymen, during the early period,
did not lend itself to successful handling of an urban situation. This
explains, for the most part, why eighty-three years of organized
denominational work passed into history before we had a permanent
hold in Lancaster. It was a circumstance not peculiar to Lancaster,
but one that was common to our efforts in other cities.

No censure is intended in making this statement; it is merely a
statement of fact. In trying again and again success was attained,
our leaders showed that they had the stamina and genius to over­
come handicaps and to cope with difficult problems. When once
the proper technique was followed, the work grew by leaps and
bounds. The devotion of our Lancaster congregations, their amazing
growth, and generous promotion of general Kingdom interests,
more than compensate for earlier failures.

Christian Newcomer preached occasionally in Lancaster during
the years 1802-17. Under date of September 2, 1824, he states that
he and William Brown preached at night in Elliot's Meeting­house.
This house of worship stood opposite the old passenger depot of
the Pennsylvania Railroad, on Chestnut Street between Queen
and Duke Streets. John Elliot, a reform Methodist, came from
England in 1816 and settled in Lancaster. His preaching won some
followers who, with him, erected a little frame building on the
above mentioned site, which was dedicated May 12, 1822. In a news­
paper announcement dated March 23, 1824 this building is styled:
"The Union Schoolhouse and Church of all Christian denominations
(more generally known by the name, Mr. Elliot's Church)." Several
writers refer to it as "The Little White Church on Chestnut Street."

The efforts of our brethren to establish a congregation in Lan­
caster, and the changing occupancy of the little frame building, form
a parallel story. Elder John Winebrenner, founder of the Church of
God, came to Lancaster in 1828 and preached in Elliot's Church.
The Rev. Elliot and most of his congregation accepted the views of
Elder Winebrenner and embraced his faith. In 1832 Mr. Elliot
withdrew his support of Winebrenner and left the city.

In the year 1833 William Brown was elected a Bishop of the
United Brethren Church. He presided at the session of the Old
Conference held April 8-11, 1834 at Greencastle, Franklin County,
Pennsylvania. At this session he agreed to preach in Lancaster in
connection with his work of the episcopacy. The following year
Ezekiel Boring was appointed by annual conference to serve Lan­
caster Station. These two men used Elliot's Church.

Following Boring's term the circuit preachers continued some
time in holding meetings in the same church. During the same period Elder Winebrenner began holding stated services in said church. When his congregation increased he erected a church building on the southeast corner of West Orange and North Prince Streets, in 1841. Sometime later a part of the congregation seceded and came back to the old church and held meetings there as an independent group.

In 1854 this group expressed a desire to join the United Brethren, and asked that an English preacher be appointed to serve them. Conference responded by instructing the presiding elder to appoint a man as soon as they had joined our body. The minutes are silent on the matter of the group uniting with us, but the statistical report at the close of the year shows that Jacob Shaffner had served the class and he reported a membership of sixty. John Q. Adams was appointed in 1855. He was followed by Jacob S. Kessler, who served two years.

The Rev. Kessler wrote a detailed account of his experiences with this congregation. He says: "He found there a small church edifice owned by the United Brethren in Christ, in which the brethren had worshipped some twenty-five years previous." He also states that a debt was resting upon it, but that his predecessor, the Rev. Adams, secured a clear title to it. We have not been able to find on record a deed of transfer of this property to United Brethren trustees, so this point remains in question.

The conference of 1857 supplemented Kessler's very meager salary paid by the charge with an appropriation of two-hundred dollars. He opened a small school and continued teaching several months, hoping by the income it would afford to make ends meet. The mission was supplied during the latter part of the year 1858-59 by the Rev. Lewis Peters, and served by him the next full year-term. In 1860-61, the circuit preachers, Joseph Young Jr., and Jacob Doerkson were in charge.

During the terms of these two men a lot was bought fronting sixty feet on Mulberry Street, and extending along Grant Street thirty-three feet. The trustees were Daniel Smeych, Frederick Nixdorf, John Block, George Miller and John A. Smith. A frame church building was erected. David Strickler was pastor for one year, 1861-62. From 1862 to 1870 the appointment was shifted several times from Lancaster to Mountville Circuit, and vice versa. Its membership decreased, and financial obligations could not be met. In 1867 the lot and building were sold to the Evangelical Association for the sum of $1,500. After debts were paid there remained in the hands of the trustees the sum of $657.43. A quarterly conference held during the year 1869-70 appointed Ezekiel Light, presiding elder, John Huber and John B. Stehman to hold the funds.

A few months later the house of worship was sold and the Conference committee on Houses of Worship recommended the erection of another building. Then eleven years passed before the matter of
a church in Lancaster again came before conference. A committee was appointed to locate a new mission, and an appropriation of one-hundred dollars was made. A preacher was appointed, but he did not serve, and the plans were not carried out. The presiding elders during the immediately succeeding years continued to point out Lancaster as a promising field, but nothing of consequence happened until the year 1884.

**Lancaster Covenant Church**

On the evening of April 4, 1884, a group of devoted followers of God gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Grabill, 56 South Duke Street, Lancaster, to lay the foundations of a work that was destined to grow to large proportions. To S. R. Grabill is due the credit that this time the attempt was successful, and so his name has gone down in the history of Covenant Church as its human founder. In a direct and forceful appeal he solicited the interest and aid of the East Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Annual Conferences, in joint session in York, Pa., February 27-March 3, 1884. The report submitted to the committee, and adopted by the conferences, contains the following paragraph:

> It is proposed that the members of our church in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, and especially in the bounds of this conference unite with the worthy members of the church in Lancaster city in entering into a solemn covenant to establish at an early date a United Brethren Church in this city, pledged to maintain and preserve the spirit of true worship as practiced by Otterbein, Boehm, Newcomer and their collaborators; and that said church be recognized as the Covenant United Brethren Church of Lancaster city.

This act not only resulted in hearty cooperation and financial aid, but it gave to the new church its name, “Covenant,” which has been so deeply cherished by many hearts through the years. M. J. Mumma was appointed as pastor and an appropriation of five-hundred dollars was voted to support the project.

The first quarterly conference, in charge of the Rev. Isaiah Baltzell, presiding elder, was held March 17, 1884. At this session the purchase of the Salem Church of God property was authorized, said purchase to be made through a committee of the board of trustees provided for at the session of the annual conference held at Harrisburg two years previously. This board consisted of A. Hershey, Gordonville; S. N. Eby, Mt. Joy; Levi Heist, Oregon; J. B. Stehman, Mountville; and S. R. Grabill, Lancaster. The purchase price was $3,950. Having secured a clear title, S. R. Grabill paid four-hundred and fifty dollars down, and a mortgage of $3,500 was placed on the property. Needed repairs advanced the cost to $4,171. The property was held in trust by the board of trustees until paid for and then deeded January 1, 1887, to the United Brethren denomination. It was dedicated February 6, 1887, by Bishop Jonathan Weaver.
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The net cost to the conference in establishing the work on a self-sustaining basis was $2,291.75. In the first nine years of self-support the church paid back to the conference $7,226.45, which represented a gain of 4,934.70. It is interesting to note that when the project was first launched, Mr. Grabill had stipulated that the "lot or building must be paid for before proceeding with pastoral work."

A meeting for organization having been called, the newly appointed pastor, M. J. Mumma, presided. The following persons were enrolled as charter members: S. R. Grabill, Mrs. S. R. Grabill, D. D. Good, Mrs. D. D. Good, H. H. Keen, and daughter, Miss Maude Keen; Mrs. Lewis Peters and daughter, Miss Minnie Peters, George Eckert, and Mrs. George Eckert. All honor to these noble servants of Christ who started a work that shall ever stand as a monument to their wisdom, faith, and courage, and devotion to Christ and the Church.

On the same evening, April 4, 1884, that the organization of the church was effected, a Sunday School Association was formed by the election of the following officers: superintendent, S. R. Grabill; assistant superintendent, H. H. Keen; secretary, D. A. Peters; treasurer, D. D. Good; primary superintendent, Mrs. S. R. Grabill. The first session of the school was held on April 6, 1884, with seven children and twenty-one adults. By the end of that year the enrollment was eighty-seven, and at the end of the fourth year, 197, with sixty in the primary department.

For a period of forty-two years the congregation worshipped in the old church on the southwest corner of Orange and Concord Streets. The remarkable growth of the church and Sunday School created a demand for larger and more modern facilities for carrying on the work. The creation of a building fund in 1909 constituted the initial step in the new building enterprise. Through definite and systematic methods of giving, this fund was increased through the years, until a very substantial sum was realized. In the meantime the property on the northwest corner of West Orange and Mulberry Streets was purchased for $34,000 as a future location for the new building. Ground was broken April 27, 1925, and on September 6, the corner-stone was laid by the conference superintendent, Dr. S. C. Enck. A year later, October 3, 1926, the new church was dedicated by Bishop William M. Bell. The cost stood at $250,000, but all indebtedness having been provided for, no special appeals were made during the week of dedication, only free-will offerings were lifted. This was also true in the dedication of the old church, which simply means that throughout its history the church was not hampered in its emphasis upon spiritual verities by burdensome debts, leaving it free to give more liberally to the benevolent interests of the church.

The spacious edifice of red brick with cast-stone trimming, semi-Gothic in architecture, has a sanctuary which seats 535. The interior, with its solid walnut furnishings and beautiful art windows, presents a very chaste and refined appearance. The organ, at a total
cost of $23,100, was installed by the Cassavant Bros., Canada. It is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Straub in memory of Mrs. Straub’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Eckert, charter members of the congregation. The main Sunday School room, with its seventeen classrooms, has a seating capacity of 750. Several church offices are located on the main floor. The basement floor provides rooms for the Children’s division classes, has a large social room, a fully equipped kitchen, and a reading room.

The personnel of the Building, Advisory, and Executive committees in charge of the church building project were: C. L. Grabill, H. R. Lefever, Dr. O. T. Ehrhart, Jack L. Straub, M. H. Brackbill, E. W. Coble, Harry Druckenbrod, B. W. Fisher, S. R. Grabill, T. N. Hostetter, George Luttenberger Sr., W. W. Maley, Daniel Piersol, John Piersol, D. T. Rife, E K. Shoop, E. C. Westenberger, and Harry Wissler. The Rev. Dr. Ehrhart, pastor of this church since 1920, has given exceptional qualities of leadership to all phases of the work of this great church. Mention of his other specific work will appear in a later chapter.

The first parsonage, purchased February 1889, for twelve-hundred dollars, was located at 354 West Orange Street. Twenty-eight
hundred dollars was paid for the second at 332 West Orange Street in September 1899. In April, 1919, the property at number 344, on the same street was purchased, costing $6,500, and this was the pastor's residence until 1939 when the present manse at 937 West Walnut Street was secured for the sum of $13,250. It was dedicated September 17, 1939 by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent.

The missionary passion resident in the heart of S. R. Grabill was injected into the life of the church from the beginning and nurtured through the years. Covenant's missionary spirit and zeal has figured very extensively in her rapid growth and achievements, and affords an excellent example of what can be accomplished when the "Great Commission" of our Lord is taken seriously. At the same time it should be said that she has given full support in a liberal fashion to all other interests of the denomination. Her abiding interest and liberal support in the missionary enterprises has enabled her to do this in a more adequate manner.

The following have gone out from Covenant as missionaries: Miss Beulah Funk, China; Miss Florence Mease, China; Miss Clara Ruthart, Syria; Miss Grace Winger, South America; Miss Ella Ruhl, China; Rev. C. A. Funk, China; the Rev. J. F. Musselman, Africa; Miss Erna Rife, Africa; Miss Janet Druckenbrod, South America.


The following pastors have served Covenant Church: M. J. Mumma, 1884-86; J. B. Funk, 1886-89; E. L. Hughes, February-October, 1889; C. W. Hutzler, 1889-93; E. A. G. Bossler, 1893-1907; A. R. Myers, October, 1907-May, 1908; C. E. Pilgrim, May-October, 1908; I. Moyer Hershey, D.D., 1908-11; G. D. Batdorf, 1911-20; O. T. Ehrhart, D.D., 1920-46.

**Lancaster Otterbein Church**

The increase of population in the northern limits of Lancaster City, and in Manheim Township immediately adjacent, has been very rapid in recent years. The city's population in 1900 was 42,800; in 1940 it had increased to 61,345. Much of this increase was in the northern area. Some of the city's most beautiful homes are located there. Covenant Church, in seeking to do home missionary work,
and at the same time concerned to conserve its membership in the north end, selected that section of the city in which to establish a second church. In 1929 the Pennsylvania Railroad changed the course of its main line to run across the northern end of the city, and erected a new passenger depot about three blocks north of Clay Street, on which the second church, known as Otterbein, is located. It has proved to be an exceedingly wise choice.

The congregation had its inception in a Sunday School which was organized September 7, 1902, in a rented dwelling at 820 North Queen Street, by the Rev. E. A. G. Bossler, pastor of Covenant. The attendance at the first session was thirty-five. The officers elected were: J. B. Withers, superintendent; Clayton H. Hertzler, assistant superintendent; Miss Florence Mease, secretary; D. D. Good, treasurer; and Miss Elizabeth Campbell, organist. In December of the following year, the house at No. 733 North Queen Street was purchased for Sunday School purposes, at a cost of $3,042, of which amount Covenant Church paid $1,700. The School moved to the new location, April 3, 1904.

In the fall of that year J. B. Funk was appointed pastor of this new work. The Rev. Bossler, pastor of Covenant, organized the first class consisting of twenty-four members from his church, on November 27, 1904. In the evening of the same day, the Rev. Funk received into membership forty by confession of faith and five by letter of transfer. At the close of the year the church membership had grown to eighty-eight, and the Sunday School to 170.

Ground was bought on East Clay Street and a Chapel and Sunday School room erected thereon in 1905. The cornerstone was laid June 18, and the service of dedication held November 26, 1905. The cost of the structure, including value of ground, was $6,763. A. G. Nye was appointed to Otterbein Church by conference in the fall of 1906, at which time also the church was constituted a separate charge, having been until then under the quarterly conference of the mother church. During his pastorate the property at No. 731 North Queen Street was purchased at a cost of $2,450 in 1908. An addition to the chapel was erected and improvements were made on the original building, incurring an expense of $3,446.30. This structure was dedicated May 22, 1910. Pastor Nye remained with the congregation until conference session of the year 1911. He reported to that session a church membership of 191, and a Sunday School enrollment of 384.

All church building and ground indebtedness was cancelled by January 1, 1915. A building fund for a future new sanctuary was begun in 1916 while J. E. Keene was pastor, and in the same year Otterbein Church became self-supporting. The purchase of additional ground from time to time, the earlier more or less temporary quarters for the Sunday School, and the erection of a Chapel, were but preliminary steps to a later climactic achievement. Formulating in the minds of the people and pastors was the vision of a modern
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Lancaster Otterbein Church

temple of worship. The vision was translated into reality under the directing heart and mind of the Rev. Charles H. Holzinger, who became pastor of the church in the fall of 1918.

The dwellings located at Nos. 727, 729, and 731 North Queen Street, were razed to make room for a new edifice. Appropriate ground-breaking services were conducted May 11, 1925. Dr. O. T. Ehrhart read the Scripture, the Rev. S. G. Kauffman offered prayer, and pastor Holzinger delivered an address, in the presence of about two-hundred people. The cornerstone was laid by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, August 16. Approximately eighteen months after ground-breaking, the structure was ready for dedication. Bishop William M. Bell dedicated this beautiful sanctuary to the worship of God on Sunday afternoon, October 10, 1926. The Bishop also preached at the morning service, and Dr. Enck in the evening. During evenings of the following week the following former pastors preached. Bossler, Funk, Nye, Rhoads, and Keene. On the Sabbath of the 17th Dr. Ehrhart preached at morning worship, and the Otterbein Church choir presented a program of music in the evening.

This temple of worship is all one might desire in architectural beauty and worship appointments. It is of Gothic design, constructed of Seesholtzville granite. The auditorium has a seating

The Rev. H. F. Rhoad became Otterbein's pastor in 1928. All church and parsonage debt have been completely wiped out under his devoted ministry. In recognition of the victory, special services of prayer and praise were conducted January 9 to 21. During Dr. Rhoad's pastorate, also, three special gifts have been made. Mrs. Josephine Heisey donated a three-manual Skinner organ, valued at twenty thousand dollars, in loving memory of her deceased husband. The instrument was consecrated by Bishop G. D. Batdorf, June 1, 1930. Bishop Batdorf also dedicated Carollonic Tower Bells and hearing-aids for the hard of hearing, May 10, 1942. These were provided by a bequest from the estate of Mrs. Josephine Heisey.

The first parsonage was located at No. 729 North Queen Street. This house was purchased in December 1914, at a cost of $1900. Ten years later a three-story brick dwelling at 113 East Clay Street was bought for a permanent parsonage. The cost of this property was ten thousand dollars.

Spiritual advancement in all departments of church life has paralleled material progress. In 1925 the church began supporting Dr. A. D. Cook, who was in charge of the Ramsburg Hospital, Siu Lam, China. The present representative abroad is Miss Gladys Ward, also serving in our China Mission Field. The annual financial budget for Dr. Cook was $625; that of Miss Ward, $700. These amounts are specials over and above the regular benevolent budget apportionments allotted by annual conference. The following persons have been voted quarterly conference license: G. Edgar Hertzler, 1927; Earl E. Wolf, 1927; Blanche Lengle, 1930; and John A. Witmer, 1940. The church membership at the close of the year 1945 was 841.

The Sunday School has had continued growth. It now numbers 940, with an average attendance of 381. The school has had but three general superintendents: J. B. Withers served 23 years; H. F. Shopf, 17 years; and the present incumbent is A. E. Kamm. Plans are in preparation for a new Christian Education building. The Hertzler family has already established a fund of five-hundred dollars which they will increase as the plans and the project go forward. It is a Memorial Fund in esteem of the devoted head of the family, the late Clayton H. Hertzler, who for many years was a church school teacher, and layleader.

The Rev. Charles Henry Holzinger, D.D., pastor of the congregation from October 7, 1918 to February 2, 1928, was born June 19, 1888 at South Bethlehem, Northampton County, Pa. He was a member of Grace Church, Allentown, when licensed. He was granted annual license in 1910 and received elder's orders in 1918. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College, class of 1916, and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1918. During student years he served Allentown Grace, Refton and West Willow, Mont Clair, and West Lebanon Churches in East Pennsylvania conference; and Providence and Jacksonville of the Presbyterian Church, in New Jersey. The Rev. Holzinger died at the early age of thirty-nine years, seven months, and fourteen days. He literally sacrificed his life in service to his church. The writer once heard him preach, using the text—"Where there is no vision, the people perish." The thoughts therein expressed characterized his ministry. The clearness of a well-modulated voice, and the sparkle of his blue eyes accentuated the force of his message. He had deep convictions, and was courageous in giving expression to them. In approach he was affable, in social contacts, winsome.

Limeville Church Mt. Zion Church

Limeville Church. Salisbury Township

Limeville and Mt. Zion Churches constitute Pequea Charge. Both are located in Salisbury Township, Limeville in the southern part, Mt. Zion in the northern. The headwaters of Pequea Creek have their sources in the northeastern limits of this township, and the Old Philadelphia Road crosses the township east and west. Along this road, in the village of White Horse, formerly Pequea postoffice, stands the parsonage. The Rev. Frank E. Druckenbrod has been the efficient and much beloved pastor of this rural parish for a period of twenty years, 1926-46.

The Rev. J. C. Mumma was appointed to the New Holland Circuit in 1878, and conference instructed him to open an appointment at White Horse. At the close of the year he reported having opened five new appointments. Pequea Valley Mission was created in 1879 and Z. C. Mower was assigned to it. It consisted of appoint-
ments at Millwood, Harristown, Springville, Meadville, Slaymakersville, and Limeville. Of these, the appointment at Slaymakersville was soon abandoned. Springville was also dropped and Spring Garden was taken up. The Harristown class had a brief existence.

The Millwood Class, through its board of trustees, pastor Z. C. Mower, William Hamilton, Addison Benedict, David Doutrich, Jeremiah Futer, Daniel Warfel, and John Berkey, bought 152 square perches of land in 1879 and erected a house of worship costing one thousand dollars. The church was burdened with debt and had to be sold in the year 1883. The cornerstone is now in one of the porch pillars at the residence of Mrs. John Wenger at Millwood.

Limeville Class was the only one of the six appointments established in 1879 which had a continued existence. A church building was begun in 1881 and was dedicated free of debt, May 22, 1882. The trustees at the time of its erection were Z. C. Mower, John H. Robinson, Israel Doutrich, Christ K. Kurtz, and Millard E. Barr. This building was totally demolished by a cyclone on July 18, 1891. Nothing was left but the foundation. The trustees met in the Limeville schoolhouse two days later and planned to build immediately. Services were held in the Limeville Schoolhouse for five months, when on December 27, 1891, the new church was dedicated by Bishop E. B. Kephart.

Prior to 1901 there was no parsonage on the charge. At a quarterly conference held in the Limeville Church, December 16, 1901, authorization was given to buy a house and lot in the village of White Horse. Thomas J. Martin and T. N. Steely of Mt. Zion Church, and E. M. Barr and J. H. Robinson of Limeville Church, were elected as parsonage trustees. This arrangement was afterward changed. Limeville assumed full ownership, and Mt. Zion paid rent at the rate of one-half of four percent on the amount of property value.

Limeville has a church membership of 174; the Sunday School enrollment is 113. The present board of trustees consists of: Milton Berkey, Chester Rhoads, Charles Miller, Amos Montgomery, Roy Zander, John H. Baxter, and Wayne Berkey. Pastors serving this church will be found under Pequea Valley Circuit and Pequea Charge, except for the year 1887-88, when it was on Mt. Pleasant Circuit.

Lititz, Erb Memorial Church

Mention of a preaching appointment is first made in annual conference minutes of the year 1886 when Lititz Mission charge was constituted, embracing Brunnerville, Oregon, Shissler’s and Lititz. G. A. Loose served this charge two years. In 1888 Brunnerville and Lititz were made a charge and Isaac Becker, a local preacher and member of Hopeland Church, was appointed. From February 1889 to October 1890 Lititz was an appointment on Lancaster Circuit. A. M. Hackman was its minister, February 1889 to October 1889, and
J. W. Boughter followed him. In 1890 Rev. Boughter was appointed to Lititz Circuit, then composed of Lititz, Brunnerville, Oregon, and Neffsville.

On March 9, 1890, while serving Lancaster Circuit, J. W. Boughter organized a class of sixteen members at Warwick, as the community north of the Lititz Borough line was then called. The charter members of this class were: Isaac and Isabella Becker, William, Alice and Samuel Ruth, Elias, Kate, Henry, and Ellen Weaver, Christ and Leah Mohn, Harvey and Ida Buffenmoyer, Sister Adams, Harriet Becker, and John Perry. The Rev. Becker and wife Isabella and William Ruth were formerly members of the Hopeland Church. The other charter members were converts of a revival meeting held by the Rev. Boughter in the "Old Brewery" which stood on the southwest ridge of the Lititz Springs Park. The newly organized class continued holding services in this building for several months, following which period services were held in members' homes in Warwick until a church was erected.

At a quarterly conference held at the home of Christ Mohn in Warwick early in the year 1890, steps were taken to build a house of worship. Isaac Becker, William Ruth, and John Perry were appointed trustees who, with the Rev. Boughter, constituted the building committee. A lot located on East Front Street (now Cedar Street), then near the borough line, was purchased from Wilhelmina Kreiter for four-hundred dollars. The cornerstone of the building was laid Sunday, September 6, 1891 by M. J. Mumma, presiding elder; and the edifice was dedicated by Bishop E. B. Kephart, December 20, 1891. The cost of the lot, building and furnishings was $2,800. It was a frame structure with a finely proportioned bell-tower and spire. The windows were a gift from the Lititz Moravian congregation. Of these, one was a beautiful stained glass window with the inscription: "Give to Our God All the Glory."

Several items relative to the Lititz Church hold considerable historic interest. The Lititz Express, issue of December 24, 1891, states that the United Brethren Church was erected "On the former site of the Moravian Church in these parts." The Rev. J. C. H. Light submits the information that,

On the site where the auditorium of the present church now stands there stood an old frame dwelling built in the year 1813 from material of the first Reformed Church at Brickerville which had been erected in the year 1748, and some of the lumber of this old building was used in the building of the United Brethren Church at Lititz.

The old wooden Brickerville Church stood about a half mile south of the village. It was used as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the Revolutionary War, and some of the soldiers who died in the church are buried in the adjoining cemetery. The wooden church was replaced by a brick structure in the year 1813, which is still standing and used occasionally.
The Lititz Church, according to the inscription on a marble slab placed in the east gable, was erected in memory of Bishop Jacob Erb, who was born May 25, 1804. Bishop Erb's mother, Elizabeth Hershey Erb, was a sister of the two brother ministers, Abraham and Christian Hershey, whose careers have been related in earlier pages. Christian Erb and wife Elizabeth Hershey, lived on a farm near Lititz until the year 1810, when the family moved to Cumberland County on a farm located directly opposite upper Harrisburg. Christian Newcomer lodged at the house of Christian Erb on the night of May 7, 1800. On that day a Great Meeting began at the home of Abraham Kauffman. In the years 1797 and 1798, Newcomer visited at the home of Peter Eby who also lived in Warwick Township. His second visit to Peter Eby's home was on the occasion of a Great Meeting held there. Leaving Lancaster on the morning of June 2, 1798, he stopped at Lititz on his way to the Eby farm. Concerning his visit at this place, he writes:

Today we came to Lititz, visited the preachers in this place, and received a friendly reception.

Though he does not say that these "preachers" were Moravian brethren, such they no doubt were, inasmuch as he makes comment on the religious condition of the "brethren and sisters" among them.

A parsonage board of trustees, consisting of Isaac Becker, Daniel M. Weidman, representing the Lititz church, and T. Jefferson Hartranft, representing the Brunnerville Church, was elected in 1892 for the purpose of building a circuit parsonage to be located in Warwick. These men purchased a lot thirty-five by two hundred feet, located opposite the church, costing $175. When completed, the house was first occupied by the Rev. C. G. F. Miller and family. During the pastorate of J. M. Walters, the parsonage was remodeled and enlarged at a cost of $1,250. A three-car garage, costing $750, was built on the rear of the parsonage lot during the administration of Ira W. Funk.

The original church building erected at Lititz served the congregation without any major alterations until the time of J. E. Keene's ministry, 1909-14. During his term the building was raised two feet, a basement placed under the entire structure, and a steam-heating system was installed. While Ira Funk was pastor, a building fund was established with a view to provide larger facilities. The Sunday School which had been organized one month after the first church building was erected, had grown to such size that more room became a necessity.

Definite plans for a building project had their origin in 1932. The board of trustees, consisting of James A. Seaber, Harry R. Wertsch, Nathan D. Sturgis, Roy G. Meyers, Daniel M. Weidman, Ira A. Eberly, and Harry E. Showers, together with the pastor, J. C. H. Light, were named a building committee. Purchases of additional ground were made in 1927 and 1933. Architectural plans submitted
by the company of Lehman and Seibert, Myerstown, Pa., were accepted. Ground was broken for a new Church School building, June 4, 1933, Mrs. Adam Hornberger, the oldest member of the congregation, turning the first shovel of earth. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, laid the cornerstone September 10, 1933. The building was dedicated at the evening service, February 18, 1934, by Bishop G. D. Batdorf. Services throughout the day were largely attended, and fully 1,500 persons inspected the building during the day.

The Church School building is of granite limestone from the Quaker State Quarries, Hershey, Pa., and in structure follows the Colonial style of architecture. It is two stories high, with basement and sub-basement, built on the north and west of the original structure, and so connected with it that its sanctuary and the assembly room of the Adult department, when the curtain between them is opened, will seat five hundred persons. The layout is modern in design to take care adequately of departmental work. Each department has its own assembly room with class rooms. Scholars of any department may go from a main entrance of the building directly to their own assembly room without passing through any other department. A completely equipped kitchen, a Boys’ Club room, a recreation room, and such additional rooms,
equipment and furnishings as go into the making of a complete plant of this nature, are in the basement. An Everett Orgatron with chimes was purchased by the Young Men's Bible Class taught by Roy G. Meyers, and placed in the sanctuary in 1939.

The cost of the new building, remodeling of the old, and furnishings, was $32,402. By the time of the tenth anniversary of dedication of the new building, $25,700 had been paid on indebtedness, and five thousand dollars on interest. From that time forward to September, 1946, when a "Mortgage Burning Service" was held, all remaining debt, plus $2,014 over the required amount, was raised. This last event took place while Paul A. Miller was pastor. Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, preached the sermon and performed rites appropriate to the occasion.

J. C. H. Light was pastor of the Lititz congregation over a period of twenty years, 1925-45. He gave untiring and masterful leadership to this building enterprise, as well as diligent and effective service as pastor and preacher. His achievements at Lititz are a crowning glory to an active ministry which extended over a period of forty-nine years and four months. Due to a heart attack May 6, 1945, he could not actively serve the congregation for the remaining months of that conference year. He was voted the relation of a retired elder at the conference session following. He and his companion live in retirement at Lititz, musing over events of the past, though still maintaining a keen interest and active participation in the work of Christ and the Church in proportion that physical strength permits. The Rev. Light received quarterly conference license by vote of the Zion Church, Reading, Pa., in 1894, where his father, the Rev. Job Light, had sometime served as pastor. He was ordained at the 1895 session of the East German Conference, and transferred to Iowa Conference in 1897. In that conference he served the following charges: Columbus City, Hudson, Sumner, Muscatine, and Cedar Rapids in the state of Iowa, and Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was superintendent of said conference, 1915-18. In the latter year he came to East Pennsylvania.


Manheim, Salem Church

Two of our pioneer preachers, George A. Geeting Sr., and Christian Newcomer, came to Manheim in the year 1739 and held an afternoon and an evening meeting in the Reformed Church. On three other occasions Newcomer returned to preach in Manheim.
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His last appearance was in the year 1818. He mentions the family names of Meyer, Hackman, Nauman, Boyer and Gingrich, as those whom he contacted on his visits to Manheim and its vicinity.

A quarter of a century later there was a group of people in and near Manheim who opened their homes to itinerant United Brethren preachers serving the Lancaster Circuit. This group desired to have a house of worship. In the northern limits of the Borough of Manheim lived a cooper by the name of John Musser who, on May 17, 1843, sold a plot of ground fronting fifty-seven feet on North Prussian Street and extending westward to a depth of 270 feet, to Christian Shoemaker and Michael Witman, “trustees for the Society in the Borough of Manheim, called the Impartial Christian Brethren.” The use of the word “Impartial” carries with it the same significance as when it is used elsewhere. This group of worshippers, like some in other localities, were slow to come fully under United Brethren rules and practices.

While there is some difficulty in explaining how property deeded under such a title could become United Brethren property without deed of transfer, nevertheless, the leaders of this group and those associated with them, later formed the United Brethren congregation at Manheim. It is well known that the church building in which our people later worshipped stood on this site. Furthermore, there is in existence a church membership roll, beginning with the year 1861, consisting of fifty-three names, on which appear, among others, the names of Christian Shoemaker and Michael Witman, the same who were parties to the transfer of the lot in 1843. These men with their families lived in Rapho Township. Michael Witman and wife Anna are buried in the Shoemaker Cemetery along the Old Line Pike, as also the parents of Christian Shoemaker who, with his wife Elizabeth Hershey, moved to the farm immediately west of Florin, in 1867.

Other family names in this early record are: Young, Ruhl, Fass, Ensminger, Shires, Gantz, Shelly, Fry, Gensemer, Keener, Miller, Diffenderfer, Barns, Ehrhart, Wissler, Deyer, Swartz, Landis, Brubaker, White, Musser, Eby, Dowhower, Shifer, Embich, Simmon, Nixdorf, and Bear.

The first building erected on part of lot No. 322 as laid out by the famous "Baron" VonStiegel, is said to have been constructed of stone. It was replaced by a brick structure in 1868, a building still standing, which for many years was used as a Town Hall. The congregation had great difficulty in holding this brick building because of debt. The presiding elders frequently reported this situation to annual conference. Finally, George Eby of the Mt. Joy region was appointed agent to raise money toward payment of the debt. But the property could not be held. Another lot, a very short distance south of the first church, was later bought and a frame church erected in 1883, costing $2,300. A house was purchased in the year 1889 for use as a parsonage. It was located next to the
church property on the south. Both church and parsonage were in use until the new church plant was erected in 1910-11.

The congregation experienced a greater measure of spiritual and material prosperity while occupying the frame building. The building, after about two decades, became inadequate and a more centrally located site seemed to be desirable. In 1905, under the pastorate of A. S. Lehman, the trustees purchased a three-story brick dwelling with a lot of considerable depth on the southwest corner of East High and South Prussian (now South Main) streets,

for the sum of $5,500. This building was razed and work begun on the erection of a church and parsonage. The cornerstone was laid during the summer of 1910 by presiding elder, D. D. Lowery, assisted by H. J. Behney, pastor. The new edifice was dedicated by Dr. Lowery, January 22, 1911. The Rev. Behney did a yeoman’s job in securing the necessary financial aid and in directing construction policies for this new venture.

A number of improvements have been made since its erection. In 1926 the interior of the church was painted and frescoed, indirect lighting was installed, and the interior of the parsonage painted and papered, costing four thousand dollars. A. L. Haeseler was the pastor. In 1933 a basement was constructed under the main building which greatly increased Sunday School facilities. The
project cost $3,549. A special service was held October 22, in charge of the pastor, O. R. Brooks; and Dr. Enck, conference superintendent performed consecration rites. Certain improvements were made and a Hammond organ was installed in 1939, at a total cost of $2,465. Dr. Enck dedicated the organ February 5th.

In the thirty-four years since occupancy of the new church, the membership has increased from 272 to 672. The Sunday School enrollment for the year 1945-46 was 720, and there was an average attendance of 450.

Architectural plans are in preparation for a new Education Building to be erected on East High Street.

The present trustees of Salem Church, Manheim, are: President, Samuel Helt; vice president, Clarence Cassel; secretary, Clayton Buch; treasurer, David Hummer; Paul Goss, Walter Shearer, and John Hummer.

The Manheim congregation was under the pastoral service of those who served the following circuits: From its beginning until 1866, Lancaster Circuit; Mt. Joy, 1866-71; in 1871 Manheim was constituted a charge. Its pastors since then have been: J. R. Meredith, 1871-72; Jacob F. Smith, 1872-74; S. R. Gipple, 1874-76; I. H. Albright, 1876-79; P. A. Bowman, 1879-82; Jeremiah P. Smith, 1882-84; D. D. Lowery, 1884-87; G. W. Lightner, 1887-88; U. S. G. Renn, 1888-89; L. R. Kramer, 1889-93; S. C. Enck, 1893-98; M. E. Bachman, 1898-1901; I. Moyer Hershey, 1900-01; I. Moyer Hershey and P. A. Bowman, 1901-02; P. A. Bowman, 1902-03; A. S. Lehman, 1903-07; H. F. Rhoad, 1907-09; H. J. Behney, 1909-16; M. H. Wert, 1916-17; A. L. Haeseler, 1917-26; I. D. Lowery, 1926-29; O. R. Brooks, 1929-39; I. N. Seldomridge, 1939-42; and H. M. Tobías, 1942-46.

Manor, Stehman's Memorial Church

Among the lovely hills and valleys of northern Manor Township stands the Stehman's Memorial Church, named for its founder. Scattered over these hills and valleys are splendidly kept farm buildings, well-cultivated fields, and verdant meadows, interspersed by groves of magnificent trees. On one of these elevations, with the West Branch of the Little Conestoga on its northern slope and the Indiantown Run on its southern slope, was the farm of John Stehman, whose father's name also was John, and whose mother was Elizabeth Brubaker. He was the first of a line of four generations which perpetuated the best traditions of United Brethrenism.

In this community, two and one-half miles southeasterly from its nearest town, Millersville, lived a certain Christian Herr, whose house was a center for United Brethren itinerants. Here also lived Reuben Kauffman. At his house John Stehman and wife, Anna Herr, were converted. This was about the year 1839. It was the beginning of a spiritual work which led to the formation of a class and the erection of a house of worship.
John Stehman (1801-1877) joined annual conference in 1842, held in Funk’s Schoolhouse, northern Dauphin County, and was ordained three years later. The need for a church was seen and its erection contemplated by brother Stehman. One day, while visiting his mother-in-law, she remarked to him: “Well, John, when will you build that church?” This brought him to a decision, and the church was erected in 1857. Anna Herr Stehman had inherited a share of her father’s estate, a fine farm of 136 acres. Her name appears first in the deed by which she and her husband transferred one fourth acre for the nominal sum of one dollar to the trustees of the United Brethren in Christ Church. The trustees were: John Huber, Jonas Garber, and John Binkley. This deed, dated August 1, 1859, was made about two years after the church had been erected. It states specifically that a brick church had already been built upon the ground sold.

John Huber and Jonas Garber, parties to the deed, were members and trustees of the Mountville Church. A son of the late Rev. Stehman, also named John (1827-1916), married Anna Garber. The Stehman’s Church was attached to the Mountville Circuit, 1863-75. There were evidently some strong bonds between the two churches. John Binkley, here mentioned, was a young layman of the Stehman’s Church. In the year 1864, the quarterly conference of the circuit granted him quarterly conference license and recommended him for annual license, which he received in 1865. He was ordained in 1868. Nearly all of his active ministry was given to churches in Lebanon County. He was born January 20, 1833, and lived to the good old age of eighty-five years and twenty-eight days. His body rests in Lebanon Ebenezer Cemetery.

William Hummel, Abraham Stehman, Christian Mellinger, and the Rev. H. H. Stehman were among the early class leaders. Hiram R. Witmer, Emanuel Frey, J. Lauyer, J. Ripley Stauffer, and Benjamin Bear were stewards. Rudolph Kauffman and H. H. Stehman were local ministers, members of the congregation. A H. Kauffman (1815-97), an ordained minister of the M. E. Church, was received into quarterly relation at the Stehman’s Church, February 8, 1868. He received annual license and was ordained by the United Brethren in 1872. He served a number of conference churches. Dr. O. T. Ehrhart, long-time pastor of Lancaster Covenant, was converted at Stehman’s and held membership there.

The first church edifice was located at the northwest corner of the cemetery. In 1892 the erecting of a new building was taken into consideration. On March 2, 1896, a building committee consisting of the following persons was organized: S. G. Kauffman, minister, as president; A. B. Witmer, secretary; William Sneath, Isaiah Hess; and trustees, H. R. Witmer, Z. R. Witmer, Jacob Newcomer, Benjamin Bear, and David F. Binkley. In the same year the new church was erected on a new site on elevated ground about three-hundred feet south of the former building. It was constructed of brick at a cost of three thousand dollars. The Rev. C. J. Kephart
Siehman’s Church · Newtown Church

dedicated the sanctuary December 13, 1896. A vestibule and bell-tower were added in 1913 during the pastorate of Martin Groff. The church bell was donated by Mary Ann Keeport in memory of her son and parents, Christian Book Keeport, Miles Binkley Keeport, and Mary Ann Keeport.

Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Sneath donated a half-acre of ground, upon which lot a brick parsonage, valued at eight thousand dollars, was erected. The committee in charge were: G. W. Hess, pastor, E. O. Sneath, Charles M. Witmer, A. B. Witmer, C. H. Eshleman, John T. Denlinger, Elmer W. Walk, and George F. Baker. Many hours of labor were donated by members, reducing by about two-thousand dollars actual cost in cash. It was dedicated June 22, 1924, by Dr. A. K. Wier.

Another very desirable addition was made to the church property by the purchase of four acres of ground adjoining property already held. This extra space serves well for parking and outdoor social meetings. Buildings which house equipment for such use as may be desired have been erected. The entire setting is very attractive and very wisely planned. The church is ready to serve the strictly rural community in which it is located. In 1946 the Young Men’s Class of the Sunday School sponsored the improvement and equipment of a third classroom in the basement of the church. Plans are underway for providing additional rooms.

Robert W. Etter, present pastor, won the decision of the judges and a prize of fifty dollars by submitting the best sermon on rural work to the Department of Town and Country Churches, Pennsylvania State Council of Churches, in the spring of 1946. In the fall of the same year the fiftieth anniversary of the erection of the present sanctuary, and the eighty-ninth anniversary of the erection of the first, were observed by a week of special services.
A complete list of pastors will be found under the following circuits with which the church has been affiliated: Lancaster, prior to 1861; Mountville, 1861-75; Conestoga, 1875-85; and Manor, 1885-1946.

**Mountville, St. Paul’s Church**

Isaac Rohrer laid out a town of one hundred and thirty building lots on the Lancaster and Columbia turnpike, four miles east of Columbia, in the year 1814. He named the place Mt. Pleasant, because of its commanding view of the surrounding country. Mr. Rohrer reserved two lots for public use. Upon these lots, located to the rear and a few rods east of the present parsonage, Mt. Pleasant’s first church was erected with money raised by lottery. This building was open to any denomination which desired to use it. The pioneer United Brethren preachers took advantage of this opportunity after services for a time had been held in an old still-house on the farm of John Huber, one mile north of town.

Adjoining the town lots on the west and south of the turnpike, lay a farm of ninety acres which was the property of a certain Jacob Sherk. Mr. Sherk died in 1844, and the following year his farm became the property of his sons-in-law, the Rev. Jacob Erb, who had married his daughter Elizabeth, and the Rev. Daniel Funkhouser, who had married his daughter Susanna. The Rev. Erb was then Bishop of the Eastern Bishop’s Area of the Church, and resided at Baltimore, Maryland. The Rev. Funkhouser was serving churches in Virginia.

The Rev. Daniel Funkhouser, born February 18, 1809, joined the conference in 1834 and was ordained in 1837. He served Lancaster Circuit, 1834-35, and 1838-40. He did a great deal of pioneering in Eastern Pennsylvania by way of opening new appointments and establishing the brethren in the faith. In 1841 he transferred to the Virginia conference, but returned again to East Pennsylvania in 1847. Eleven years later he transferred membership to Pennsylvania Conference. He died August 31, 1869. His body was laid to rest in the Salem United Brethren cemetery, Rocky Springs, Franklin County, Pa.

These two men sold to the Mountville class a half acre of ground out of the above farm, by deed dated June 11, 1846, for the nominal sum of one dollar. Trustees named in the deed are: John Huber and Jonas Garber. Local informants state that a church building constructed of brick burnt on the Sherk farm, was built on the above plot in the year 1845. Henry Staub and Simon Noll were at that time pastors of Lancaster Circuit.

The church was attached to Lancaster Circuit until 1862, when for one year it was placed to Columbia Circuit. Lewis Peters was its minister, Jacob Snést was class leader, John Huber was steward; and John Huber, Jonas Garber, and John Marks were trustees. Jacob H. Witmer had exhorter's license, and John White, local preacher's license. Mountville Circuit was created in 1863. Though
named a station in 1875, it retained the nature of a circuit until 1887. Robert Sneath replaced John Marks as trustee in 1866, and John Weller replaced Robert Sneath in 1870.

John B. Stehman, son of the Rev. John Stehman of Stehman's church region, married Anna, the daughter of John Garber. This couple moved to Florin, taking an active interest in the church there. In 1867 they took up residence in Mountville. Mr. Stehman was elected class leader at Mountville in 1868, and served in other official capacities, always supporting the work of his church until his death in 1916. Their son, Jonas G. Stehman (1850-1933) became a member of the Florin Church at the age of fifteen, was elected Sunday School superintendent at Mountville in 1884, which office he held until 1929, when he was elected superintendent emeritus. In the local church he was also steward, class leader, and president of the trustee board. For many years he represented his church as lay delegate to annual conference. He was a lay delegate to the General Conferences of 1905 and 1909. Mr. Stehman was a trustee of Lebanon Valley College and a director of the Mt. Gretna Camp-meeting Association.

At a quarterly conference held in 1869, the trustees of the church were instructed to remodel the old church or to erect a new church as they saw fit, that the needs of the community might be met. They decided to build a new church. Lots were bought from Henry Wolf. The location of these lots was on the north side of the highway, the site of the present parsonage. A brick edifice, thirty-five by seventy feet, was erected, with a large basement for Sunday School purposes. It was at that time considered one of the best churches in the conference. The building was completed in the year 1870 and dedicated on the first Sunday of December by Bishop Jonathan Weaver. Rev. Isaiah Baltzell was minister of the congregation.

In the spring of 1885 there still remained a debt of three-thousand dollars. Through the heroic efforts of the pastor, H. B. Dohner, and Jonas Garber, together with the support of members and friends of the church, the debt was cancelled that year. The same year one hundred new members were added to the church. In 1886, under Esdras Ludwig's leadership, the church was refurnished with new carpet, new pulpit furniture, and new seats in the room of the primary department of the Sunday School. Two years later, during the pastoral term of J. A. Lyter, this second church building was completely renovated and refitted. New pews were placed in the sanctuary and a new steam heating system was installed. The Sunday School was graded and separate departmental quarters provided.

Mountville's third church building was erected in 1905-07, on the site of the first building; the ground having been sold in the meantime, was repurchased, now at a cost of one thousand dollars. The cornerstone was laid July 23, 1905 by Dr. Lowery, presiding
elder; the church dedicated by Dr. W. R. Funk, publishing agent, September 22, 1907. The building, fifty-six by eighty-eight feet in size, built of granite from the quarries at Derry, presents a dignified appearance. The Mountville congregation led the pace in the matter of building a stately structure of stone, combining the best features of classical architecture, durability, worship, and Sunday School facilities.

J. M. Walters was pastor while these plans were formulated and executed. The trustees at the time were: J. H. Witmer, R. M. Friday, J. G. Stehman, H. S. Immel, J. R. Gable, John H. Lehman, and J. M. Weller, who, together with A. B. Fisher and the pastor, constituted the building committee. The total cost, including the beautiful memorial windows and doors, was fifty-seven thousand dollars. In 1924 the basement was enlarged and fitted out for Sunday School work and social functions, and other improvements were made on the sanctuary, costing fourteen-thousand dollars. Dr. Enck, conference superintendent, and D. E. Long, pastor, conducted reopening services, November 23.

In 1877 the presiding elder reported: "A large, convenient, and beautiful parsonage has been substituted for the old one at Mountville." This house was used as a pastor's residence until 1909, when, under the pastorate of Dr. R. R. Butterwick, a commodious and well-arranged brick parsonage was erected at a cost of five-thousand dollars.

This congregation has marked the stages of its spiritual and material progress by periodically observing anniversary occasions. Such in recent times were: the eightieth anniversary of its first building, in 1925, D. E. Long, pastor; and in 1929, the eighty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the class, and the eightieth of the Sunday School, S. T. Dundore, pastor.

The One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of the congregation was observed by appropriate services over the period, April 30-May 7, 1944, under the direction of pastor Mertis V. Fridinger. The Rev. Fridinger's pastorate, 1933-46, exceeds in length that of any other serving the Mountville congregation. During his administration the choir assumed the responsibility of adding chimes to the organ in 1937; and the last debt remaining on making improvements was paid in 1940.

Because of its influential laymen, the Mountville church has played a vital part in the founding of churches at Ironville, Stehman's, Lancaster Covenant, Centerville, and Silver Spring.

Mrs. Anna B. Fridy, member of this congregation, served as president of East Pennsylvania Conference Branch Missionary Association for a period of twenty-six years. Miss Edith M. Fridy, daughter of Reuben and Catherine Stehman Fridy, member of the congregation, represented her local church for a term of five years in the school for girls at Moyambia, West Africa. Other repre-
sentatives in foreign fields have been Miss Ida Brenneman, and Mrs. C. C. Witmer. Miss Jessie Hoerner is at present supported by this Church.

Since the time when the church was detached from the Lancaster Circuit, the following have been its pastors: Lewis Peters, 1862-65; W. R. Coursey, 1863-65; G. A. Lee, 1865-66; Israel Carpenter, 1866-67; W. S. H. Keys, 1867-68; W. S. H. Keys, and A. H. Kaufman, 1868-69; A. H. Kaufman, 1869-70; Isaiah Baltzell, 1870-75; J. C. Mumma, 1875-77; Israel Carpenter, 1877-78; E. L. Hughes, 1878-81; M. J. Mumma, 1881-84; H. B. Dohner, 1884-86; Esdras Ludwig, 1886-88; J. A. Lyter, 1888-92; Z. A. Weidler, 1892-94; G. L. Schaeffer, 1894-96; A. L. Shannon, 1896-98; J. T. Schaffer, 1898-1900; D. S. Esleman, 1900-03; J. M. Walters, 1903-08; R. R. Butterwick, 1908-16; O. L. Mease, 1916-18; D. E. Long, 1918-25; S. T. Dundore, 1925-33; and M. V. Fridinger, 1933-46.

**Mt. Joy, St. Mark's Church**

The classes at Eby's, Florin, and Mt. Joy, had a common and a similar origin—a common origin in that they rose out of the same rural constituency. When finally organized, these classes were within a radius of one and one-half miles of a common center. That center was the farm of George Geyer Sr., located a very short distance north of the "Cove," along the Little Chiques Creek. The similarity of origin was that after first conducting services in private homes, each in its particular community had services in a schoolhouse.

The Mt. Joy worshippers met in the Old Bell schoolhouse, which, like the one at Florin, was used by several denominations. The class was organized in 1860 while Joseph Young and Jacob Doerkson traveled the Lancaster Circuit. A church roll of the year 1860-61 shows the following to have composed the class: Rev. John G. Clair and wife Susan, Philip Greiner Jr. and wife Martha, George Geyer Jr., and wife Mary Eby, Samuel S. Royer and wife Catherine, Joseph, Anna, and Elizabeth Good, Henry and Anna Cable, John, Elizabeth, and Jacob Keener, Catherine Greiner, Martin and Rebecca Stoll, Jacob and Anna Hummer, William Kline, Jacob and Harriet Flowers, Mary Greenewalt, Samuel Frey, Catherine Sherbone, and Mary Herchelrode.

George Geyer Jr., was the leader of the class and Samuel S. Royer was its steward. Though without a house of worship, the class increased from year to year. It remained attached to Lancaster Circuit, which at the time was composed of congregations at Eby's, Elizabethtown, Florin, Manheim, Mt. Joy, Newtown, and Ruhl's. Lewis Peters was circuit preacher in 1864-66. During his terms he had permission to hold services on Sunday afternoon in the Lutheran Church. The membership now having increased to sixty-three in number, the need for a house of worship was felt, as expressed by a local official as follows: "In the year 1866, it
pleased God to awaken the hearts of Brother George Geyer (Jr.) and others in the vicinity to the unavoidable necessity of having a suitable house erected for the worship of the Lord our God."

The quarterly conference appointed a committee to find a proper location and to raise money. The committee reported to the next quarterly, held May 25, 1867, a possible site, and that $2,700 had been secured in subscriptions. The following were appointed trustees: George Geyer Jr., Samuel S. Royer, George Eby, John Miller, and John Shroff, who, by deed dated June 5, 1867, were granted a lot fronting on the Lancaster and Harrisburg Pike, forty-six feet, and extending northward a depth of 180 feet, more or less, at the cost of four-hundred and fifty dollars. A two-story brick building thirty-eight by sixty feet was erected. The cornerstone was laid by Ezekiel Light, presiding elder, assisted by W. S. H. Keys, pastor at Mountville. Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner dedicated the edifice January 19, 1868. H. E. Hackman and W. B. Evers were the ministers serving the newly created Mt. Joy Circuit in 1867. The building cost approximately $6,600.

Several years after the church was completed a parsonage was added to the property. In 1872 the house and the lot west of the church were purchased at a cost of five-hundred dollars. Under the pastorate of John K. Fisher in 1878, a new parsonage was erected on this location, costing twelve hundred dollars. The house, greatly improved from time to time, continues to be used as a parsonage to the present time.

The church building was repaired and improved several times. Being a two-story structure and having both a good-sized sanctuary and also a room for Sunday School work of the same size, it served the congregation well for a period of forty-seven years. These growing institutions—particularly the interest awakened by a live Men's Bible Class known as the "Crusaders" made more and better accommodations necessary. A new Sunday School building was erected to the rear of the church as the first unit of a proposed complete new church plant. This unit having been completed, it was occupied April 1, 1916, and dedicated by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent. D. E. Long was the pastor.

The original building was razed in 1919-20, and the second unit, the church sanctuary, was erected. Its cornerstone was laid by Dr. S. C. Enck, July 1, 1925. Bishop William M. Bell consecrated it to sacred worship, May 16, 1924. The service of dedication was in charge of the pastor, H. S. Keifer. Present also were Drs. Enck and Butterwick, who had part in the ceremonies. The building committee for the first unit was composed of: Dr. E. W. Newcomer, H. N. Nissley, B. F. Gerber, E. W. Bentzel, and H. G. Longenecker. The trustees in charge of construction at the time of erection of the main building were: C. G. Sherk, E. W. Bentzel, H. N. Nissley, H. G. Longenecker, Dr. E. W. Newcomer, A. N.
Stauffer, and L. L. Charles. The first unit cost sixteen-thousand dollars; the second, fifty-eight thousand dollars.

The building is constructed of rough brick with raked joint and trimmed in white stone. Two stately towers grace its front, and between them is an exceedingly beautiful large circular art window. The Sunday School rooms are well adapted for separate departmental and class work. The audience room lends inspiration to sacred worship. There is a spacious basement under the entire structure suited to a variety of uses.

A new pipe organ, the gift of one of the consecrated members of the congregation, was installed in 1933. The value of this organ, plus cost of improvements incident to the installation amounted
to four thousand, five-hundred dollars. Dr. Enck dedicated the organ, November 19th.

The church has a membership of 587, exceeding that of any other in a community of 2,800 population. Ezra H. Ranck, now in the eighth year of his pastorate at Mt. Joy, is constantly adding accessions both from the Borough and the surrounding countryside.

From its membership have come three ministers of our conference: John G. Clair, P. B. Gibble, and C. C. Witmer, the latter a missionary to the Philippine Islands for many years.


Mt. Tabor Church, Earl Township

A class, consisting of a group of young and influential members, was organized at Mt. Tabor in 1889 and attached to the Intercourse charge. A lot was purchased from Thompson Brubaker for the nominal sum of one dollar, and a small chapel was erected in 1891. The deed for this transaction is dated December 7, 1889, and in it are named George W. Miller, the Rev. Z. C. Mower, and William Wallace, as trustees. The following year a better house of worship, a frame structure about thirty by forty-two feet in size, seating approximately 150 people, was built, the location being about two and one-half miles south of New Holland. At the time of its completion, September 25, 1892, S. G. Kauffman was the pastor, and H. B. Dohner, presiding elder.


The congregation observed the forty-fifth anniversary of its founding in 1935. Of the first members, Mrs. Harry Dunlap, formerly Miss Martha Miller, has been a member through all the church's history. In 1938 the building was improved. The present church membership is eighty-eight, the Sunday School enrollment, sixty-
one. The trustees at the present time are: Harry Dunlap, Ivan Stone Sr., Harry K. Miller, Roy Miller, and Jason Wagner. Persons serving in other official capacities are: Raymond Essex, Mabel Stone, Mrs. Russell Miller, Mrs. Chester Overly, Charlotte Stone, Mrs. Amanda Miller, Virginia Dunlap, Mrs. Alva Myers, Hazel Stone, Mrs. William Miller, Mrs. Raymond Essex, and Mrs. Holland Miller. The church has always been a part of the Intercourse charge.

**Mt. Zion Church, Salisbury Township**

The Meadville class is the forerunner of the Mt. Zion Church. Its origin and location are given under the Limeville church. Adam Good, Joseph Whiteker, and Samuel Berkey were leaders in the movement to organize a class. A trustee board consisting of the Rev. Z. C. Mower, Daniel Lee, George W. Martin, Adam Good, John Berkey, Samuel Berkey, and John Reeser Jr., met at the home of Daniel Lee November 14, 1879 to consider the advisability of erecting a house of worship, and a committee of three trustees was appointed to buy a plot of ground. A site convenient to both the Meadville and the Cambridge communities was selected. According to a deed of transfer, dated October 7, 1880, Isaac Reel and wife, Mary Landis Reel, conveyed 105 perches (120 perches including an old family burial plot) to the trustees for the sum of twenty-five dollars. Between the 1879-meeting of the trustee board and the date of transfer, the personnel of the board had changed: Addison Benedict replaced Daniel Lee and there were added John Ammon and Calvin Gobel.

Three days after the date of transfer, the trustees staked off an area thirty by fifty-four feet for the building site. Ground was broken and preliminary work to the erection of a building was begun in the fall of the year 1880. However, cold weather set in early, and, the winter being long, not much could be accomplished before spring. In the meantime there was a great revival in the schoolhouse, and sixty persons were added to the class. In the spring work was resumed and the house was dedicated July 31, 1881, by Bishop John Dickson, assisted by the Rev. Isaiah Baltzell and pastor Mower. According to a record of accounts dated January 12, 1882, the cost of the church was $1,045.10. In planning for the building, it was voted not to erect a steeple. Later, however, a belfry was built. The building was much improved in the year 1888.

In the winter of 1899-1900 under the ministry of N. A. Kiracofe, this community experienced another sweeping revival. Fifty-two members were added to the church roll. Through the nearly seventy years of its history, this church has served the community well. The present church membership numbers 182, the Sunday School enrollment, 220.

Trustees serving the church at the present are: P. C. Spotts, Thomas J. Martin, Amos Martin, J. W. Longabaugh, John P. Spotts, Peter Summers, and Wilson Martin. John K. Baxter is the lay delegate to annual conference.
Pastors serving this church are given under the following charges: Pequea Valley Mission, 1879-87; Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1887-88; and Pequea Charge, 1888-1946.

**Neffsville, Long Memorial Church**

The epoch-making event at Isaac Long's is memorialized in a beautiful temple of worship standing on the west side of Neffsville's main thoroughfare. The congregation which worships in it is in these later years giving comparable spiritual significance to the name adopted. Under the pastorate of Ira D. Lowery, 1938-46, the membership has increased from 189 to 328. Many years elapsed, however, before the United Brethren showed any considerable strength in this particular community, but all through the years there were those who did not despair of the cause their fathers had espoused.

Following the Great Meetings of the first decade of the 19th Century, meetings were held in the home of Joseph Long, nephew of Isaac, who was a local preacher among our people. John Long, brother of Isaac and father of Joseph, received that portion of their father's estate adjoining Isaac's share on the north. It in turn came into the possession of Joseph, then to Joseph's daughter Anna, who was married to Abraham Lane. Andrew L. Lane, son of this couple, was the next in line of the descendants of Joseph Long to own the farm. The spacious farm buildings are located about five-hundred feet north of the Isaac Long place. For many years services were held in a little frame house standing in what is now the lawn in front of the large dwelling. Bishop Christian Newcomer preached and visited at the home of Joseph Long and Isaac Long.

During that same early period the United Brethren held services in the Landis Schoolhouse at Roseville. This building, still standing and used as a dwelling, is located just east of the Lancaster-Ephrata Road, about two and one-half miles northeast of Lancaster City. A mile beyond is the famous Landis Valley Museum. The Rev. Ira D. Landis of the Mennonite Church, now owner of the Joseph Long farm, is in possession of the original document, dated 1814, which governed all matters pertaining to the use of the schoolhouse for school and religious purposes. The Mennonites and the United Brethren are the two religious bodies mentioned in the document. Paragraph seven reads as follows:

The United Brethren in Christ shall have a right to hold their Meetings and Worship in the said School House once in four weeks, to wit on the first Day of January, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and fifteen and henceforth every fourth Sunday forever. But if at any time they shall think proper to alter the Time of their Meeting and if the Trustees consent to it, they may henceforth hold their Meetings one Week earlier or one Week later.
This little school building may be said to have been right in the geographical center of United Brethren activity of those days. The home of the elder Abraham Hershey, later the Rev. Christian Hershey home, the Long homes, and later the Shissler Church are all within the radius of one mile. Bishop Newcomer preached in the schoolhouse at Landis’ on October 8, 1818 and again on October 24, 1819.

After what appears a long time, the successors of the earliest brethren in this community purchased a small triangular tract of sixty-five square perches located along a country road about a mile and a half north of Neffsville, and erected a house of worship. It was once said to be “at a lonely place.” But with large transport planes thundering overhead, maneuvering for landing on Lancaster’s Municipal Airport Field, which is immediately across from the old church site, and a large manufacturing plant only a few rods to the west, the place is no longer “lonely.”

The church known as the Shissler Church, was a frame structure thirty-five by forty feet in size. Jacob Shissler and wife sold the land to Levi Hollinger, John Kissinger and Jacob B. Hackman, trustees for the United Brethren. A church roll for the year 1871-72 shows the following were members: Jacob, Elizabeth E., John K., Catherine, and Elizabeth Peters, Levi and Fannie Hollinger, John and Ann Kissinger, John, Harriet, and Elizabeth Hock, Lydia Gelb, Ann Stauffer, Sarah Young, William Croters, Samuel Zentmeier, Mary Lane, and Ann Ruth. Harrison and Adaline Shissler were added, with twenty-three other names, during the following nine years. The church was erected in 1865.
Twenty years later it seemed advisable to move to a new location. Consequently the Shissler Church building was torn down in the spring of 1886, and much of the lumber was used in the erection of a new house of worship, thirty-five by fifty feet, on a lot centrally located in Neffsville. Trustees for the new building were: Levi S. Reist, A. S. Ilyus Esq., H. F. Hostetter, Levi Hollinger, Henry Shissler, and Andrew L. Lane. On Sunday, October 24, 1886, the cornerstone was laid. On the 121st anniversary of the Isaac Long Meeting, Whitsunday, May 29, 1837, the church was dedicated by Bishop Jonathan Weaver. Also present were two presiding elders and seven other ministerial brethren. Presiding elder, H. B. Dohner, reported to conference session 1890 that the debt on the church had been cancelled by gifts from two grand-daughters of Isaac Long, Mrs. Annie Reist and Mrs. Matilda Erb.

God blessed the labors of the ministry and the congregation so that by 1934 the second church building of this congregation became inadequate. The cornerstone for a new building was laid August 26, 1934, and about five-hundred people gathered for the occasion. Dr. H. F. Rhoad preached at the service held in the old building, and the Rev. S. G. Kauffman performed the customary rites at the cornerstone laying. The building was dedicated March 31, 1935.
by Bishop G. D. Batdorf, who preached at both morning and evening services. An inspiring fellowship service was held in the afternoon when twenty ministers of our own and other churches brought greetings.

John L. Smoker had a five-year pastorate, and it was during his administration that the new, very beautiful and impressive, Long Memorial Church, of native gray limestone, was erected; and the present parsonage, costing $4,400, was purchased. The building committee was composed of Harry S. Krick, the Rev. Smoker, Harry E. Dunkle, Milton H. Landis, Franklin B. Long, Rufus L. Brookmeyer, John S. Graver, and Abram F. Binkley. The entire project cost $27,338.43. The Sunday School building is directly in back of the worship auditorium and its main assembly room opens into it, which gives the building a total seating capacity for special services of between five and six hundred.

Special services were held April 22, 25, 26, and 29, 1945 to celebrate the completion of payment of the church debt. Participating in the program were Drs. S. C. Enck and D. E. Young, and the Revs. J. L. Smoker and J. E. Keene. The pastor, Ira D. Lowery, was in charge.

The large window in the apse behind the pulpit and choir has been fittingly dedicated in honor of the Rev. S. G. Kauffman, who was twice pastor of the church, covering a total of twenty-two years. His ministry greatly strengthened the work of this church, and his vision, faith and prayers laid the foundations for the erection of a new building. Samuel Getz Kauffman was born in Manor Township, November 20, 1854, and died at Neffsville, January 13, 1938. He served Intercourse, Manor, Denver, Schuylkill Haven, Centerville, and Neffsville charges. From 1900 to 1905, he was chaplain of certain Lancaster County public institutions. He became a member of Annual conference in 1891 and was ordained in 1894. He was a sincere preacher of the Word of God, a devoted friend and father and a wise counsellor.

The class which eventually became the Neffsville congregation first appears on conference records in the year 1861, and is given as “Long's of Lancaster.” From that time until 1912, when Neffsville charge was created, there were twenty or more changes in circuit affiliations. Instead of listing these changes, there follows the pastoral appointments to circuits and charges of which this class or congregation was a part: Simon Noll, 1861-62; Lewis Fleisher, 1862-64; Lewis Peters, 1864-67; Rudolph Kauffman, 1867-68; George W. Hoffman, 1868-69; G. D. A. Garman, 1869-70; G. D. A. Garman, George Stoll, Henry Dissinger, 1870-71; James Shoop, 1871-73; George Shindler, 1873-75; G. D. A. Garman, 1875-77; Joseph Weirich, 1877-81; C. Walter, 1881-82; J. P. Smith, 1882-83; J. G. Fritz, J. H. Unger, 1883-84; M. A. Salt, 1884-86; George A. Loose, 1886-88; A. M. Hackman, 1888-89; John W. Boughter, 1889-91; S. G. Kauffman, 1891-93; C. W. Raver, 1893-94; W. E. Johnson, 1894-95; George Cavanaugh, H. H. Hoffer, 1895-96; C. G. F. Miller, 1896-99; C. G. F. Miller,
THE CHURCHES OF LANCASTER COUNTY

P. A. Bowman, 1899-1900; P. A. Bowman, 1900-01; S. S. Daugherty, 1901-09; J. E. Keene, 1909-12; Lloyd Martin, 1912-13; S. G. Kauffman, 1913-33; J. L. Smoker, 1933-38; and Ira D. Lowery, 1938-46.

New Holland Church

The first division of territory within Lancaster County occurred when the New Holland Circuit was created in 1846. The Ranck’s Church had been erected in 1845. The class at New Holland erected its first church fifteen years later; therefore the circuit was probably named after a community rather than after a class. Though no class organization is on record, there was United Brethren preaching in New Holland long before the formation of a circuit by that name. The Rev. Christian Newcomer preached in the village before the United Brethren denomination was formally organized. On Sunday, May 15, 1803, he preached here a second time; this service is said to have been held in a schoolhouse.

Connection of the name of Christopher Grosh with this schoolhouse has a particular interest for those who hold him dear as one of our church fathers. The building was a two-storied log structure, forty by fifty feet in size, located near the northwest corner of the main east-west street and the Hinkletown Road. It was erected in 1786-87 by donation of money and labor on the part of citizens of the village and surrounding community. Though built on “Glebe Lands,” it was not under direct control of church auspices. Those who founded it, however, were churchmen. Christopher Grosh contributed liberally toward its erection, and was one of its trustees. He had part in the dedicatory exercises which were of a distinctly religious nature. The secretary, writing an account of the ceremonies, states concerning Grosh’s part:

Christopher Grosh, one of the present trustees, a person of both moral and religious character, and an impartial preacher of his society, at the request of the professor and trustees concluded the whole by a very rational, and to all who heard him, satisfactory discourse, well adapted to the occasion, and confirmed what had been delivered to the hearers by the professor, as coinciding with him fully, and so finished with prayer.10

The Rev. Samuel Seiders was appointed to the New Holland Circuit in the spring of 1858. He held services in a frame building known as the Western Schoolhouse, a short distance west of town. He was appointed again in 1859 but died shortly afterward, on March 29, 1859. Jacob Brewer, who completed the year, held a very successful revival in the same log schoolhouse which Christopher Grosh had assisted in building nearly seventy years before. The revival, and additions to the class, led to the erection of a brick church, thirty by forty-five feet, which was dedicated by Jacob C. Smith, pastor at York First Church, assisted by pastor Brewer and other ministers.
During the winter of 1872-73, under the pastorate of M. J. Mumma, the church was redecorated, and other improvements were made, costing $521.63. Further improvements were made in 1883 and 1890, and the church was much enlarged in 1900. It was reopened for divine worship August 12, 1900, and dedicated October 21, by Bishop E. B. Kephart. Assisting at this service were the Revs. J. S. Pitman, of Los Angeles, California, and Z. A. Weidler, pastor at Intercourse. J. G. Smoker was pastor. The building committee for this project consisted of the pastor, Levi Hoover and R. Howard Wright.

A house for use as a parsonage, located on the site of the present manse, 228 W. Main Street, was bought in 1863, for $1,180. It was enlarged from time to time, but still remaining unsatisfactory as a pastor's dwelling, it was razed, and a new parsonage was erected in 1890-91.

The first plot of ground purchased in 1860 consisted of fifty-five perches. In 1879 one acre and twenty-four perches to the rear of the first purchase was bought for burial purposes, and in 1908 land adjoining the original on the west was purchased—the three tracts costing a total of $1,375. In 1908 the trustees were J. Frank Brubaker, I. M. Groff, R. Howard Wright, D. W. Ranck, and Dr. B. F. Sensenich. Aaron H. Bear was Sunday School superintendent for many years. The parsonage trustees on the charge, in 1908, were: Isaac Shirk, B. G. Good, J. M. Hoover, J. B. Thomas, and James Usner. The lot, with a two and one-half story dwelling adjoining church property on the east, was bought in May, 1945, for five thousand dollars.

Plans to enlarge the church building were considered in 1920. These drafts failing to meet the needs of the congregation, it was decided to erect a new building. The cornerstone for the same was laid by Dr. Enck, June 25, 1922. The new structure, fifty by one-hundred and eight feet, of sandstone and brick, costing sixty three thousand dollars, was dedicated June 24, 1923, by Bishop William M. Bell. C. R. Longenecker was pastor when this spacious and fine edifice was erected. The basement was completed in 1928 at a cost of $8,693.36. The entire cost of the completed plant was met by the year 1928. A great service of victory and rejoicing was held, June 20, 1928. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached on this occasion of victory, anniversary, and mortgage burning. Frank C. Aungst, pastor during this period of achievement, is serving in the twentieth year of pastorate at New Holland and Ranck's. He has given consecrated leadership to the material and spiritual progress of his parish.

Among the laymen who have been great assets to the congregation was Levi Hoover (1823-1913). He was one of its organizers and first trustees. When the Sunday School was organized in 1861 he became its superintendent, a position which he held for a period of twenty years. He was also trustee of the Ephrata church at the time of its founding, and assisted in the founding of the church at
Monterey. In 1880 he moved to Kansas. Finding two other United Brethren families, they together started a Sunday School, then later built a church at Russell, Kansas, which today is a flourishing congregation. Mr. Hoover returned in 1900 and again became active in the interest of the New Holland Church.

The ministerial appointments to the New Holland Circuit and later the New Holland charge are as follows: David O'Farrel, 1846-48; George Gilbert, 1849-50; Jacob Brewer, 1850-52; Simon Zimmerman, 1852-54; Israel Carpenter, 1854-55; Israel Carpenter and James G. Fritz, 1855-56; P. J. Riland, 1856-58; Samuel Seiders, 1858-59; Samuel Seiders, Jacob Brewer, 1859-60; Jacob Brewer, 1860-61; G. W. Scott, George Gilbert, 1861-62; W. S. H. Keys, 1862-66; Isaiah Baltzell, William B. Evers, 1866-67; Amos F. Yeager, 1867-69; David O'Farrel, 1869-71; M. J. Mumma, 1871-72; M. J. Mumma and A. V. H. Gosweiler, 1872-73; M. J. Mumma and John H. Groff, 1873-75; John F. Mower, 1875-78; J. C. Mumma, 1878-80; J. B. Funk, 1880-83; E. L. Hughes, 1883-86; M. J. Mumma, 1886-87; Thomas Garland, 1887-89; J. R. Meredith, 1889-1890; Z. A. Weidler, 1890-92; Lewis Peters, S. C. Enck, 1892-93; M. A. Salt, 1893-96; J. G. Smoker, 1896-1901; C. A. Mutch, 1901-06; I. H. Albright, 1906-12; J. R. MacDonald, 1912-16; W. W. Fridinger, O. G. Romig, 1916-17; C. E. Rettew, 1917-20; C. R. Longenecker, 1920-24; LeRoy R. Walters, 1924-26; and Frank C. Aungst, 1926-46.
Newtown Church, Rapho Township

The Newtown class located in a village by that name was an appointment on the old Lancaster Circuit, when the first church was erected in 1860. The following names appear on the membership roll of 1861-62: Aaron and Mary Deyer, Jacob, Elizabeth and Marie Geltmacher, Michael B., Anna and Elizabeth Hogendoubler, Samuel, Elizabeth, John M., and Anna Lockard, Reuben Lutz, Jacob and Martha Mumma, John F. and Catharine Meads, Elizabeth Meyers, Henry, John, and Mary Brown, Mary Illius, John Meldrum, Edward, Susanna and David Givens, John Wise, and John Shofelter.

The first church building stood on a side street and served the congregation for a period of fifty-four years. During the ministry of O. R. Brooks, a new site on the southeast corner of the village crossroad, on which was an old brick schoolhouse, was purchased. This old building was razed and a new brick structure erected in the summer of 1914. During its construction a storm blew down one of the partly built walls. The project was completed and the building dedicated on October 18. The Brethren in Christ denomination has for a number of years held services in both the old and the new church and has given generous financial aid in the rebuilding.

Rufus Hipple, who was a well-known teacher in the township, having served fifty-one years as such, was for many years class leader and Sunday School superintendent. Among its trustees were: Samuel E. Myers, George Metzger, Abraham Bradley, Richard Frank, Emanuel Myers, Christian Garber, Curtin Geltmacher, and Jacob Geltmacher. Emanuel Myers also served as class leader and Sunday School superintendent. Raymond H. Arndt was recommended for quarterly conference license by vote of this class.

In its early history the church was a part of the Florin and Mt. Joy Circuits, but the exact years of this relationship are uncertain.

The church has been affiliated with the following Circuits: Lancaster, 1861-67; Mt. Joy, 1867-71; Florin, 1871-91; Marietta, 1891-94; Chestnut Grove, 1894-96; Mt. Joy, 1896-1901; Marietta, 1901-03; Centerville, 1903-04; Silver Spring, 1904-05; Centerville, 1905-06; Cordella, 1906-07; Centerville, 1907-18; Florin, 1918-19; Columbia, 1919-25; Silver Spring, 1925-30; Brunnerville, 1930-46.

Oregon Church, Manheim Township

The Oregon congregation worships in a frame building erected as a Union Church in 1874. The citizens of the community cooperated in providing funds for its erection, and among the contributions was one of five-hundred dollars from Mrs. Anna Bushong, Reading, Pa., who was a descendant of the Martin Myers family that settled on the land on which the church was built. Others than United Brethren have held services in this church through the years but our denomination is the only one which has used the building consistently.
There was a class at Millport in Warwick Township which met in a Union church erected in 1846, and this was the forerunner of the Oregon class. It was attached to Sinking Spring, Lancaster, and Mountville Circuits in the order named, during the decade, 1860-70. The Reist and Hostetter families were members of it. Later these and other families formed the Oregon class. Levi S. Reist and wife, Simon Hostetter and wife, were members first at Millport, later at Oregon. Anna Mary Hostetter, for many years a member at Oregon, is a great-granddaughter of both these families. Her grandmother Reist was a great-granddaughter of Isaac Long.

Present trustees at Oregon are: Ivan R. Buch, Paul Ness, Raymond Withers, Carson Bear, and Peter Sweigert. Those who served as superintendents of the Sunday School were: George Myers, Levi S. Reist, and Jacob Glick. At present Ivan R. Ruth is head of the School. Officers of the Women's Missionary Society are: Mrs. Embrose Roland, president; Mrs. Samuel Myers, vice president; Miss Pauline Ness, treasurer; and Miss June Wren, secretary. The church membership is sixty; Sunday School enrollment, ninety-five.

For a time following the organization of the class it was on the Manheim charge. Since 1882 it has been attached to the following circuits: Ephrata, 1882-86; Lititz, 1886-90; Lancaster, 1890-91; Intercourse, 1892-93; Lancaster, 1893-96; Lititz, 1896-1912; and Neffsville Charge, 1912-46.

Paradise, St. John's Church

The United Brethren had a church at Soudersburg thirty years before the St. John's Church was erected at Paradise. Jacob, David, and Benjamin Souders owned the land where the village named for them is located. Benjamin was a local preacher for the Methodists, who erected a church (still standing though used for other purposes) in the eastern limits of the village in the year 1802. Newcomer writes that “he attended meeting in Soudersburg” in October, 1803. This was probably at the Methodist meetinghouse. Jacob Stehman, one of the organizers of a United Brethren class at Soudersburg received a transfer of membership from the Methodists in 1839. Other members of this class were: Marie Stehman, Michael and Polly Good, Andrew Stiffel, Jacob and Mary Groff, Mary McAllister, and William Given. “Father Stehman” (1816-1892), as he was fondly called in later years, received annual conference license in 1849, and was ordained in the conference in 1852. He always held a local relation. However, in his early years he was quite actively engaged in preaching and teaching.

The class erected a frame building, about thirty by thirty-five feet in size, in Soudersburg, in 1847. It was located on the south side of the main highway, near the east bank of a small run, and was known as the “Little White Church.” On the evening of Thanksgiving Day, 1871, M. J. Mumma, while serving the New Holland Circuit, began a revival meeting which continued until the last
Saturday of the following March. Seventy-five conversions were reported and there were numerous additions to the membership. As a further result of the revival a Sunday School was organized in the spring of 1872, with Jacob Stehman as the first superintendent.

A larger house of worship now became necessary. The members resided chiefly in Soudersburg, Paradise, and Gordonville, and each of these communities wanted the new church to be erected in its midst. It was finally decided to locate centrally between them. An elevated site, somewhat west of Paradise, was selected. In 1876 a tract of two acres was purchased from Hiram W. Esbenshade for the sum of five-hundred dollars. The cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1877 under the pastorate of J. D. Killian, and by his leadership the building was completed the following spring, at a cost of six thousand dollars. It was constructed of brick, forty-four by sixty-four feet in size, with an addition of four feet for pulpit recess. Two years after the erection of the building the church was incorporated, and the following trustees were elected: Elam Hershey, Jacob Stehman, Daniel Longenecker, Jacob Groff, and Abraham Ressler.

A remaining debt on this project with all its attending circumstances of uncertainty and embarrassment, delayed dedication for a period of fifteen years. H. F. McNelly, appointed to Mt. Pleasant Circuit in October 1891, was, on Christmas Day of the same year, also appointed to preach at St. John's. So successful were his efforts that on the first anniversary of the day on which he began his ministry with this church, the building was at long last dedicated by Bishop Nicholas Castle with all indebtedness provided for. Immediately after dedication a revival began which resulted in ninety-one conversions and seventy-eight accessions. From that time forward the permanency of the work was a certainty.

During the pastorate of Dr. A. K. Wier, 1899-1901, the last dollar of indebtedness was paid. E. J. Renshaw was pastor at the time when a brick parsonage was erected in 1908 on a lot adjacent to the original property, cost of the parsonage and lot being $3,516.

From 1900 to 1920 the church had a net increase in membership of 143. Beginning with 1922, funds were collected to provide for a new building in order to properly house the rapidly growing Sunday School. By Labor Day, 1932, architectural plans had been approved, and on that day ground was broken. The cornerstone was laid October 23, 1932. In less than six months the building was ready for dedication, and on Easter Sunday, 1933, appropriate consecration services were held. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, who was present for the cornerstone laying, also preached both morning and evening on the day of dedication, and performed the customary rites. The structure cost approximately twenty-five thousand dollars. The entire amount was paid by September 1942, and the mortgage was burned at a special service November 28, 1943.
The Rev. Walter E. Deibler served the church while funds were being raised, and the Rev. S. A. Rauch was pastor at the time of dedication. Under the administration of C. A. Snavely the final payment was made. John Hively, J. Ira Denlinger, E. R. Helm, C. L. Herr, Park F. Esbenshade, B. R. Brackbill and Harry N. Troop composed the building committee.

Miss Estelle M. High, serving her eighth three-year term in Sierra Leone, West Africa, entered missionary work from St. John's. Miss Lucille B. Esbenshade, a member of the congregation, is serving in her first term at San Fernando, Philippine Islands. John L. Smoker and Thomas S. May, having received license to preach by vote of this congregation, are active elders in this conference.

Robert H. Sholter is in the second year of his pastorate at St. John's. In these two years ninety-seven members have been received, bringing the total, at the close of the conference year 1946, to 545 in number. Under his direction preparations are being made to observe the centennial Anniversary of the founding of the first class.

Pastors serving the congregation from 1846 to 1875 were those of the New Holland Circuit. From 1875 to 1881 the church formed a part of the Intercourse Circuit. St. John's was made a station in 1881, and the following were its ministers: S. J. Nunn, 1881-82; S. J. Nunn, J. G. Steiner, 1882-83; J. G. Steiner, J. N. Munden, 1883-84;
and Lewis Peters, 1884-85. From 1885 to 1893 the church was an appointment on the following Circuits: Intercourse, 1885-91; and Mt. Pleasant, 1891-93.


**Ranck's Church, East Earl Township**

This church is located in East Earl Township about one and one-half miles southeast of New Holland. It stands near the foothills of the Welsh Mountain beyond which, eastward, there has never been much United Brethren activity. The church bears the name of a family which has had and still has a large place in its history.

The first preaching by the United Brethren in this community, of which there is record, was in the year 1802 when Newcomer made his first visit to the house of Christopher Grosh. We have already noted Grosh’s contribution to our fellowship. His house later came into possession of a son-in-law, Daniel Weidman. The Weidman home was also used by the itinerant preachers, until a church house was erected. A few miles west of the Grosh farm lived Joseph Huber (1764-1826) at whose house also Newcomer frequently preached. These families and others, without a break, supported the United Brethren cause in the community.

About the year 1837 the Revs. John and Casper Light held a meeting at the Weidman house at which time there were many converts. Similar evangelistic efforts were greatly blessed under the ministry of Daniel Funkhouser who was appointed to Lancaster Circuit in 1838. Tradition has it that he organized the first class. Land was bought from Joseph Ranck for the sum of fifty dollars for the erection of a house of worship, and for the burial of the dead. Trustees named in the deed, dated July 1, 1844, are Daniel Weidman, Michael Ranck, and John Correll. The work of construction was begun in the fall of that year and completed early in the following year, when the building, thirty-two by thirty-six feet in size, was dedicated by the Rev. Jacob C. Smith. Originally the entrance to the building was at its southern end, thus the rear of it was to the public road passing on its north. During the ministry of M. J. Mumma, an addition of ten feet length was added to the south end, and the entrances were placed on the north facing the street. A tower and bell were also provided.

The keen interest manifested by the laity in revivals is reflected in an article published in the Religious Telescope under date of
January 27, 1858. It is from the pen of Samuel E. Ranck and reads as follows:

A protracted Meeting began at Ranck's Church on the evening of December 27, 1857 which is still in progress. The good Lord was with us in power to kill and to make alive. Eleven found peace (some of which are heads of families), five united with the Church, and numbers yet are crying for mercy.

In 1876 the cemetery was enlarged by the purchase of an acre of ground, costing three hundred dollars, and there was another addition of one acre and fifty-six perches in 1910. Here many of the sainted dead sleep the sleep of the just. The remains of brother Grosh and those of several members of his family were first interred in a corner of a field on his farm. Their graves were almost forgotten and much neglected. In the spring of 1907 their remains were exhumed by interested relatives and friends and interred in the cemetery by the church. By the year 1944 a Trust Fund to the amount of $3,646.67 had been provided for the maintenance of this beautifully kept burial ground.

The congregation, rich in spiritual heritage, is zealously striving to foster a spirit of appreciation worthy of its consecrated fathers. The church was incorporated April 24, 1903. Ezra G. Ranck, Levi Overly, Benjamin B. Brubaker, D. G. Weidman, and A. C. Rutter were its trustees at the time. Dr. I. H. Albright, who was pastor of the New Holland-Ranck's charge, 1906-12, always seeking to make the most of the deeds of our founding fathers, planned special anniversary services which were held May 17-24, 1908. The services centered about the idea of "Home-Coming Week"—the title to an historical booklet published at the time. This booklet shows the trustees to be those named at the time of the incorporation. Other officials were as follows: class leader, D. G. Weidman; church
treasurer, John M. Hoover; Sunday School superintendent, George S. Ranck; Women's Missionary Association: president, Jemima Martin; secretary, Roxanna Weidman; treasurer, Lucetta Hoover; solicitor, Laura Rutter. A directory of members appears in the same booklet. On the roll of members there are thirteen by the name of Overly, and thirteen by the name of Ranck.

During the pastorate of C. R. Longenecker extensive improvements were made consisting of a new tower, a pipeless furnace, Delco Light Plant, art-glass windows, hardwood floors, oak pulpit and pews, and carpet, at a cost of $7,828. In 1938 Jacob Haines gave to the congregation the sum of $20,895.33 for a Trust Fund. Centennial Anniversary services were held September 10, 1944 under direction of the pastor, Dr. F. C. Aungst, with Bishop G. D. Batdorf preaching the sermon. A two and one-half story dwelling was purchased in 1946 for the price of four thousand and three-hundred dollars, which may be used as a parsonage.

Prior to 1846 ministers serving the Lancaster Circuit preached at the Ranck's appointment. Since that year its ministers are those listed under New Holland Church.

Refton, Boehm's Memorial Church

The church bearing the name of the sainted Bishop Martin Boehm is located in the village of Refton, northwestern Strasburg Township. There were several classes in the valley of the Beaver Creek about ten years before the Refton class was established. Mention is made in boundary committee reports of “Beaver Valley Class” in 1867 and 1868. The most southerly classes in the county con-
stated the Quarryville Circuit in 1881. All these classes have passed out of existence except the one at Refton, which has had a permanent existence since its organization about the year 1880. The class met in a house of worship used by several denominations until the year 1887 when its own building was erected. It was ready for dedication about February 1888, but due to a severe winter making travel difficult, the building was not dedicated until spring. Bishop Ezekiel B. Kephart consecrated it to sacred worship.

Among the first officials of the organization were: Washington Winters, S. G. Kauffman, Jacob Huber, Henry Smith, Ross Boochar, Diller Plank, H. Free Fellenbaum, George T. Rose, Elam Book, Emil Conrad, Samuel Orr, and Henry Andrews. The building which these fathers of the church erected at Refton is a substantial brick structure situated on the south side of the Quarryville-Lancaster Road. The interior was renovated in 1903 at a cost of one-thousand dollars. A basement was constructed for Sunday School use in 1934. The same was dedicated November 18, 1934, and the expense incurred, amounting to seven-hundred dollars, was paid for by that date.

The congregation observed its fiftieth anniversary, May 19, 1937 with appropriate services. Dr. C. A. Lynch preached at the morning hour of worship, Dr. S. C. Enck in the evening. Dr. H. U. Roop was pastor. Church officers at the time were: trustees, H. F. Fellenbaum, Henry K. Doner, Miss Emma Kunkle, William B. Graeff, and Chester Eshleman; Women's Missionary Association, Mrs. J. C. Hambleton, Mrs. Clem H. Groff, Mrs. Willis Graeff, and Mrs. Mabel Book; Ladies' Aid Society, Mrs. Charles Miller, Miss Emma Kunkle, and Mrs. Clara Kunkle. Trustees at the present time are: J. William Porter, Edward Mowrer, J. R. Strickler, Miss Emma Kunkle, and Chester Eshleman.

Refton Church was attached to Lancaster Circuit in 1881, of which it remained a part until 1890. Following 1890, it has been attached to the following circuits: Mt. Pleasant, 1890-93; Lancaster, 1893-96; and Manor, 1896-1901. Refton became a charge in 1901, pastors appointed were: S. G. Kauffman, 1901-05; I. W. Funk, 1905-06; J. C. Pease, 1906-07; Thomas Garland, 1907-08; C. H. Holzinger, 1910-12; C. G. White, 1912-13; and B. M. Breneman, 1913-20; O. G. Romig, 1920-22; M. B. Groff, 1922-26; M. H. Miller, 1926-31; H. U. Roop, 1931-37; James Bingham, 1937-42; and Cornwell Beamesderfer, 1942-46.

Ruhl's (Zion's) Church. Rapho Township

This church, named after the Ruhl family whose members are numerous on its church roll, is located about four miles northwest of Manheim in the northern region of Rapho Township. John Ruhl and his elder brother Philip, Michael Sharp, and David Stoner, with their families, were among the earliest members of the class. Philip Ruhl was a very zealous local preacher. John Ruhl (1821-1887) was converted at the age of seventeen, when Daniel Funkhouser and Enoch Hoffman traveled the Lancaster Circuit. He
later married Miss Esther Keller who came from the vicinity of Fishburn’s church in Dauphin County. This couple lived near the mill at Elstonville, and for about twenty-seven years their house and barn were used as places of meeting. The Rev. John Ruhl received quarterly conference license at the hands of presiding elder John Adam Sand at a quarterly held at Mountville in the year 1851. In 1868 he was admitted to annual conference. He frequently attended its sessions but was never appointed to a charge. He was, however, of great usefulness to the itinerant preachers of the local and neighboring charges. He was a good and faithful servant of God who loved his Lord and Church supremely.

The name of John Lehn appears as class leader on a church membership roll of the year 1861. Other names on this roll are, John Ruhl and wife Esther, Agnes and Elizabeth Ruhl, Mrs. John Lehn and Harriet Lehn, Elizabeth Brubaker, Fannie Dourte, Christian Haldeman, Ellen Kaley, Betty Runkle, and Rebecca Hallman. By successful revival efforts the class reached a membership of forty-five by the year 1867. In that year a brick edifice was erected on ground donated by the Rev. John Ruhl. The original building, as shown on a photograph taken by Dr. S. C. Enck in 1893, had two doors at the front of the building with a window between, at the center. Certain repairs were made in the year 1890, also in 1894. A very violent storm passing over the area in September of the year 1896 tore off the roof and pushed down the front and rear walls. Soon thereafter the church was rebuilt at a cost of seven-hundred dollars. An annex about ten feet in depth was added to the rear of the structure in 1919, costing six-hundred dollars, for the use of the children’s division of the Sunday School. Further improvements were made in 1923 costing two thousand and one-hundred dollars.

Throughout the years the congregation has experienced precious seasons of revival. The presiding elder, H. B. Dohner, in his report of 1890 writes: ‘There is an extensive protracted meeting in progress and it was marvelous in our eyes; and increased the membership largely.” In 1893-95 the following were members of the quarterly: trustees, Ezra Ruhl, John L. Ruhl, Addison Stoner, John H. Ruhl, H. M. Lehn, Aaron Kephart, and Emanuel Ruhl; class leader, Ezra Ruhl; stewards, Eli B. Ruhl, and H. M. Lehn; Sunday School superintendent, Harry P. Wisegarber. Mr. Wisegarber served in this capacity at different periods for a total of twenty-three years. Other superintendents before his time and since his retirement were: Phares Becker, Joseph B. Wisegarber, Benjamin Ruhl, Conrad Waltz, John H. Ruhl, Frank Druckenbrod (now a minister of the conference), William Werner, Cyrus Boyer, Elmer Brubaker, and Abram Faus. Among those who have been class leaders are: Jacob Ellinger, Joseph Snyder, Daniel Walborn, John G. Saylor, Aaron Snyder, Benjamin Ruhl, Frank Druckenbrod, Alvin Shearer, and Samuel Hollinger. The church trustees at this present are: Samuel Hollinger, Elmer Brubaker, Ellis Hisey, David Stoner, Edgar Herr, and Alvin Shearer.
From the beginning of the class organization until 1867, Ruhl’s Church was an appointment on the Lancaster Circuit. Since 1867 it has been affiliated with the following circuits: Mt. Joy, 1867-71; Manheim, 1871-83; Hopeland, 1883-86; Chestnut Grove, 1893-95. From 1886 to 1893 it constituted a charge, and the ministers appointed were: Joseph Young Jr., 1886-89; S. C. Enck, 1889-91; S. R. Gipple, 1891-92; and J. W. Boughter, 1892-93. Since 1895 it has been attached to Manheim Church.

Schoeneck, Wiest Memorial Church, West Cocalico Township

The Wiest Memorial Church was made possible through the generosity of Samuel S. Wiest, M.D., and his wife Mary Ann. The doctor died April 27, 1902, before the church could be built, but fortunately there was a clause in his will instructing his wife to have the church erected. It was his request that the building be patterned after the Reformed Church at Lincoln, Pennsylvania, its cost not to exceed ten thousand dollars. Mrs. Wiest engaged the service of George Grove of Harrisburg, as architect and builder. The cornerstone was laid May 17, 1905. Immediately after the ceremony a meeting of the trustees, H. S. Gabel, M. J. Mumma, S. L. Rhoads, Mary A. Wiest, and Charles Yeager, was held at the Wiest home.

The building, a beautiful brownstone structure with memorial windows, was completed in about a year’s time, and was dedicated May 16, 1904. The interior consists of the auditorium, a small Sunday School room, and a minister’s office. The original heating and lighting facilities were replaced by modern ones in 1924. A metal ceiling was installed and the interior and exterior of the building were painted at a cost of eight-hundred and fifty dollars during the second pastorate of B. M. Breneman.

The congregation has always been small, probably reaching its largest membership—numbering twenty-seven in 1946—under the ministry of the present pastor, Charles W. Wolfe.
Its pastors have been those of the following charges: Denver, 1902-07; Hopeland, 1907-12; and Denver, 1912-46.

**Silver Spring, Salem Church**

In 1876, J. C. Mumma, while pastor at Mountville, organized a class at Silver Spring comprised of the following members: John and Anna Weaver, Warren and Catherine Bruckhart, Catherine Smith, Henry and Sarah Mellinger, Christian and Sadie Kauffman, Anna Manuel, Elias and Ann Stauffer, and Hogentogler. There was no house of worship available. The class was continued for about a year, and then its members were transferred to Ironville Church.

A second attempt to organize proved more successful, when J. Francis Smith, pastor at Ironville, opened an appointment at Silver Spring in 1887. The present church lot was purchased in 1888 and the building thereon erected was dedicated in the fall of that year. Jacob R. Weaver, Henry R. Weaver, David R. Kauffman, Jacob Kendig, Daniel McCune, John M. Weller, Henry R. Mellinger were trustees. The erection of the house of worship was made possible by contributions from people of the community regardless of denominational affiliation. It was used by various denominations, but has always been recognized as the property of the United Brethren, and by them kept in repair.

A class, known as the “Salem Class,” was organized by S. R. Gipple in February 1889. It consisted of the following: Henry and Sarah Mellinger, Reuben, Amanda and Henry Hershey, Samuel Kinsey, Lizzie Bruckhart, Lizzie Spangler, Annie Hogendobler, Effie Kendig, Ida Baker, and Anna Gallager. During the next two years nineteen members were added.

Extensive improvements were made in 1927: the building was painted, a new heating system installed, and a new basement constructed, involving a cost of $1,541. Reopening services were held August 28th.

The church membership roll in 1946 numbered 108; the Sunday School enrollment was 119, and the average attendance, 69. Recent improvements include a new vestibule, new lighting system, venetian blinds, papered walls, repainted pews and floors.

The trustees are: Harrison Nolt, Willis Reapsome, John Stively, Theodore Miller, and Clayton Aument. Willis Reapsome is the Sunday School superintendent, Mrs. Harrison Nolt heads the Women’s Missionary Society.

The congregation has formed a part of the following circuits: Ironville, 1887-88; Florin, 1888-91; Marietta, 1891-94; Chestnut Grove, 1894-96; Mt. Joy, 1896-1901; Centerville, 1901-04; Centerville, 1905-06; Cordelia, 1906-07; Centerville, 1907-18; Florin, 1918-19; Columbia, 1919-25; and Silver Spring, 1925-46. For the year 1904-05 it constituted a charge. J. E. Francis followed by Martin Groff were the
ministers for the year. Ministers of the Silver Spring Circuit have been as follows: Oscar Buch, 1925-26; J. L. Smoker, 1926-33; W. C. Blatt, 1933-40; R. G. Becktel, Samuel Stoner, 1940-41; Daniel L. Shearer, 1941-44; and R. V. Mays, 1944-46.

West Willow Church

A class was organized at Willow Street in 1860 but it did not erect a house of worship. John G. Smoker was one of its first class leaders and Dr. Benjamin M. Frick was a steward. A quarterly conference held on the charge January 2, 1867, passed a motion to add the members of this class to the Beaver Valley class. Whether this action was carried out remains an uncertainty. A class bearing the same name is listed in 1876 as being on Conestoga Circuit. It was a part of Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1877-78; Lancaster, 1878-80; Conestoga, 1880-81; Quarryville, 1881-84; Mt. Pleasant, 1884-85. It met occasionally in a public hall, then, in 1883, meetings were held in a store-room, formerly a mercantile establishment conducted by Jacob Charles. This property was purchased in 1884 and the room converted into a place of worship. Trustees for the property were: Harry Witmer of Manor Township, John G. Smoker of Providence Township, and Benjamin Snavely of Pequea Township.

The permanent organization for the present West Willow Church was effected in the year 1907. Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, conducted a quarterly conference on May 25 of that year, the following being present: the Rev. J. B. Funk, M. B. Groff, Annie Groff, I. H. Brooks, B. S. Shenk and D. W. Dunlap. Trustees elected at this meeting were authorized at the next quarterly meeting, June 8, to erect a church building. They reported, July 6, having purchased an acre of ground from John H. Huber, and soon thereafter work on the building project was begun. John H. Huber and Jacob Tshudy, with the trustees, acted as a building committee. The edifice cost four-thousand dollars, and upon its completion in 1908, was dedicated by Dr. Lowery. J. B. Funk, who had been appointed to the new work, reported a membership of thirty-eight at the close of the conference year.

The house of worship has been improved and enlarged, new oak pews were placed and other needed improvements were made in 1922 at a cost of $1,435. During the conference year 1925-26 an annex was added providing five additional class rooms and other conveniences, a new vapor-system heating plant, and a new carpet, at a total cost of $5,609.32. Rededication services were conducted by Dr. Enck May 29, 1926. In 1932 the interior of the building was renovated and repainted, and a beautiful mural painting placed in the pulpit alcove. An additional room was constructed in the basement in 1940. The Sunday School increased during the year by forty-seven and the church membership by twenty-nine. Organized work with young people took on a new interest; a Senior and Junior Christian Endeavor Society were organized, and the first
group of young people were sent to the Mt. Gretna Summer Assembly.

West Willow Church, at an official meeting held February 3, 1912, requested Refton Church to join in the erection of a parsonage. The request was complied with. A commodious and modern manse was erected east of the church at West Willow. Both parsonage and church are constructed of cement block. A coat of white paint has recently been given both. The spacious lawns, fine shrubbery, and asphalt-paved parking area, enhance the beauty of this desirable village parish property.

The young people of the congregation have maintained their interest in the work of the parish. They have recently bought a Dick Mimeographing machine for church use, and are now sponsoring a movement to purchase an organ. A Wurlitzer Orgatron has been ordered and arrangements have been made for its installation as soon as delivery can be made. The committee in charge is composed of: Robert Shenk, Mrs. Joseph Copeland, and Mrs. Glen Wineske. The Rev. Cornwell Beamesderfer is giving excellent leadership as pastor. He has the unique distinction of having two sons in the ministry, and a third who is looking forward to the same profession.

The trustees are: A. C. Nissley, D. W. Dunlap, John H. Huber, William A. Ross, and William Dull. D. W. Dunlap has served as trustee since the class was organized. The parsonage trustees are: William Dull, A. C. Nissley, Clyde Ulmer, J. William Porter, Walter Heisler, and William A. Ross. These represent both congregations, West Willow and Refton. These two churches have constituted one charge since the West Willow class was organized. The pastors are listed under Refton Church.

3. Abandoned Churches and Classes

Bainbridge, along the Susquehanna River south of Falmouth, was an appointment on the Marietta Circuit, 1868.
Beaver Valley Class, Strasburg Township, was listed under Lancaster Circuit, 1867, and under Mountville Circuit, 1868.

Eden, northeast of Lancaster City, was an appointment during 1888-1891.

Elizabeth Furnace, Elizabeth Township, was an appointment on Pannabecker's (Hopeland) Circuit in 1855, and continued under Myerstown and Sinking Spring Circuits until 1860.

Harristown, Paradise Township, an appointment affiliated with Intercourse and Pequea Valley Circuits, 1879-1881.

Hawksville, a new class organized on Mt. Pleasant Circuit in 1886.

Hinkletown. A brick church was erected in this village in 1848, known as "Union Bethel." The United Brethren began holding services about 1852. From that time forward until 1896 it was supplied by ministers serving the following circuits: Lancaster, New Holland, Manheim, and Ephrata. Over two periods it was on a circuit named Marietta.

Kinderhook, on Chiques Hill, was an appointment on Ironville Circuit in 1887.

Lancaster, Laurel Street. This became a new appointment in 1910. John R. Bowermaster was serving the people there. The conference superintendent reported in 1911 the erection of a new chapel costing two-thousand and five hundred dollars. It was discontinued as a conference appointment in 1920.

Lexington was an appointment on Pannabecker's Circuit in 1855. (See Brunnerville Church.

Lincoln, or New Ephrata, was an appointment in 1855, which was discontinued. Later, in 1890, a class was organized, but this was also dropped.

Maytown was an appointment on Marietta Circuit in 1881.

Marietta. A class was organized May 26, 1880, and a frame church building located in the western part, bought from the Methodists. The United Brethren rededicated it in June 1880. The trustees in 1883 were A. R. Lutz, Alexander McAfee, Joseph MacFarland, George Geiser, and Samuel Stacks. The valuation of the property was one-thousand dollars. It came over to East Pennsylvania Conference in 1882, and was subsequently attached to Florin, Ironville, and Royalton; and was once under the quarterly conference of Columbia Church. Over two periods it was on a circuit named Marietta. From 1899 to 1901 it was a station. G. S. K. Sample was its minister, 1899-1900; and B. M. Breneman, 1900-01. A committee appointed by annual conference session of 1915 reported to the session of 1917 that the property was sold for two hundred dollars. After all financial obligations were met a balance of forty-one dollars was turned over to the conference treasurer.

Meadville, Salisbury Township, was a class connected with Pequea Valley Circuit in 1879.

Millersville. Conference ordered, in 1880, that Millersville be taken up as an appointment. It had a very brief existence.

Millport, Warwick Township. The United Brethren held services in a Union Church erected in 1846. The Reist and Hostetter families, later affiliated with the Oregon congregation, lived nearby, and are buried in the cemetery adjoining the church lot. The appointment was on the Lancaster and Mountville Circuits, 1867-68.

Millwood. (See under Limeville Church)

Monterey, Upper Leacock Township. A brick church was erected in 1863. It once had a membership of eighty and was quite a flourishing congregation. Amos Miller was its chief promoter. The church was attached to the following circuits: New Holland, 1863-75; Intercourse, 1875-86; Lititz, 1886-87; Intercourse, 1887-88. In 1891 the presiding elder reported that only four members remained. A committee authorized by conference to sell the build-
A. R. Kurtz, treasurer, reported a balance of $351.35 after all obligations had been met, which amount was ordered to be paid to the trustees of the Intercourse Church to apply on cost of erection of their new church. The building stands at the south end of the village and is now used as a residence.

Moscow. A class by that name appears on conference records for a brief time. The locality is about five miles east of Gap in Salisbury Township.

Mt. Hope, Penn Township. When the Rev. John Boughter was pastor on Chestnut Grove Circuit, he reported a class of thirty-six members at Mt. Hope in 1895. David L. Lehman was a class leader, but the class had a brief existence. It was removed by only a few miles from Ruhl's Church and was probably absorbed by it.

Mt. Pleasant. In the year 1883 a frame church was erected in the northwestern corner of Eden Township. Nearly an acre of ground was donated by David B. Graham to the trustees of “Mt. Zion United Brethren Church,” i.e., John G. Smoker, James A. Hamilton, Michael G. Rowe, and Samuel O. Keen. Prior to the building of the church, for about ten years, there was a class by this name. Before 1875 it was attached to New Holland Circuit; to Intercourse, 1875-78; Lancaster, 1878-81; Quarryville, 1881-84; Mt. Pleasant Mission, 1884-88; Lancaster Circuit, 1888-Feb. 1889; Mt. Pleasant Circuit, Feb. 1889-Oct. 1889; Lancaster Circuit, Oct. 1889-1890; Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1893-96; and to St. John’s, 1896. The deed stipulated that if religious worship ceased, the property was to revert to the owner. The Mennonites have been holding services in it since 1899.

New Danville. Pequea Township, was an appointment on Conestoga Circuit in 1875.

Reinholds, West Cocalico Township. A very substantial limestone structure located along the road from Reinholds Station to Reinholds was erected in 1848. A church book covering the years 1871-75 contains the names of fifty-three members. John H. Binkley was class leader and Simon Zimmerman was assistant. The ranks of its membership were greatly depleted as people moved to the more populous communities scattered from Reading to Ephrata. Similarity of surnames of members in the United Brethren Churches of these communities shows that the Reinholds class was a feeder for them.

For the last sixty years there has been little activity at this church. Mr. A. N. Shissler, of Lititz, for some years past has interested himself in arranging for annual home-coming services. For the last several years the Conference Commission on Town and Country Church has promoted similar meetings. Keen interest is shown in them by descendants of the church fathers who sang the praises of God within its walls in earlier years.

The record of circuit attachments is apparently incomplete. The available records show the following attachments: Sinking Spring, 1860-69; Schaefferstown, 1869-71; Sinking Spring, 1871-73; Schaefferstown, 1873-74; Brunnerville, 1874-75; Hopeland, 1875-82; Ephrata, 1882-83; Hopeland, 1883-86; Ephrata, 1886-87.

Shock’s Mills. Class of twelve members (west of Marietta) was organized by L. R. Kramer in 1885 while he was pastor at Florin. It had a brief existence.

Slaymakersville, Salisbury Township, was an appointment of Pequea Valley Circuit, 1879-87; and Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1887-88.

Smithville, Mt. Carmel Church. Providence Township. The congregation at Smithville worshipped in a building which had been used by the Methodists. It was the former Mt. Hope M. E. Church of Drumore Township. In 1983, William Johnson, on behalf of a few members of the class at Smithville, purchased it and moved it to an elevated piece of ground in the environs of Smithville. A half acre of ground was purchased from Dr. Benjamin Reick. It received the name Mt. Carmel. However, through several misfortunes encountered, it received the opprobrious name of “The Devil's
Half Acre.” The building was entirely destroyed by fire in 1871, under rather suspicious circumstances. About two years later a frame church was built upon the site of the former one. In addition to John and Frick, the names of Jacob S. Eshleman, Henry Reese, Tobias Finefrock, Peter Finefrock, Henry S. Calm, and Elizabeth Blecher are connected with the Church’s history. It was attached to Mountville Circuit, 1863-67, and 1868-75; to Lancaster, 1867-68; and 1875-81; to Conestoga, 1875-76; Mt. Pleasant, 1876-78; and Quarryville, 1881-82; The building, still standing, was sold in 1882 and is now in use as a shed.

Smyrna. Sadbury Township, was a new appointment on Mt. Pleasant Circuit in 1886.

Springville. Salisbury Township, was an appointment on Pequea Valley Circuit, 1879-87, and on Mt. Pleasant Circuit, 1887-88.

Strasburg Church. The Methodist built a brick church on South Decatur Street in the Borough of Strasburg in 1815. By deed dated April 9, 1870, a private party sold this church and lot to William Given Sr., Christian Mellinger, and Hiram Stauffer, board of trustees for the United Brethren in Christ, for the sum of $473. Strasburg, however, was on the list of appointments of Lancaster Circuit as early as 1867. In 1881 it was attached to the Mountville Circuit. It was constituted a supply appointment in 1871 and Henry H. Stehman, who resided at Millersville, supplied it from that year until 1875. It was a part of Intercourse Circuit, 1875-76; Mt. Pleasant, 1876-78; Lancaster, 1878-81; and Quarryville, 1881-82. The property was sold in 1882 and the liabilities cancelled. The Good Templars bought it and used it as a Temperance Hall. It is at this writing used as a private dwelling. A half dozen or more tombstones partly covered with rubbish, piled along a garden fence to the rear of the building, bear mute testimony that there was a burial lot nearby.

White Rock. was an appointment on the following circuits: Strasburg, 1871-76; Mt. Pleasant, 1876-78, and 1881-84; and Lancaster, 1878-81.

Willow Street (See West Willow Church)

Notes
1. Conference minutes, 1882, p. 19, state specifically that Elizabethtown was a point on the Swatara Circuit. LM. p. 128 states, J. L. Nicholas was the pastor. He was appointed to Florin that year. The Conference action may not have been carried out. Local records may show which is correct.
4. The first issue of the Religious Telescope, dated December 31, 1834 lists twenty-six centers in which there were agents for the paper, and among them is, “William Brown, Lancaster Pennsylvania.” He was born in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1796, joined the Old Conference in 1816, was ordained in 1819, served charges in the conference, was pastor of Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore, Maryland, 1825-28. At the close of his term as Bishop he located in Indiana. The annual conference proceedings (1800-1861) were transcribed by him in German from the originals, forming part of the volume of proceedings (1800-1861) in our possession since 1847.
5. Ezekiel Boring was born January 16, 1780, received annual license in 1825, served charges in the Old Conference, was transferred to West Pennsylvania Conference in 1846. He was agent for the Religious Telescope while in Lancaster in the years 1830-36. Ezekiel Boring Kephart is named after him.
7. See Florin Church.
8. Ellis and Evans—History of Lancaster County, p. 600.