Chapter VII

THE CHURCHES OF LEBANON COUNTY

1. The Circuits of Lebanon County, 1840-1946.

Lebanon Circuit, constituted in 1840, was the third to be carved out of the original Lancaster Circuit. It embraced all the classes and preaching appointments in Lebanon County, and until 1843, some beyond the county boundary to the east and northeast. The missionary visits of our pioneers, the influence of the Great Meetings, and the more intense labors of Abraham Troxel, Martin Kreider, and Felix Light, natives of the county, laid the foundations for the United Brethren in Christ Church in Lebanon County. John Neidig and Martin Boehm of two neighboring counties made specific contributions to the work in this county. With Christian Newcomer on his journeys came such men as George A. Geeting of Maryland, Daniel Strickler and Christian Crum of Virginia, and Joseph Hoffman of Cumberland County.

References to Newcomer's work in this area will be given in the sketches of local churches. The overall picture can be seen by tracing his customary routes. Coming from Lancaster, he would first meet appointments in and about Schaefferstown, then move on to Philip Breidenstein's and John Zinn's, then through Myerstown out to and beyond Mt. Aetna to the Zeller homes. His itinerary next took him to the Shuey and Sherk homes in Bethel Township, to the Abraham Troxel house in North Lebanon Township, and to the Felix Light and Martin Kreider homes near Lebanon. From Lebanon westward he passed through Millerstown (Annville) to the Shenk and Ellenberger residences in North Annville. From Annville he followed the Gravel Hill road, stopped for a meeting at Christian Nafzinger's, and continuing in the same general course, came to the Snyder house just across the Swatara Creek in the vicinity of Bindnagle's Lutheran Church. Along these routes one might see this solitary figure jogging along on horseback with open Bible before him casting living bread to hungry souls. Itinerants of a later day followed the trail he blazed.

A half century passes before we come to a period of which we have figures to estimate something of the achievements of these itinerants. Lebanon Circuit and Lebanon Station, embracing all the organizations in the county in the year 1848-49, had a total of 517 members distributed among thirty-three classes. John A. Sand served the station, and Christian Peffley and David Hoffman the circuit, and their combined salary was $518.76. From these meager beginnings rose nineteen charges composed of thirty-one churches, having a total membership of 6,595 in this year of our Lord 1946.
The circuits in the order of their formation and the years during which they continued are as follows:

Lebanon (1), 1840-1863; Myerstown, 1849-1886; Annville, 1855-1878; Jonestown (1), 1862-1866; Bellegrove (1), 1863-1882; Schaefferstown (1) 1869-1871; Lebanon (2), 1871-1940; Jonestown (2), 1871-1903; Schaefferstown (1), 1873-1874; Avon, 1873-1898; Grantville,1 1862-1889; Bellegrove (2) 1889-1946; Schaefferstown (3) 1889-1893; Lebanon (English)2 1893-1899; Lickdale (1), 1903-1906; Iona, 1903-1918; Jonestown (3), 1906-1946; Lickdale (2), 1922-1946; Cambelltown, 1925-1946.

The alphabetic order of circuits, years continued and ministerial appointments are as follows:

Annville Circuit, 1855-1878 (See under Annville Church).
Avon Circuit, 1878-1898 (See under Avon Church).
Bellegrove Circuit, (1) 1863-82: Henry Schropp, 1863-64; Andrew Steigerwalt, 1864-66; Henry Schropp and H. H. Gelbach, 1866-67; David Moyer and G. D. A. Garman, 1867-68; David Moyer, Andrew Steigerwalt, and G. D. A. Garman, 1868-69; John Binkley and William Dissinger, 1869-70; John Binkley and S. V. Mohn, 1870-71; Simon Noll, 1871-73; Job Light, 1873-74; Joel Light, 1874-76; John Binkley, 1876-78; S. V. Mohn, Henry Schropp, 1878-79; B. K. Keck, 1879-82.
Campbelltown Circuit, 1925-1946. (See under Cambelltown Church).
Grantville Circuit, 1882-1889. (See under list of Dauphin County Circuits.)
Iona Circuit, 1903-1918; J. R. Blecher, 1903-05; F. J. Butterwick, 1905-07; Jacob P. Smith, 1907-08; Charles Bauer, 1908-09; Jacob P. Smith, 1909-10; C. Wallace Miller, 1910-13; C. Wallace Miller, M. A. Wagner, 1913-14; R. E. Morgan, 1914-16; C. W. Rothermal, 1916-17; W. E. Shoop, 1917-18.
Jonestown Circuit (1), 1862-66; Simon Noll, 1862-65; and Henry Schropp, 1865-66.
Jonestown Circuit (2), 1871-1903; Samuel Etter Jr., 1871-74; S. V. Mohn, J. H. Unger, 1874-75; John Binkley, 1875-76; Joel Light, 1876-79; J. H. Unger, 1879-80; Samuel Etter Jr., 1880-81; Simon Noll, 1881-82; B. K. Keck, 1882-84; Gottlieb Myer, 1884-86; F. J. Butterwick, 1886-91; R. S. Arndt, 1891-95; H. W. Zimmerman, 1895-98; F. J. Butterwick, 1898-1901; and W. H. Boyer, 1901-03.


Lickdale Circuit (1), 1903-06; R. S. Arndt, 1903-04; and H. H. Hoffer, 1904-06.


Myerstown Circuit, 1849-68. (See under Myerstown Church).

Schaefferstown Circuit (1), 1869-71; J. D. A. Garman, 1869-70, and J. D. A. Garman, George Stoll, 1870-71.

Schaefferstown Circuit (2), 1873-74; George Shindler, 1873-74.
Schaefferstown Circuit (3), 1889-93; H. M. Miller 1889-91; W. H. Artz, 1891-92; and A. M. Hackman, 1892-93.

2. The Churches of Lebanon County

Annville—“The College Church.”

According to the most authentic information available, the Annville class was organized in 1823 by the Rev. Jacob Erb. Two years later a stone church 46x55 feet in size was erected on the northeast corner of Queen Street and Mill Alley. It was then known as “Herr’s Meeting House.” This stone church was the second oldest church building erected by and for United Brethren east of the Susquehanna River. The original deed, dated December 8, 1826, states that the lot on which the church had already been erected, was sold by Abraham Herr and wife Elizabeth for the consideration of one dollar to Samuel Shenk and Rudolph Herr, trustees.

Abraham Herr, grantor named in the deed, was the son of Abraham Herr who with his wife Anna Reist came from those sections of Lancaster County where United Brethrenism had its earliest and deepest roots. Abraham Herr Sr. was the first of his family to settle in the vicinity of Annville. Abraham Herr and Anna Reist Herr had six children, viz.: Henry, Abraham, Samuel, Christian, Rudolph, and Anna. Of these sons, Abraham, who was married to Elizabeth Ensminger, was the grantor named in the deed. Another son Rudolph, was one of the grantees. The other grantee, Samuel Shenk, was married to Anna Herr the daughter of this family. Abraham Herr Sr. was in turn the son of Henry Herr and wife Esther Hershey. Through the maternal or Hershey side of the family, Abraham Herr Sr. was a first cousin to Christian Herr of Manor Township at whose home three early annual conference sessions were held. He was also a first cousin to the Reverends Abraham and Christian Hershey, and a first cousin also to Elizabeth Hershey the mother of Bishop Jacob Erb.

Joseph Shenk, probably Samuel’s father, lived on a farm which bordered on the north bank of the Quittaphilla Creek, about a mile west of Annville. He was a local preacher for the United Brethren. Bishop Newcomer made friendly visits to his home over the years 1809-1824. Brother Shenk is listed among those ministers present at the annual conference of the year 1833, which according to conference minutes met in the “Meeting House at Millerstown,” this being the earlier name for the town of Annville. In the report of the 1838 session, appearing in the May 30, 1838 issue of The Religious Telescope we find the statement: “Joseph Shenk of near Millerstown, Pennsylvania, died during the year.”

From the time of its founding the Annville Church remained attached to Lancaster Circuit until 1840, in which year it was attached to Lebanon Circuit. In 1842-43, Lebanon and Annville formed one charge and John Light was the minister. For the following twelve years Annville Church was affiliated with Lebanon Circuit. During the period 1848-1853, the following names appear on official rosters:
Abraham Herr, John Troxel, Samuel Achenbach, Christian Hover­
ter, Peter Reist, Martin Kauffman, Christian Lessley, John Sea­bolt, Peter Graybill, Israel Gruber, P. Miller, C. Miller, Rudolph Herr, and John Stroh.

On April 12, 1852, the church was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania by the Common Pleas Court of Lebanon County. The trustees who secured this charter were Israel Gruber, Martin Kauffman, and Rudolph Herr. In 1855 Annville charge was con­stituted, consisting of Annville and Brightbill's churches, and Ging­rich's and Campbelltown appointments. The trustees at Annville from 1855 to 1876 were Rudolph Herr, Israel Gruber, and Peter Graybill, except that in 1871 Daniel Gingrich was elected in the
place of Israel Gruber. During the same period official names appearing frequently on the records, in addition to those already named, are John Kinports, Samuel Ellenberger, Isaac and Christopher Miller, George Richards, Jacob Haldeman, Jonathan Herr, John Farnsler, H. H. Kreider, David Kreider, Isaac Brandt, and Isaac Baker.

In order to have a more advantageous location, action was taken by the quarterly conference held on April 24, 1858, authorizing the trustees to make efforts to build a new church. The site selected was on Annville's Main Street at Market Square. A new brick church 45x71 feet, consisting of a main auditorium and a basement, was erected in 1861. The stone of the first church were used in the foundation of the second church, and the bell of the old church was placed in the tower of the new one. The cost was $15,000. The three trustees, Rudolph Herr, Peter Graybill and Israel Gruber, with the addition of John H. Kinports and John K. Moyer, composed the Building Committee. The last time this church was remodeled, 1891, a one-story frame structure, 42x23 feet, was added to house the children of the Sunday School. Bishop David Edwards dedicated the new church, January 12, 1862. A Moller Pipe Organ was installed in 1904. A gift of $1,000 was received from Andrew Carnegie, and $500 was contributed by the Mite Society and the Choir toward its cost. This building is now the Roman Catholic Church.

The Annville congregation took a decided advanced step when in 1910 plans were laid to erect its third house of worship. On November 9th of that year quarterly conference approved purchase of the C. V. Henry property and a lot owned by Lebanon Valley College on the northwest corner of Main Street and College Avenue. On April 14th, 1911, plans and specifications for the new church were submitted and construction was begun. The cornerstone was laid August 20, 1911, and the temple of worship was dedicated November 17, 1912 by the Rev. W. R. Funk, publishing agent, during the second pastorate of the Rev. H. B. Spayd. Members of the building committee were the following: H. L. Kinports, Maurice E. Brightbill, Charles M. Coover, and the trustees, John S. Shope, Alvin Kettering, and H. Clay Deaner. The total cost of the building was $75,000.

This building 81 x 113 feet, constructed of King of Prussia marble, with a high massive tower, is outstanding in our conference as well as in our denomination as an example of the best there is in church architecture. On the south side is a large marble tablet bearing the inscription: "United Brethren Church, Erected to the Glory of God. 'Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool; for He is Holy.' Ps. 99:5." The interior is after the "Akron plan," and has a seating capacity for approximately 1500. Among its many beautiful art windows are two flanking the main sanctuary: the one on the west wall depicts the resurrection scene; the one on the east wall, the Gethsemane experience.
The bell which hung in the tower of the original stone church, later in the brick church, now hangs in the tower of the present church. In 1929 a set of sixteen Deagan Tower Chimes weighing more than six tons, and an Electric Tower Chimes Player were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Coover, in memory of their respective parents, Dr. and Mrs. William H. Coover and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Kreider. The pipe organ which had been moved from the second church and installed in the present church was replaced by a new Three Manual Midmer Losch Organ which cost $9,000, and the exchange value of the old Moller Organ. In 1889 a Schulmerich Sound System and Electronic Hearing Aids were installed in memory of Dr. Paul S. Wagner, Professor of Mathematics in Lebanon Valley College, by his widow.

Annville congregation was the first in our conference to provide a parsonage. The quarterly conference of Lebanon Circuit, August 24, 1849 took the following action: “That trustees, Reiht, Hoover, and Herr of the Meeting House at Millerstown shall be trustees of the house which shall be bought from A. Herr for the purpose of a dwelling house for their preacher.” This house is said to have stood on Queen Street, and to have cost $600. In 1894 the second parsonage was built on Market Square. It remained the home of the pastors of this congregation until 1920, when it was sold for $2,500.25. The present manse standing on the southeast corner of College Avenue and Maple Street was purchased November 14, 1920 at a cost of $8,250. In 1914 part of the north porch was enclosed to enlarge the pastor’s study. Improvements were also made in the kitchen and dining room. The total cost was about $4,000.

A Missionary Society was organized July 1, 1842, and in 1874 the local Women’s Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. DeLong. About the same time a Gleaner’s Band was organized by Mrs. C. M. Coover. The Mite Society (Ladies’ Aid) was organized by Mrs. H. H. Kreider, Mrs. Joseph Kreider, Katie Heisey and the pastor’s wife, Mrs. Speck. The first Sunday School was organized in 1846. The pastor, L. W. Craumer reported to annual conference of the year 1866 that his school “had collected $47.00 for Sunday School purposes on our Mission in East Tennessee.” In a report to the quarterly conference December 4, 1869 of Sunday School work, J. H. Kinports is mentioned as superintendent of the main school and H. H. Kreider of the Infant school.

Since 1916 this congregation has supported a medical missionary in China. Miss Regina M. Bigler, M. D., was its representative until 1937, when she passed to her crowning in the land where she had given many years of self-sacrificing service. After her death, Frank Oldt, M. D., was chosen as the parish’s representative to carry on work of medical missions. During World War II he was the only missionary in China from our denomination.

Under the direction of Miss Anna E. Kreider whose leadership began in 1924, the volunteer choir has been giving faithful and distinctive service. Concerts rendered each year, at a Candlelight Service on the Sunday preceding Christmas and at Palm Sunday
vespers, are outstanding musical events in the Lebanon Valley. Almost without exception every available space is occupied on these occasions and the mood of the worshipper is greatly stimulated in adoration and praise by the setting created by the trained art of the professional decorator.

The congregation and pastors of "The College Church" have always taken a vital interest in the welfare of Lebanon Valley College. The facilities of the new church lend themselves to the holding of special college functions for which the college itself has no other provision. Commencement Exercises are always held in the church sanctuary. Numerous other public exercises are held in it. Meetings of a social nature find the church dining room and kitchen well-fitted for use which the several occasions demand. The members of the church have been generous in the financial support of this institution of learning; to the extent that individual and collective contributions from this church total more than those of any other congregation.

One of the most distinguished sons of the Gospel Ministry in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ is the Reverend William A. Wilt, D. D., pastor of the Annville Church since January 1, 1935. He exceeds all other pastors of the congregation in the length of pastoral service given to this College Church, and in length of pastoral service to any college church in our denomination. He was born in Chapman Township, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, September 1, 1888. While engaged in teaching public school he heard the call to the Gospel Ministry and was licensed to preach at a quarterly conference held on the home charge, March 2, 1912, by the Rev. J. S. Fulton. On September 13, 1913 the Rev. Wilt was granted annual conference license. At the conference of 1915, held at Mt. Pleasant Church, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, he was ordained to full orders by Bishop William Weekley. He continued educational preparation by taking courses in Susquehanna University, and a full course in Bonebrake Theological Seminary. He served in Virginia Conference: Harrisonburg Church, 1915-16; Keyser Church, 1916-28; and First Church, Martinsburg, 1928-35. This conference received his transfer of membership at its session in 1936. He is held in high esteem by the members of his parish; and by the president, faculty, and students of the college.


For two brief periods the college chapel was constituted a pastoral charge, and annual conference appointed the following ministers to serve it: J. W. Schriber, J. G. Alkman, 1873-74; J. W. Schriber,
1874-75, W. S. Walker, 1875-76; W. S. Walker, D. E. DeLong, Daniel Eberly, 1876-77; Isaiah L. Kephart, 1877-78. In 1887, I. W. Sneath was appointed, but soon resigned and the chapel appointment was dropped.

Ministers who served the Annville Church from 1855 onward are: Andrew Steigerwalt, 1855-57; Henry E. Hackman, 1857-59; James G. Fritz, 1859-60; John Lowery, 1860-62; John Russel, 1862-64; Ludwig W. Craumer, 1864-67; George W. Hoffman, Ezekiel Light, 1867-68; Jeremiah P. Smith, 1868-69; Jacob H. Mark, 1869-70; Martin J. Mumma, 1870-71; Ezekiel Light, 1871-72; Isaiah Potter, George A. Mark Jr., 1872-73; Joseph Young Jr., 1873-75; Joseph R. Meredith, 1875-78; John K. Fisher, 1878-83; D. Speck, 1883-85; Joseph R. Meredith, 1885-89; D. D. Lowery, 1889-1890; H. B. Spayd, 1890-94; Martin J. Mumma, 1894-97; D. S. Eshleman, 1897-1900; J. T. Shaffer, 1900-05; W. J. Zuck, 1905-08; H. B. Spayd, 1908-13; Alvin E. Shroyer, 1913-14; S. F. Daugherty, 1914-19; I. E. Runk, 1919-24; J. A. Lyter, 1924-28; J. A. Lyter, R. R. Butterwick, G. A. Richie, 1925-28; J. Owen Jones, 1926-34; and W. A. Wilt, 1935-46.

Avon Zion Church.

This church was the outgrowth of a class of Lebanon Salem's members who lived in the vicinity of Avon. Services were usually held in the home of Joseph Light, a local minister of the class. At a quarterly conference held at Salem Church, July 16, 1870, trustees were appointed to procure a location for a house of worship—they were Michael Kreider, Joseph Light, and James Benson, local residents, and the Reverends J. B. Daughtery and H. H. Geibach. One year later Salem Church promised to give financial support as soon as the class began building operations. The class was made an appointment on the Lebanon Circuit of the East German Conference in 1871 and the Reverend S. V. Mohn was appointed to serve the charge.

Philip Schaeffer, Michael Kreider (C. S.), Joseph Light, James Benson, Jacob Loser, and Peter Rauch composed the second trustee board. This board bought a lot 50 x 100 feet fronting on the north side of the highway, costing $500, on which a frame church was erected in the year 1872. A parsonage was erected in the years 1885-86. The second house so used was purchased in 1892. It stands next to the church on its west.

A new frame church building, costing about $5,000 was erected in 1893 during the pastorate of the Reverend Jacob H. Mark. Ten years later improvements were made to the structure costing approximately $1,000 and a new pipe organ, a gift from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, was installed.

During the Reverend H. E. Schaeffer's pastorate the Church and Sunday School had such increase that more and better facilities became imperative. A new brick Sunday School building, 60 x 60 feet in size, was erected as an annex to the original building, providing for a total seating capacity of 550. Erection of the new building and renovation of the sanctuary cost $32,485. The cornerstone
of the annex was laid by Dr. H. E. Miller, May 23, 1920, and it was
dedicated April 10, 1921 by Bishop William M. Bell, Dr. S. C. Enck,
conference superintendent, preaching the morning sermon on the
day of dedication, and Bishop Bell in the evening. During the
week following, the guest preachers were, B. F. Daugherty, I. E.
Runk, H. E. Miller, P. B. Gibble, I. M. Hershey, E. O. Burtner, and
M. B. Spayd. The building committee consisted of pastor Schaeffer,
S. J. B. Spangler, a local contractor and builder, J. R. Snyder, J.
L. Lentz, William Saltzer, Noah Light, David Umberger, Henry G.
Neidig, Jacob O. Lentz, and Samuel Waltz. At the time the church
membership numbered 310 and the Sunday School enrollment 507.
Improvements were made on these buildings in 1937, consisting of
exterior painting, refrescoing, laying new carpet, etc., costing
$2,700. Reopening services were held August 22, with Bishop G. D.
Batdorf and Dr. Enck delivering messages.

The Sunday School was organized April 28, 1876, when the
following were elected to office; president, the Reverend H. H. Gelbach;
vice president, the Reverend J. W. Boughter; secretary, Nimord Light;
superintendent, Cyrus Smith; assistant superintendent Seth Light;
librarians, John Dissinger and John Shaak; and lookout committee,
Joseph Light, Peter Rauch, C. Fernsler, Mrs. John Dissinger,
Emma Strohm, and Mrs. Daub. The names of fifty-nine persons
were proposed as members of the new “Sunday School Association,”
as it was then called. Among these were Henry B. and Maurice
B. Spayd, who were later licensed and ordained by this annual con­ference.

The Reverend Henry B. Spayd, D. D., was ordained in 1884. Among
the pastorates held in East Pennsylvania was the college church at
Annville which he served from 1890 to 1894, and from 1908 to 1913.
In 1914 he transferred to the California Conference. The Reverend
Maurice B. Spayd, D.D., was ordained in 1888 and served Jackson­ville
Circuit, Grantville Circuit, Highspire and Halifax churches
in East Pennsylvania. From 1893-97 he served charges in Miami
Conference. In 1896 he transferred to Illinois Conference and had
pastorates at Decatur, Chicago, and Springfield, Illinois, and had
three years—1907-10—in the presiding eldership. From 1917 to
1920 he was minister of the church at Wichita, Kansas. He returned
to East Pennsylvania and served Reading Zion, Iona, and Hopeland.

The complete list of superintendents of the Avon Sunday School
is as follows: Cyrus Smith, 1867-77; John Bechtold, 1877-78; Cyrus
Smith, 1878-83; Stephen A. Light, 1883-97; Seth Light Jr., 1897-
1901; Grant Light, 1901-07; Aaron Behney, 1907-11; Grant Light,
1911-14; Boaz G. Light, 1914-18; Samuel Waltz, 1918-20; and Boaz
G. Light, 1920-46. The last named has been a member of the Con­ference Board of Christian Education since 1937. In 1941 he was
elected alternate lay delegate to General Conference and was seated
to serve in place of an absentee delegate in the special session of
1946, and in the “Uniting Conference” immediately following.

Ministers serving the Avon congregation from 1871 to 1878 were
those appointed to Lebanon Circuit. From 1878 onward the follow­
ing ministerial brethren were appointed to Avon charge: George Shindler, 1878-79; W. H. Uhler, 1879-80; Simon Noll, 1880-81; J. H. Lowery, 1881-83; H. H. Gelbach, Ephraim Light, 1883-84; Clint S. Miller, 1884-85; Joel Light, 1885-88; James Shoop, 1888-89; Samuel Etter Jr., 1889-92; H. H. Mark, 1892-93; Gottlieb Myer, 1893-95; P. L. Hains, 1895-98; Jacob Runk, 1898-99; J. P. Smith, 1899-1901; L. R. Kramer, 1901-04; D. S. Longenecker, 1904-08; Clint S. Miller, 1908-09; D. S. Longenecker, 1909-15; H. E. Schaeffer, 1915-21; Charles A. Snavely, 1921-23; N. I. Fake, 1923-28; R. S. Heverlig, 1928-29; H. S. Kiefer, 1929-38; L. R. Walters, 1938-43; and J. E. Keene, 1943-46.

Bellegrove Church

North Annville Township in which Bellegrove, Kauffman's, and Water Works Churches are located, has been a United Brethren stronghold from the beginning of our denomination. Jacob Ellenberger, (1763-1830), a local preacher, who lived on a farm bordering the village of Bellegrove on its west, was a leader in the movement to establish the church in this area. His house was used as a preaching appointment by Christian Newcomer as early as 1808. Even as early as 1799 Newcomer had come to this part of the country, and had an evening meeting at Daniel Razor's who lived near New Market Forge. From that year until 1824, this famous missionary visited or preached at Stouffer's, Rupp's, Mark's and George Huber's, and at Heilman's Schoolhouse. John Sherck, one of the sons of the Reverend Casper Sherck, came from the Bethel region in 1785 and settled on a farm located between Kauffman's and Bellegrove churches. These men with their families, and a score of others like them, influenced by United Brethren preaching, formed the background for these three churches.
The spiritual work among them led to the erection, in 1837, of a small brick church about a mile north of Bellegrove, known as "The Union Church." A few years after the church was built, the ownership of the property became a disputed question and the United Brethren lost whatever legal title they may have held. However, they continued to hold services in this church. Inasmuch as the Bellgrove class was not organized until six years afterward, title may have been vested in individuals rather than in a board of trustees of any particular denomination.

From one of a few church records of its kind of early date coming to our attention, we quote: "This class was formed in the year of our Lord one thousand eight-hundred and forty-three, May 3rd, by Samuel Enterline and Henry Esensy, circuit preachers, on charge." The following twenty names compose the membership roll, 1843-46: Henry W. Landis, Henry and Susan Alleman, Benjamin and Sarah Alleman, Henry and Lydia Frank, George and Rebecca Runkle, George and Sarah Mark, John and Susan Bomgardner, Henry and Sarah Farnsler, John and Lydia Yingst, John and Leah Kline, Nancy and Mary Mark. Class leaders in the order of their election 1843-54 were: Samuel Ellenberger, George Runkle Sr., Henry Alleman, Henry W. Landis, Jacob Mark, and William Biely. Benjamin Alleman, Henry H. Gelbach, Henry Frank, Henry Walter, John Yingst, Jacob H. Mark, Henry Farnsler, Moses Heilman, Jacob E. Lantz, Michael Noll, Cyrus Mutch, and George W. Runkle, served either as leaders or stewards, and in some cases served as both at different periods, from 1854-1871.

The Bellegrove class erected a brick church in the northern limits of the village in 1854 on a plot of sixteen perches of ground sold by Henry and Lydia Frank to William Biely, Joseph Frank, and Benjamin Alleman, trustees, for the price of $52. George Runkle Sr., David A. Mark, John Yingst, Michael Noll, and Stephen W. Boltz were among the trustees who succeeded the first elected.

A Sunday School organized some years before 1868 had in that year as officers: Michael Noll, president; Levi Steahly, superintendent; Philip Schaffner, assistant superintendent; A. H. B. Seltzer, secretary; John Schroff, librarian; and H. M. Frank, treasurer. The sessions were at first held in the church basement, closing during the winter months, as the custom was by many schools in those days.

The house of worship has been kept in an excellent state of repair. During 1919-20 a new vestibule was constructed, a new furnace and new pews were installed, a new floor placed, and the walls redecorated, at a cost of $2,082. Dr. S. C. Enck preached on the occasion of reopening services, June 6, 1920. Nine years later a metal ceiling was constructed, an indirect lighting system installed, and the walls were papered. Dr. S. C. Enck, and the Reverends M. H. Miller and I. B. Koons were the guest preachers on June 23, 1929, the day of reopening. In this connection the 75th anniversary of the building of the edifice was observed, the Rev. C. A. Mutch, pastor, was in charge.
For many years the pastors of the Bellegrove Circuit lived in rented homes in Bellegrove or Annville. In 1937 the joint official boards of the churches on the circuit, viz: Bellegrove, Water Works, Kauffman's and Mountville, purchased the dwelling at 117 North Railroad, Annville, Pa., for use as a parsonage. After making extensive improvements, bringing its total cost to $3,128.11 Dr. S. C. Enck dedicated it September 19, 1937, and the Rev. C. R. Swartz and family were the first to occupy it as a manse. This pastor served the circuit eleven years, thereby exceeding all others in length of pastoral service given to this charge. Some time after dedication, Calvin Crum of Bellegrove Church, John H. Light of Kauffman's, and Thomas W. Runkle of Mountville, were elected parsonage trustees.

Present trustees at Bellegrove are: Harvey Umberger, Charles Moyer, Charles Tice, Lloyd Hostetter, and Marlin Blauch. Lloyd Hostetter is class leader. The general superintendent of the Sunday School is Marlin Blauch, Ray Shanaman is its treasurer, and Warren Barnhart is the secretary. Mrs. Mae Schell heads the Women's Missionary Association, Mrs. Marlin Blauch is secretary of the organization and Mrs. Dorothy Hostetter is the treasurer.

The large number of men entering the ministry from this area has been a frequent subject of conversation in conference circles for many years. All named in the following list came from North Annville Township, and with but several exceptions, were licensed by vote of the Bellegrove class: George A. Mark Sr., John Moyer, George A. Mark Jr., Henry W. Landis, Daniel Lightner, Henry H. Gelbach, Jacob H. Mark, Charles A. Mutch, Allen G. Nye, David E. Long, Milton H. Miller, G. Jay Umberger, and Mark J. Hostetter. Miss Cora M. Horst is a teacher in the Home Mission School at Alcalde, New Mexico.

The Bellegrove Church has been attached to the following Circuits: Lebanon Circuit, 1843-63; Bellegrove Circuit, 1863-82; Grantville Circuit, 1882-89; and Bellegrove Circuit, 1889-1946.

**Brightbill's Church, South Annville Township**

A substantial structure of native limestone standing on an elevation of ground along State Highway No. 322, about two miles east of Campbells town, remains as a landmark to the faith of those church fathers who lived in the heart of the Lebanon Valley. The Church known as “Brechtbill's Meeting House” was erected in the year 1842 and is the oldest house of worship, still standing, erected in Lebanon County by the United Brethren in Christ. It bears the name of the family on whose land it was erected. Abraham Brightbill and wife Mary, nee Landis, sold thirty-three perches of ground to Samuel Etter, II, Henry Carmony, and Samuel Bowman, trustees of the congregation, for the sum of $10.31.

Abraham Brightbill was the son of Samuel Brightbill and wife, Frances Troxel, who was the daughter of the Rev. Abraham Troxel. Mary Landis the wife of Abraham Brightbill was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Landis Sr., a preacher for the Mennonites, and a
sister of the Rev. Henry Landis Jr., a local preacher for the United Brethren. This couple were the ancestors of many well-known United Brethren in the Lebanon Valley. Among the oldest living descendants is a grand-daughter, Mrs. Sarah Hartz, aged eighty-two years, a member of Palmyra First Church. Her mother, Caroline Brightbill Balsbaugh, lived to the age of ninety-two and was a member of the Hummelstown Church.

The first separate session of East Pennsylvania Annual Conference was held in this church, March 4-6, 1847. Bishop William Hanby, whose son "Ben" wrote both words and music of the song, "My Darling Nellie Gray," and other songs, presided at this session. The Rev. Christian S. Crider, minister of Lebanon Salem Church, was elected co-chairman, Henry Staub was German secretary and Joseph Young, Sr. was English secretary. Twenty-six ministers were present, five of whom were ordained at this session.

The following brethren served Brightbill’s Church, 1848-1876, in official capacity, as revealed by quarterly conference minutes: Samuel Bowman, Abraham Brightbill, Samuel Etter Sr., Samuel Etter Jr., John Etter, James Blauch, Peter Sheetz, George Gingrich, Michael B. Siegrist, Josiah Hartz, Joseph R. Shenk, George Long, John Stauffer, and Amos Tittle. Samuel Etter 1st (1758-1840) lived on a farm located about midway between the church and Palmyra, a farm later in possession of another staunch United Brethren, Samuel F. Engle. Samuel Etter II, and his son, Samuel Etter III, were both members of annual conference. Samuel II was licensed in 1833 and ordained in 1835, and always held a local relation. Samuel Etter III (1823-1907) preached locally for many years as a quarterly conference licentiate, but in 1870, at the age of forty-three, was granted annual license, and was ordained three years later. He served the following charges: Pinegrove, Jonestown Circuit, (two terms), Lehigh Circuit, Reading Zion, Reading Salem, Avon, Lebanon Memorial, and Tamaqua.

By 1874 the United Brethren work at Brightbill’s had weakened considerably, so much so, that an order was passed by quarterly conference that the church be closed or sold. However, by 1878 the congregation had revived somewhat and was attached to Lebanon Circuit and served by German-speaking ministers. Trustees in office in the year 1899 were instructed to sell the property. This was not done until the year 1912, when a private party bought it and in turn sold it to the United Christian denomination.

This church was under the ministerial care of those brethren appointed to the following charges; Lebanon Circuit, 1842-1855; Annville, 1855-78; Lebanon Circuit, 1878-88; Ruhl’s (Lancaster County), 1887-88; Annville, 1888-90; Fishburn’s, 1890-91; Schaefferstown, 1891-93; and Lebanon Circuit, 1893-99.

**Campbelltown Church**

The history of our work at Campbelltown falls under two periods. As early as 1852 there was a class by this name, for in that year the quarterly conference of Lebanon Circuit ordered that Bright-
bill's and Campbelltown classes be united. The action was not carried out and the class continues to be mentioned. In 1858, Edward Dissinger, Henry Bomberger, and George Etter were appointed trustees for the Campbelltown class, which would indicate that the building of a church was in prospect. In addition to the trustees, Daniel Gingrich and Henry Baum were local officials. Due, probably, both to withdrawals and to the close proximity of Brightbill's Church, the first period of our work in Campbelltown ended in 1868 or soon thereafter.

The second and permanent period had its inception in the year 1919. The recital which follows shows a rather phenomenal growth and achievement. A preliminary survey of the possibilities for a new organization was made by the Reverends H. E. Miller and C. R. Longenecker; and Mr. George Simmers, a locally interested layman. Dr. S. C. Enck and these three brethren secured permission from the South Londonderry Township School Board to hold meetings in the public school building at Campbelltown, and the first service was held on the afternoon of the last Sunday of January, 1920. The Rev. C. R. Longenecker, pastor of Palmyra Second Church, continued to hold services regularly and on the last Sunday of August held a service of Holy Communion and enrolled a class of fourteen members, as follows: Mr. and Mrs. George B. Simmers; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bolan, Mary and Noah Bolan, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Eckert, Phares Eckert, Mrs. Mae Hainly, Mrs. Samuel Sheetz, Elizabeth Sheetz, Mrs. Levi Flory Sr., and Ursala Landis.

In the fall of 1920 the Rev. S. L. Rhoads was appointed to Palmyra Second and he also served the Campbelltown class. For lack of sufficient room at the school building, services were transferred in January 1921 to an old dwelling located on the main street. This old dwelling, once used as a tavern, had been reconstructed and properly furnished for the purpose of public worship, through the cooperation and investment of money on the part of brother David S. Funk of Palmyra, at a cost of $703.44, which amount was forwarded by Mr. Funk. Pastor Rhoads held a revival meeting and received forty-four new members. By the end of the conference year 1920-21 there was a church membership of 56, and a Sunday School enrollment of 170 with an average attendance of 112. Cash amounting to $1,600 had been received during the year and the money forwarded for remodeling and furnishing could be returned.

Officers elected for the new organization March 15, 1921 were as follows: church trustees, David S. Funk, George Miller, A. C. Spangler, Phares Kauffman, and Charles Binkley; church secretary, Amos F. Geeseman; general steward, George Miller; ushers, Harvey Gelb, and John Funk. Officers previously elected by the class were: Allen Bolan, leader, David S. Funk, assistant leader, George B. Simmers and Grant Foreman, stewards.

On September 8, 1921 the official board purchased from Mr. H. A. Alger the lot of ninety-four feet frontage and the building on it which had been used as a church, for the sum of $1,200. Continued growth of the congregation and increased financial strength war-
ranted taking steps to erect a church building. Plans for such a project presented to the quarterly conference held April 13, 1924, were adopted and in June excavation was begun. The cornerstone was laid by Dr. S. C. Enck, August 24. The temple of worship constructed of brick at a cost of $21,222.18, not including free labor nor the cost of the lot, was dedicated to the worship of the Triune God, April 19, 1924 by Bishop William M. Bell.

A large parking lot next to the church on the east was purchased in January 1925, costing $500. Additional ground adjoining the church lot on the west was secured and a brick parsonage costing $7,580 was erected. It was dedicated by Dr. Enck, November 17, 1940. All indebtedness having been cancelled, special services were
HISTORY OF EAST PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

held Sunday, April 22, 1945, in charge of the pastor, the Rev. Warren F. Mentzer, the Rev. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, conducting a mortgage note-burning ceremony at the afternoon service.

The Rev. Mentzer, closing the eighth year of his pastorate in the fall of 1946, reported for the Campbellsboro Church a membership of 271, a Sunday School enrollment of 374, and church property valued at $50,000. During the eight years he also had the pastoral care of Fontana and Rocherty churches, this being his first and only charge.

The Sunday School was organized February 27, 1921, when the following officers were elected: superintendent, A. C. Spangler; assistant superintendent, Charles Binkley; secretary, Amos F. Geeseman; treasurer, Phares Kauffman; and pianist, Sarah Kauffman. Mr. Spangler has served as superintendent from the time of its organization to the present. The Women's Missionary Association was organized, February 12, 1922. This is the only association in the conference known to have been organized with more men than women. Mrs. A. C. Spangler, its first president, was Secretary of Literature for the Conference Branch for a number of years. The Otterbein Guild, organized September 2, 1928, selected as its first president, Miss Sarah Kauffman, who was Secretary of Literature of the conference organization for one year. There are three Christian Endeavor Societies. Officers of the Otterbein Brotherhood are: president, E. Mark Hitz; secretary, Wayne M. Byers; and treasurer, Chester N. Smith. David S. Funk, Amos F. Geeseman, Clayton G. Lehman, and Phares H. Kauffman, compose the present trustee board.

The list of ministers serving the congregation follows: S. L. Rhoads, 1920-23; R. S. Arnlt, 1923-25; S. H. Waltz, 1925-30; S. H. Waltz, James Bingham, 1930-31; James Bingham, 1931-32; E. E. Bender, 1932-34; Ezra H. Ranck, 1934-38; and Warren F. Mentzer, 1938-46.

Cleona Immanuel Church

One of the younger and very promising churches of the conference is located in the Borough of Cleona, on the northwest corner of East Maple and North Lincoln Streets. Annual conference leaders acted wisely by passing a resolution requesting the Annville and Lebanon Trinity churches jointly to establish a church in Cleona. A class of 26 members was organized in the month of January 1904 under conference direction; and the Rev. F. J. Butterwick was placed in charge of the work. Among the lay people who were instrumental in effecting an organization were: Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Heffelfinger, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Clouser, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Miller, Harry and Jennie Douple and Annie Groh. The class met in the Cleona public school and in private homes until a frame church building was completed late in the fall of that year.

The Cleona community has had a steady, healthy growth in population and industrial activities. The congregation has likewise
grown in numbers and influence. In 1918 a private dwelling located on Maple Street about two blocks west of the church was purchased at a cost of $2,400 for use as a parsonage. With a membership of 132 and a Sunday School enrollment of 284, under the leadership of the Rev. S. Paul Weaver, then a student at Lebanon Valley College and a member of Erie Conference, now superintendent of said conference, a handsome brick church was erected. The sanctuary room with galleries on the north and south sides provides seating for an audience of 400. The basement is suitably laid out in rooms for elementary Sunday School classes. Dr. I. E. Runk made the address on the occasion of the cornerstone laying, September 17, 1922. By July of the following year the edifice was ready for dedication. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, officiated at the dedicatory services on the evening of Sunday July 29, 1923. Harvey H. Snyder, Adam G. Lerch, Frank G. Moyer, Isaac Boyer, Simon Tice, Harry L. Miller, and Ezra F. Kreider constituted the board of trustees which bore the responsibility of bringing this enterprise, which cost $30,000, to a successful completion.

Cleona Church

A parsonage and garage constructed of brick were erected on the western end of the large lot originally purchased for a church plot. The manse was dedicated December 26, 1926 by Dr. S. C. Enck. The value of this new property was placed at $8,250. An Orgatron was purchased and improvements were made to the church in 1940, at a cost of $2,609.12. The last dollar of indebtedness on a total ex-
penditure of $40,859.12, for buildings and new equipment, plus interest charges, was paid during the conference year 1945-46.

Trustees of the Cleona Church, in addition to those already mentioned, were: John Melly, Clayton L. Brandt, and Henry Heisy. The last named was also class leader and Sunday School superintendent for a number of years. Harvey H. Snyder and Joseph C. Early succeeded Mr. Heisy as general superintendents. The present trustee board consists of John C. Long, Paul H. Kreider Sr., Isaac Boyer, George J. Bowman, and Alvin Sprecher. Homer D. Miller has also served in the capacity of class leader, and is the present leader.

Susan J. Balsbaugh is president of the Woman's Missionary Association; Isaac Kreider, president of the Brotherhood; Jacob H. Long, president of Adult Christian Endeavor; Robert F. Early, president of Young People's Christian Endeavor, and Dorothy N. Snyder heads the Children's Work.

Ministers who served the Cleona Church since the term of F. J. Butterwick have been those who were appointed to the following charges or circuits: Lebanon Circuit, 1904-05; Bellegrove Circuit, 1905-06; Pleasant Hill charge, 1906-19. Those who were appointed to the Cleona-Pleasant Hill charge are: Thomas Garland, 1919-21; S. Paul Weaver, 1921-23; Raymond Fortna, 1923-25; C. R. Longenecker, 1925-30; Ira Funk, 1930-33; James E. Keene, 1933-42; and C. W. Hendrickson, 1942-46.

**Ebenezer Church.** North Lebanon Township.

Ebenezer and Kochenderfer's churches, located about two miles apart on a direct east-northeast line, had a common background and a parallel development. The Abraham Troxel farm was located on this line about one-third of the distance from Ebenezer to Kochenderfer's. Reference to Troxel's ministry, as recited in Chapter III of this volume, will give the reader some knowledge of the beginning of the spiritual movement which won adherents to the United Brethren in North Lebanon. These converts became the spiritual wards of the founders of the Lebanon congregation. In due course of time the Blouch, Meyer, Light, Steckbeck, Zeller, Kreider, Kochenderfer and other families, formed the nuclei of classes organized by the brethren preaching at Light's Meeting-house and Lebanon Salem.

An inspection of the quarterly conference minutes of Lebanon Salem reveals what the connections were and how the mother church cared for her spiritual children. The work of the Lebanon congregation was heavy enough for the preacher in charge, and the care of the rural classes was largely in the hands of local preachers answerable to Salem quarterly.

One of these rural classes was known as the "Blauch's Class," (variously spelled Blauch, Blough, etc.). This class met in the homes of the community which in time was called "Ebenezer." It was in existence as early as 1854. At the first quarterly session of the conference year 1871-72, held in Lebanon Salem, a trustee
board was appointed to secure ground for the purpose of erecting a house of worship for the Kochenderfer's Class. The following quarterly appointed Daniel W. Zeller, John Henry Steckbeck, and Henry Blouch to perform a similar service for the Blouch's class, and directed the members of both boards to make an effort to cooperate in building one house of worship for both classes. At the third quarterly, July 22, 1871, brother Kochenderfer reported that the two boards had a meeting "but could not succeed in their object and that in his opinion the board he represents should be abolished." The report was accepted and a new board of trustees, consisting of Joseph T. Light, Jacob L. Light, Josiah Meyer, Daniel W. Zeller, and Henry Blouch, was constituted for the Ebenezer Class.

Under the trusteeship of these men a brick church costing about $5,000, was erected in 1872 in the village of Ebenezer. Minor improvements were made on this building from time to time. In 1932 additional Sunday School rooms were provided and furnished with new chairs and tables for Primary and Junior children, a new piano was purchased, and a new heating plant was installed, all at a cost of $2,200. In 1939 major improvements were made: new pews, carpet, and light fixtures were placed, the walls were redecorated, and a Moller pipe organ was installed, totalling a cost of $8,137.80. The sanctuary was reopened and the organ dedicated Easter Sunday, April 9.

The Lebanon Circuit, comprised of Ebenezer and Kochenderfer's churches, erected a parsonage which was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, Sunday, July 28, 1929. It is a commodious two-story brick building located on the Lebanon-Ebenezer Road. It cost $6,538.21. When, soon afterward, the two churches, by conference action, were constituted as separate charges, it became the property of the Ebenezer Church.

The church observed its seventieth anniversary on November 16, 1943. Two former pastors, the Reverends G. Edgar Hertzler and T. J. Barnhart, were the guest speakers. At that time there
were 154 members enrolled, and the Sunday School had a membership of 214.

Ebenezer Church has been affiliated with the following circuits or charges: Lebanon Circuit, 1872-95; Lebanon Circuit, 1901-05; Lebanon West and Pleasant Hill 1905-06; Lebanon West, 1906-09; Lebanon Circuit, 1909-40. The pastors for Ebenezer Station, 1895-1901, were: Amos Graul, 1895-96; Jacob Runk, 1896-98; P. L. Hains, 1898-99; D. D. Buddinger, 1899-1900; and H. F. Rhoad, 1900-01. Since becoming a station in 1940, John H. Gable served until 1944, and Truman Kostenbader, 1944-46.

Fontana Church, South Annville Township

The Fontana congregation uses as its house of worship a frame chapel erected by “The Fontana Union Sunday School” in 1905. The United Brethren function as a distinct church organization but cooperate in a Union Sunday School. Our ministers had appointments at various points along the old “Horse Shoe Pike” at intermittent periods from 1848 onward, among them being Shaffer’s, Meadowville, Long Meadow, Gingrich’s, and Bachmanville, the last being an earlier name for the Fontana community because of the many Bachmans living there. The movement which led to a permanent class organization at Fontana had its beginning in 1899. Jacob Westenberger a local minister holding membership at Rocherty, preached in the old schoolhouse at Fontana every four weeks from August 1899 to February 1902.

In the fall of 1905 Fontana appointment was officially recognized by annual conference and placed to Iona Circuit of which the Rev. F. J. Butterwick was the appointed minister. The chapel was dedicated November 30, 1905, and from that date forward the United Brethren have held services in it. The 1906 session of annual conference placed Fontana under the newly created Pleasant Hill Circuit and appointed the Rev. P. L. Hains, who conducted two weeks of revival services at Fontana, and on December 23, 1906 organized a class of fourteen members consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Shenk, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Herr, Joseph, Reuben, and Miss Annie Shenk, John L. Balsbaugh, and Miss Susan J. Balsbaugh, received by letter of transfer; and Samuel S., Elmer R., and Miss Katie Shenk, and Mr. and Mrs. John Hershey on profession of faith.

The cooperative effort in promoting a Union Sunday School and in conducting of business affairs by a trustee board composed of several denominational representatives has always functioned smoothly. It may well serve as a splendid example of church comity. The Sunday School was in existence many years before the chapel was built, and Samuel R. Shenk was its superintendent from 1893 onward until his demise in 1926. He was the very embodiment of genuine Christian piety and charity. Irwin Meyer served the School in more recent years as superintendent; John Hershey and George Bordlemay as assistants, representing the
United Brethren. Our representatives on the trustee board for the chapel have been Samuel R. Shenk, Samuel S. Shenk, John Hershey, Amos Lentz, and Henry C. Smith.

The women and girls have made an enviable record in their devotion to denominational missionary work. The three main officers of the Women's Society are Mrs. William Umberger, Mrs. Joseph Kreider, and Mrs. Harvey Sellers; and of the Guild Girls, Elsie Hostetter, Fern Funk, and Estella Forry. Miss Katie Shenk was for many years president of the Women's Society; and Miss Susan J. Balsbaugh, while a member at Fontana and later at Cleona, is well known through her missionary connections with conference and denominational missionary organizations.

Ministers serving Fontana Church were those appointed to the following charges: Iona, 1905-06; Pleasant Hill Circuit, 1906-24; Campbelltown, 1924-27; Rocherty, 1927-34; and Campbelltown, 1934-46.

**Fredericksburg Church**

United Brethren influences were at work in the valley of the little Swatara early in the formative period of our denomination. Bishop Christian Newcomer's ministry, and that of Troxel, Kreider, Ellenberger, and Felix Light, natives of Lebanon County, were acceptable to a goodly number of families residing in the area of original Bethel Township, which at the time of its erection in 1739 included approximately all of the territory drained by the Little Swatara Creek. Newcomer reports having visited Christian Sherk as early as 1799, and in 1803 he spent a night at the home of the Rev. Casper Sherk, minister of the Mennonite Society and father-in-law of Felix Light. Three churches grew out of the movement, viz.: Fredericksburg, Jonestown, and Mountville. Three other organized classes which functioned for a time were: a class which held services in the Union Salem Church, the Shirksville or Swatara Class, and the Monroe Valley Class.

Shirksville, probably the oldest of these classes, was named after a community of a half dozen or more dwellings scattered about a crossroad one mile south of Fredericksburg. The community in turn derived its name from the Sherk family of which Casper Sherk, Sr., and his wife Magdalena Folk, were the ancestors. They lived on a large farm located immediately east of the said crossroad. Their son, Casper Sherk, 2nd, the Mennonite preacher, was granted this farm by the parents. On March 1, 1775, he sold one acre of ground to Christian Newcomer, Peter Grove, Peter Wolf, and Christian Lentz, trustees for the Mennonite Society, for the erection of a meeting house and for a burial ground. The Christian Newcomer here mentioned was a first cousin of Bishop Christian Newcomer. The bishop's uncle, Peter Newcomer, father of the Mennonite trustee, had settled in Bethel Township. The Bishop paid him a visit on the day preceding his visit to the Reverend Mr. Sherk.
According to verbal information, Rudolph Sherk, a member of the Shirksville class, asked permission to hold services in the church. The privilege not being granted, he then fitted up his log dwelling for public worship by tearing out partitions and by making such other changes as seemed necessary. The Grove Mill some distance west of the crossroad, and the home of John Light, who was known as “Tanner John,” were also used as meeting places for the class. Dr. Ezra Grumbine, in 1917, wrote a vivid account of an “Old-time” religious service held in the home of John Light in the year 1854. It is a correct portrayal, in all its details, of a typical worship service of nearly a century ago, and is worth anyone’s reading. Following is a paragraph dealing with the persons present: “The scene is still vivid enough in the writer’s memory to name nearly all the members of that assembly. They were Jacob Buchmoyer and wife, Rudy Sherk, Josiah S. Light and his wife, John Buchmoyer, John Weller and his wife, Tobias Behny, Henry and Abraham Wenger and their wives, who were daughters of John Light, Jacob L. Bicksler, Jacob Weller and his wife, Jacob Lentz and his wife, Samuel Sherk and his wife, Mrs. Maria Grumbine, John Oberholtzer and his wife, and others.”

The official quarterly conference records of the Lebanon Circuit, 1849-62, reveal that Josiah Light, John Light, C. Sherk, George and John Hunsicker, Rudolph and Samuel Sherk, and John Weller were members of the quarterly, representing the Shirksville class; and that John Light, Jacob Weller, George Lentz, C. A. Melty, and Penrose Sherk were members of the quarterly, representing the Fredericksburg class. The history of these two classes runs parallel. For convenience sake they worshipped separately for the most part, but from the record of efforts made to rent or erect a house of worship, it is apparent that trustees representing both classes were selected for a common project.

The group worshipping in Fredericksburg made the first attempt to come into possession of a church building. The quarterly record of January 6, 1849 states: “Resolved that three trustees be appointed to buy a meeting house in Fredericksburg. The trustees are, viz.: John Light (Tanner), Jacob Weller, and Jacob Lentz.” Three years later the action of quarterly conference was that trustees be appointed to rent or build a meeting house in Fredericksburg for the United Brethren in Christ, and John Light (Tanner), Jacob Weller, and Henry H. Gelbach were selected.

In 1854 Henry H. Gelbach, George Hunsicker, and Samuel Sherk were appointed trustees to consider building a meeting house in the neighborhood of Shirksville. A year later Rudolph Sherk was appointed instead of Gelbach. In 1857 and in 1858 the matter was again discussed. Though a lot had been purchased, no church was erected by this class as a separate organization. The class was finally absorbed by the one at Fredericksburg.

The Fredericksburg class continued to worship in private homes and in a church erected by the Evangelical Association. In 1875
George Lentz, Josiah Light, John Weller, Samuel Richert, and John N. Long bought a lot on the corner of Center and Walnut Streets on which stood a coach factory, for the sum of $1,200. This building was removed and a frame church erected in the year 1876 after plans drawn by Mr. Richert. In 1936 a new furnace was installed, a vestibule at the main entrance was constructed, the interior and exterior of the building were painted, and the church furniture was revarnished, at a cost of $964.42. Dr. H. E. Miller preached the reopening sermon, December 6.

The church has been affiliated with the following circuits: from its beginning until 1862, Lebanon Circuit; Jonestown Circuit, 1862-63; Bellegrove Circuit, 1863-71; Jonestown Circuit, 1871-1903; Lickdale Circuit, 1903-06; and Jonestown Circuit, 1906-46.

Green Point Church, Union Township

In a scenic valley lying between the first and second ridges of the Blue Mountains, about a mile westward from the heart of the Swatara Gap, the United Brethren erected a frame building in the year 1873. Emanuel Fake, Solomon Mease, and David Rupp were trustees for the class at the time. The Weidman Estate, which held tracts of land in the locality, promised to give to the congregation one acre of ground for church and burial purposes. However, no deed of transfer was executed at the time. The Weidman Estate became insolvent and the Lebanon National Bank was appointed assignee. Said institution then granted a deed for one-eighth acre of ground, for the consideration of five dollars in the year 1884.
After erection of the church a debt of $350 remained to be provided for. Israel Hay, minister of the Church of God held a revival meeting in the Fishing Creek Valley which resulted in numerous converts, and in order to provide a suitable place of worship, he entered into agreement with the United Brethren to hold services in their building on alternate Sundays. He and his people agreed to pay the remaining indebtedness on the building for this privilege, but misunderstanding soon arose and the compact was cancelled. The United Brethren soon thereafter met their financial obligations, and have through the more than seventy years of history as a local church organization served the community well and have made a vital contribution to the spiritual life of the annual conference.

Green Point Church is the home church of Doctor O. L. Mease and of the Reverends Norman I. Fake and Harry W. Deaven, who became members of this conference. Dr. Mease passed on to his crowning on April 27, 1946. He served Cordelia and Centerville Circuits, 1905-09, while a student at Lebanon Valley College, and continued to serve Centerville for a year after graduation from college in 1908. When a student at Bonebrake Theological Seminary, the Rev. Mease held supply appointments at Lake Odessa, Michigan; and Lockington, Ohio. He returned to East Pennsylvania, was ordained in the fall of 1912, and was appointed to Myerstown Church which he served until 1916. His subsequent appointments were, Mountville, Millersburg, Harrisburg State Street, Mt. Joy, and Shamokin First churches. Dr. Mease pursued graduate work in Temple University where he earned the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology. Lebanon Valley College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1935. He was an excellent student, a sincere preacher of the Word, and a faithful shepherd of souls.

J. J. Behney, father of Dr. J. Bruce Behney of Bonebrake Seminary, is one of the church trustees at Green Point, and serving with him on this board are, David Deaven, Monroe Minnich, Mrs. Dorothy Swalm; and Lloyd Deaven who is also superintendent of the Sunday School.

The Green Point Church has been attached to the following circuits; Jonestown, 1873-85; Fishing Creek, (Dauphin County), 1885-88; Grantville, (Dauphin County), 1888-89; Bellegrove, 1901-03; Lickdale, 1903-06; Jonestown, 1907-10 and 1911-22; Lickdale, 1922-33 and 1934-46. From 1899 to 1901, the church formed a charge and was served by George Lentz. During the year 1906-07, it was under Grantville quarterly conference and H. H. Hoffer was the minister. During 1910-11, this church was under the care of Jonestown Circuit and was served by P. B. Gibble and other supplies. For a single year 1933-34; Lickdale and Green Point together formed a supply appointment with C. A. Mutch as its minister.

Iona Church, South Lebanon Township

The present church organization at Iona had its beginning in 1894. There was, however, a Dundore's class, which appears to have been
the name of the earliest class of United Brethren in the community
now known as Iona, under the Lebanon Salem quarterly, as early
as 1848. Emanuel Dundore was its class leader for many years. In
1855 Dundore's appointment was attached to Myerstown Circuit. In
1861 Dundore's class was still on the same circuit, but two years
later Emanuel's appointment appears, seemingly in place of Dun-
dore's.

A brick church building located on the opposite side of the street,
and a short distance west of the present United Brethren building,
was erected by the Dundore's class. A stone in the north gable has
this inscription: "Emanuel's Versamlungs Haus Der Ver. Brüder in
Christo, 1862." (Emanuel's Meeting House of the United Brethren in
Christ.) A deed on record in the county courthouse bearing the
date, December 21, 1862, states that Jonathan Dundore and wife
Elizabeth sold a small plot of ground to Elias Dundore, Samuel
Snyder, and Moses Strohm, trustees, for the purpose of the United
Brethren in Christ worshipping in the house erected thereon.

A few years after the church was built, because of defections
caused by the organizing of the United Christian denomination,
many of this congregation seceded from the United Brethren in
Christ, and in time the church was lost to us. The class, however,
under the various names of Brubacher's, Buffalo Springs, Buffalo
Run, New Buffalo Springs, continued, as shown by these names
appearing on authentic records from 1865 to 1889. Meetings were
held in members' homes in the Buffalo Springs Community, which
derives its name from a series of strong springs forming one of
the main branches of the Hammer Creek.

The Rev. J. B. Daugherty, minister of the Lebanon Circuit (Eng-
lish) held a revival at the home of John Snyder in the winter of 1894
which resulted in a number of converts. Those, together with the
members of the then existent class, were organized into a new class
which again took the name, "Dundore's." It consisted of thirty-nine
members and had Abraham Shenk as class leader. Five years
later, under the pastorate of the Rev. W. W. Fridinger, the site of
the present church was purchased, and a house of worship erected
costing $4,000. It was dedicated November 13, 1899 by Dr. D. D.
Lowery, conference superintendent. This new organization
and building have always been known as the "Iona Church."

An excellent record of spiritual and material progress has been
made by this new organization. Twelve years after erection of the
church, a two-story frame parsonage, on a lot adjoining that of the
church on the west, was built at a cost of $2,100. In the conference
year 1916-17 a large shed and a garage were added to the group of
buildings, trees and shrubbery were planted, and the cemetery
fenced in and placed under perpetual care. During the next decade,
a new heating plant and a Delco Light system were installed. These
and other items of improvement cost $3,000. In 1930 there was an
expenditure of $4,378.82 on grounds and buildings.

The original church building was enlarged by the addition of a
two-story annex, providing Sunday School facilities for the ele-
Iona Church

Pleasant Hill Church

mentary grades. Cost of the new structure, plus renovations on the church and parsonage, amounted to $6,200. Reopening services were held September 21, 1941.

The complete list of class leaders from 1894 to the present is as follows: Abraham Shenk, Henry B. Bomberger, Edwin W. Hoke, John A. Herr, D. K. Bomberger, and Samuel A. Herr. Sunday School superintendents serving over the same years were: Abraham Shenk, Cyrus Smith, Monroe Brubaker, Allen Horst, and Stanley Smith. Present officers of the Women's Missionary Society are: president, Mrs. Stanley Smith, secretary, Mrs. Paul Bucher, and treasurer, Mrs. Samuel Glick; of the Otterbein Guild, Elsie Stohler, Ruth Etter, and Helen Spancake; of the Christian Endeavor, Lester Spancake, Mrs. Royce Ward, and Howard Staeger; of the Ladies' Aid, Mary Bomberger, Mrs. Russel Etter, and Mrs. Raymond Smith.

Beginning with the year 1855, this class under its several names has been attached to the following circuits or charges: Myerstown Circuit, 1855-69; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1869-71; Lebanon Circuit, 1871-78; Avon Circuit, 1878-89; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1889-93; Lebanon Circuit (English), 1893-98; Schaefferstown charge, 1898-1902; Ministers serving the Iona charge have been: R. S. Arndt, 1902-03; J. R. Blecher, 1903-06; F. J. Butterwick, 1906-07; J. P. Smith, 1907-08; Charles Bauer, 1908-09; J. P. Smith, 1909-10; C. W. Miller, 1910-13; C. W. Miller, M. A. Wagner, 1913-14; R. E. Morgan, 1914-16; G. W. Rothermal, 1916-17; W. E. Shoop, 1917-19; William Beach, 1919-22; M. B. Spayd, 1922-28; E. M. Strickler, 1928-32; M. H. Miller, 1932-36; H. M. Mathias, 1936-39, and Russel E. Etter, 1939-46.

Jonestown Church

The Jonestown class, organized sometime during the fourth decade of the last century, held services in a Union Church for a number of years. A trustee board was first appointed in 1854, but
whether to have custody of the union house or with the intent of building a house of worship for the United Brethren is uncertain. Whatever the status may have been prior to 1857, it is known that in that year, David Wentling, Samuel Sherk Jr., and Michael Heim, trustees, bought a lot fronting eighty-six feet on Broad Street and extending eastward one-hundred and ninety-eight feet along Chestnut Street, for the sum of $125. Moses Mark and John Fauber were the building committee and Michael Heim was treasurer of the building fund. A brick edifice was erected on this lot in the same year at a cost of $2,500. Jacob Doerkson and Jacob Runk were in charge of the Lebanon Circuit of which the Jonestown class was an appointment.

Laymen having official duties as class leaders and stewards from 1849 to 1871 were Peter Wentling, John Fauber, Michael Heim, Moses Mark, Simon Desh, Abraham Wengert, Christian Sherk, Samuel Phraener, Abraham Wentling and George Hauer. Trustees following those first elected were John Light, John Long, Benjamin Sherk, Israel Bitting, Abraham Wentling and Samuel Wagner.

Dr. George H. Bender, local druggist, and influential member of the Jonestown congregation, donated a plot of ground located on Market Street, the Borough’s main east and west thoroughfare. A brick church, costing approximately $10,000 was erected on this new site. It was dedicated by Dr. D. D. Lowery, conference superintendent, June 11, 1911. A week of services followed in which the Reverends G. D. Batdorf, S. C. Enck, H. M. Miller, R. R. Butterwick, S. E. Rupp, and A. S. Beckley participated.

On February 2, 1936 this building was almost completely destroyed by fire. The work of rebuilding began by the following June and was completed by December. On the 29th of that month Dr. H. E. Miller preached the opening sermon. Dedicatory services were delayed until Bishop Batdorf could be present for the event, which took place June 13, 1937. One of the delights of that occasion was the presence of the same choir—with but one exception caused by removal through death—as was present for the dedication of the former building. The cost of reconstruction was $12,960.64, of which amount all but $2,103.64 was covered by fire insurance held on the destroyed building. In tribute to Dr. Bender, donor of the ground, Red Rose Sunday is observed each year on the Sunday closest to the date of dedication.

The Jonestown congregation purchased a dwelling located on Market Street not far removed from the church for use as a circuit parsonage, and the Rev. Paul Fridinger, a former pastor, dedicated it June 9, 1940.

Class leaders for the more recent period have been George Uhland, Monroe Young, Harry Yeagley, and Ray Boeshore. Trustees now holding office are Philip M. Slike, Ray Boeshore, Ira Boeshore, John H. Fortna, and Robert J. Emrich. Harry Diener served sometime as Sunday School superintendent, his successor being Robert Emrich who served twenty-five years; Ralph Mohn is the present
incumbent. President and treasurer, respectively, of the following organizations are, for the Ladies’ Aid, Mrs. James Fortna, and Mrs. Ida Wentling; for the Women’s Missionary Society, Mrs. Ralph Mohn and Mrs. Delmer Emrich; and for the Christian Endeavor Society, Ralph Gingrich and Alfred Fortna. Mrs. Edgar Hoffman and Mrs. Ralph Mohn have charge of the Junior Society.

The Jonestown Church has been affiliated with the following circuits: from its beginning until 1862, Lebanon Circuit; Jonestown Circuit, 1862-66; Bellegrove Circuit, 1866-71; Jonestown Circuit, 1871-1903; and 1906-46. It constituted a charge from 1903 to 1906, and its ministers were W. H. Boyer, 1903-05; and O. G. Romig, 1905-06.

Jonestown Church

Kauffman’s or Zion’s Church, North Annville Township

Frederick Kauffman, said to have been a minister of the Mennonite Society, settled on a large tract of land one and one-fourth miles north of Annville, in 1758, and ten years later sold an acre of this tract to Ulrich Burkholder and Jacob Ellenberger, trustees of the Mennonite Society. On this plot they erected a meeting house which stood on the south-eastern area of the cemetery lot now in possession of the United Brethren.

On May 5, 1855, the Lebanon Circuit quarterly conference appointed John L. Moyer, Jacob Sherk, and Joseph Ellenberger trustees, “to build a new meeting house in Kauffman’s Class.” The church was probably built soon after the trustee board was appointed, certainly not later than 1859, inasmuch as the quarterly of the same circuit ordered, August 13, 1859, that settlement of “their new church be made and report the same to the next quarterly.” The new church erected of brick, used by the United Brethren from that time to the present, stands across the road, eastward, from the cemetery, and fronts on the Bellegrove-Lebanon Road.

Joseph Ellenberger, one of the original trustees continued in that office until 1871 and possibly longer. John L. Moyer and Jacob Sherk were succeeded by Samuel Lessley, John Sherk, Sam-
ue Moyer, and Samuel Conrad. Joseph Ellenberger, Jacob Sherk, Jacob Light, Samuel Meyer, Daniel Emrich, Ephraim Winters, John Houser, and Irvin C. Meyer have been class leaders. Those who have held the office of Sunday School superintendent were: John H. Sherk, John Meyer, Samuel Meyer, Charles Boughter and John F. Light. The last named served for forty-five years until he was afflicted with a serious illness in 1937, when he was made honorary superintendent, and Martin Meyer, the present incumbent, took his place.

The Women’s Missionary Association was organized by Rebecca Fritz about the year 1897. Mrs. John F. Light was elected its president, in which capacity she served until 1938. She was succeeded in that office by Mrs. Jacob Dautrich. The Otterbein Guild was organized April 29, 1934 by Miss Clara Preis, Branch President of the Guild, when the following officers were elected: president, Almeda M. Horst; Vice President, Bessie Ellenberger; secretary, Mary E. Meyer; and treasurer, Verna Meyer.

In 1890 the interior of the church was decorated and a belfry and bell were added. In 1932 new heating and new lighting systems were installed, a metal ceiling was constructed, and a new carpet laid, at a total cost of $780. Reopening services were held November 27. In 1940 the belfry was replaced by a new tower and vestibule. Other improvements, consisting of a new floor, changing of the chancel, new furniture and carpet, and construction of a nursery room in the basement, cost something over $4,000. The church trustees, Harvey Winters, John F. Light, Mrs. Lizzie Herr, Irvin C. Meyer and Oscar Meyer, with the members of the official board, constituted the committee on building. The Rev. C. R. Swartz directed the work of reconstruction and improvement and presided at the reopening services, November 19, 1940, at which time Dr. H. F. Rhoad was the guest speaker.

Kauffman’s Church has been attached to the following Circuits: Lebanon Circuit, from the time of the beginning of the class until 1863; Bellegrove Circuit, 1863-82; Lebanon Circuit, 1882-1903; and Bellegrove Circuit, 1903-46.

Kochenderfer’s Zion’s Church, North Lebanon Township

This church is named for the Kochenderfer family, of whom John Kochenderfer, local preacher, class leader and steward, was one of the early promoters of a class affiliated with Lebanon Salem Church. It is located along a road running in an easterly direction from the Sand Hill Road to the Lebanon-Fredericksburg Road. The class was organized some time prior to 1846, but had no house of worship until 1874. John Kochenderfer, Samuel Longenecker, and Joseph S. Light were appointed trustees January 21, 1871 by Lebanon Salem quarterly to secure ground for a church building. In March of the year following, Gideon Light, Abraham Miller and J. H. Yingst were appointed a committee by said quarterly to consult with the brethren at Kochenderfer’s to aid them in erection of a church building. This cooperative effort resulted in achieving the
desired aim and a frame building costing approximately $2,300 was erected on the south side of said road.

For a period of fifty-eight years this building served the congregation’s needs. A plot of ground on the opposite side of the road and a few rods to the east of the old church, sufficiently large for church, parsonage and parking purposes, was purchased by Daniel W. Brandt and donated to the church. A brick church was erected in 1932. Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, laid the cornerstone on May 22, and dedicated the completed edifice with appropriate ceremonies September 18. The sanctuary, and gallery on the north side, provide a seating capacity of 300. A well-lighted basement provides excellent rooms for Sunday School work. The cost of the new building was $14,380.14.

The parsonage, also of brick, was built in 1941, costing $6,350. It was dedicated October 27, by Dr. S. C. Enck. The Rev. T. J. Barnhart was minister when the church was erected, at which time there were 127 church members and 226 Sunday School scholars. The parsonage was constructed during the second year of the Rev. Grant N. Miller’s pastorate. The church membership then was 175 and the Sunday School enrollment was 244. Considering the numerical strength of the congregation, the completion of two such projects within a short period of time was a commendable achievement. At the close of the year 1943-44 pastor Miller reported the church property to be free of debt.

Trustees who served, following those first appointed, are: Martin Moyer, Adam B. Light, Peter Sholly, Samuel W. Beckley, John A. Herr, Frank Longenecker, Daniel W. Brandt, J. A. Artz, D. B. Brandt, Howard B. Gingrich, Frank Gettle, and Harry E. Fogelman. The church has now reached a membership of 205, the highest in its history, and is well organized for departmental work. The following officers head the several church organizations: Sunday School, Aaron B. Sherman, general superintendent, Claude Gettle, secretary; Women’s Missionary Association, Mrs. Clarence Darkes, president, Mrs. Claude Gettle, secretary, Mrs. J. A. Artz, treasurer; Otterbein Guild, Ruth Gettle, president, Fern Hostetter, secretary, and Violet Sherman, treasurer.

Arthur S. Beckley, Ethel Hower, Harry E. Fogelman, and Herman Smith, were voted quarterly conference license by this class. The Reverend Beckley, the son of Samuel W. and Miranda R. Beckley, was converted at Kochenderfer’s at the age of fifteen. When twenty-one he received quarterly conference license; and served Landingville 1904-06; and Mont Clare 1906-10. During the latter pastorate he completed the conference reading courses and was ordained in 1909. From 1910 to 1912 he preached on the Grantville Circuit. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1912. After graduation he was pastor of Shamokin First Church beginning in the fall of 1912 and continuing until his most promising career was ended by the onslaught of typhoid fever, October 5, 1914. He was an industrious student and a beloved and faithful pastor.
This church has been attached to the following circuits and stations: Lebanon Circuit, 1872-82; Avon, 1882-98; Ebenezer, 1898-1901; Lebanon Circuit, 1901-05; Iona 1905-07; Lebanon Bethany 1907-09; Lebanon Circuit, 1909-40. Since forming a separate charge in 1940, Grant N. Miller has been serving to the present, 1946.

**Lebanon Bethany Church**

Bethany Church had its beginning under the fostering care of Salem Church. A committee was appointed by quarterly conference in 1899 to consider the advisability of opening a new mission in the eastern part of the city. Jacob Runk and his son Irvin E. were the ministers at Salem when the work was begun. William L. Lenich and wife donated a plot of ground for a church building, and by congregational vote of Salem Church, financial support was pledged. A frame chapel erected on the northeast corner of Mifflin and Hanover Streets was dedicated by Bishop E. B. Kephart, December 4, 1900, at the morning service. The Rev. F. J. Butterwick preached in the German language in the afternoon. The trustees at the time were William L. Lenich, Morris K. Light, and Thomas G. Spangler. A Sunday School was organized soon after the chapel was completed.

The Rev. Joel Light was in charge of the new mission, 1901-03, by appointment of Salem quarterly. The property and congregation were turned over to the administration of annual conference which appointed J. P. Smith as its minister at the session of 1903.
The organization had a class of forty-two members and a Sunday School enrollment of 125. The property was valued at $3,000, of which amount $400 remained unpaid, but was provided for by Salem Church.

Extensive improvements were made to the building in 1932, when a basement was constructed under the entire building and laid out in Sunday School rooms, and both exterior and interior were painted, the total cost being $3,500. The Rev. H. E. Zechman, pastor, was in charge of reopening services November 1, and Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached the sermon. A week of special services followed at which time former pastors brought the messages. Further improvements were made in 1942: an Orgatron was installed, new pews, pulpit and altar table placed, and the interior and exterior repainted. Dr. H. E. Miller performed the dedicatory rites and preached the sermon on reopening, March 22. The Rev. N. I. Fake, now exceeding all other pastors in length of time serving Bethany Church, was in charge.

Brother Morris K. Light, son of the Rev. Joel, was Sunday School superintendent for many years, and also gave long-time service as director of music. He was elected as one of East Pennsylvania's lay delegates to General Conference sessions of the years 1925 and 1933. Irvin Miller and Paul Patches followed Mr. Light as general superintendents of the school, Mr. Miller, serving a second term, is the present incumbent.

Trustees serving the church, following the first board elected, are: Jacob F. Wolf, Stanley Lewars, Charles Greenawalt, W. W. Spangler, Stewart Wood, John Harvey, and Leon Wolf. Mrs. Stewart Wood is president of the Woman's Missionary Association; Miss Mildred Walmer, president of the Otterbein Guild. The church has three Christian Endeavor Societies, Mrs. N. I. Fake being president of the Senior Society, and Miss Ethel Miller and Miss Josephine Demmy, superintendents of the Intermediates and Juniors, respectively. Mrs. Wood is Secretary of Literature, and Mrs. Earl Miller, Treasurer of the Conference Branch Missionary Society. The Rev. H. R. Blouch, at present serving as army chaplain, was voted quarterly conference license by this church.

Good music has always been an outstanding characteristic of Bethany congregation. Its present choir of young voices is in the front rank of good musical organizations.


Lebanon Hebron Church

The name Hebron was given to a community in which the Moravian Brethren erected a church in 1749. In comparatively recent
times Lebanon's population has increased eastward so that at present Hebron is within Lebanon City limits. This new development known as "The Heights," and the recent growth of the original village of Hebron, presented an inviting field to the United Brethren. The area was altogether open territory, inasmuch as no denomination had occupied it since 1848 when the Moravians abandoned their old stone church and erected a new house of worship in the city.

Annual conference of 1909 authorized the organization of a class and appointed the Rev. Clint S. Miller to Hebron Mission. Initial steps for the establishing of a Mission had been taken by the Reverend Miller and some members of the Avon Church while he was their pastor during the year proceeding. A large lot located on the northwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Walnut Street was purchased during the summer of 1909 and excavation begun immediately. Dr. D. D. Lowery officiated at the laying of the cornerstone, October 10, 1909. A class of eighty-five members was organized, and during the period of construction, Church and Sunday School meetings were held in the Hebron Schoolhouse. The $12,000-dollar brick church building was completed by May, 1910 and dedicated by Bishop William M. Bell. Aaron Behney, Charles P. Bucks, Jacob Hitz, Allen Ross, and William Martin constituted the first trustee board.

A beautiful and commodious brick parsonage at 421 East Walnut Street, and a two-car garage, were erected on a lot adjoining the church property on the west. Dr. S. C. Enck dedicated the manse, September 15, 1929. The buildings and lot cost $11,623. Depression
fears did not deter the congregation in this major church enterprise.

Extensive improvements were made to the church building in 1934, costing $2,800. A new Hammond organ was dedicated on June 7, 1936 by the Rev. Dr. H. E. Miller. The cost of the organ plus other equipment and improvements amounted to $1,078. Chimes, costing $365, were added to the organ in 1939.

The congregation has had a steady, healthy growth, increasing to the number of 373 church members by the close of 1946, and a Sunday School enrollment of 610. Three of the original trustee board, Charles P. Bucks, William Martin, and Allen Ross have remained members of said board to the present. H. B. Shaak, and Albert Gingrich are the two additional members. There have been but two general Sunday School superintendents: Aaron Behney, and Charles Booshore, the present incumbent. Daniel Ryland is treasurer of the School and Samuel Cook is secretary. Officers of the Women’s Missionary Association are: president, Mrs. Theodore Brandt, and secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Daniel Ryland; of the Otterbein Guild, president, Betty Gerhart, treasurer, Rena Mae Miller, and secretary, Dorothy Hoffa. Alden G. Biely, Jr. is president of the Christian Endeavor Society.

John H. Gable, Edward T. Uhler, Calvin H. Reber, Jr., and Earl Reber were granted quarterly conference license upon recommendation by the Hebron congregation. The Revs. Uhler and Gable are serving charges within the conference. The Rev. Calvin H. Reber, Jr. is a missionary, stationed at Canton, China, and the Rev. Earl Reber, M. D. is in medical missionary work in Africa under appointment of the United Lutheran Church. The Rev. Alden G. Biely has been pastor of this church for twenty-one years, more than half of the length of the church's history, this being his first charge and the only one he has served. His predecessors were: C. S. Miller, 1909-10; E. J. Renshaw, O. T. Ehnhart, 1910-11; O. T. Ehnhart, 1911-20; D. D. Buddinger, H. E. Schaeffer, C. B. Mentzer, 1920-21; Ira W. Funk, 1921-22; J. A. Keiper, 1922-25.

Lebanon Glossbrenner Memorial Church

During the year 1884 a movement was set on foot to establish a third church in the city of Lebanon. Annual conference of the year following took action to that end and appointed the Rev. H. A. Buffington to open a new mission. A room in a building on the corner of Forge and Twelfth streets was rented, in which meetings were held for a period of six months. Meetings were then transferred to Brandywine and Twelfth streets where a tent had been erected for that purpose. In the year 1886 the Rev. W. H. Uhler took charge of the mission and a small chapel was erected where the tent had stood. An addition of twenty feet was added to the chapel in 1889 soon after the Rev. Amos Graul was appointed to serve the congregation.
A trustee board consisting of John Weaver, John Steckbeck, D. W. Zeller, David P. Rauch, and A. P. Hollinger bought a lot on the northwest corner of Lehman Street and Fall Alley and began building operations for a new church during the conference year 1889-90. Annual conference of 1889 cautioned the trustees “not to proceed faster than the means in hand will allow.” The conference of the following year instructed the trustees “to accept the property on Lehman Street and to sell the property on the corner of Twelfth and Brandywine streets to best advantage.”

Inasmuch as this was a conference mission project, conference made annual appropriations which from 1885 to 1890 amounted to $1,575. The church membership at the end of the first year was nineteen and increased to 123 by the end of the fifth year.

During the year 1900 the house of worship was so thoroughly enlarged and renovated as to make it practically a new building. Improvements of a general nature were made in 1909 costing $1,050. In 1926 a new Primary room was added to the Sunday School quarters, a gallery was constructed in the main audience room, a new heating system was installed, and a new carpet laid, at a total cost of $9,000. A new Hammond electric organ was installed in 1936, costing $1,355. Dr. H. E. Miller dedicated the organ June the eleventh. At the same time $1,078 were expended for new furnishings and for redecorations. A brick residence located at 1040 Lehman Street was purchased in 1912 at the price of $3,100 for the pastor’s residence.

The list of laymen representing the congregation at annual conference sessions from 1887 to 1946 is as follows: John Weaver, Charles Wirt, D. W. Zeller, A. P. Hollinger, Mahlon Smith, Elam Kochler, A. D. Bechtel, Dr. H. E. Mauflair, Paul Kocher, J. Robert Blouch, J. M. Fisher, Mark A. Wagner, Oscar E. Muench, John B. Hollinger, William H. Boughter, Harrison Shuey, Samuel B. Fox, and Oscar Bowman. The trustee board of the present consists of: Harry Tice, Oscar Bowman, John B. Hollinger, Harry Clauser, and Victor Artz. Other lay people carrying forward the work of the congregation through official capacities are: Lloyd Blouch, George Steckbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weinhold, Mrs. Oscar Bowman, Mrs. Victor Artz, Mrs. Emma Dunkelberger, Mrs. Ray Bowman, Lloyd Tompson, and Charles Witters. Mark A. Wagner, mentioned above as a lay delegate, was in 1915 granted annual conference license.

Lebanon Memorial Church and Lebanon St. Paul’s formed a charge from 1887 to 1890. Ministers serving Lebanon Memorial have been: H. A. Buffington, 1885-86; W. H. Uhler, 1886-89; Amos Graul, 1889-92; Samuel Etter, Jr., 1892-93; J. R. Blecher, 1893-97; D. S. Longenecker, 1897-1904; S. B. Wengert, 1904-08; Amos Lehman, 1908-11; A. G. Nye, 1911-14; M. H. Jones, 1914-19; J. A. Keiper, 1919-21; H. M. Miller, 1921-26; W. E. Deibler, 1926-30; N. I. Fake, 1930-39; M. E. Patrich, 1939-44; and James Bingham, 1944-46.
Lebanon Pleasant Hill, St. John’s Church

In a southwestern suburb of Lebanon City known as Pleasant Hill, on Center Street between Seventeenth and Eighteenth Streets, stands a house of worship which the conference named St. John’s Church in 1897, and Pleasant Hill Church in 1906. A class of twenty-five members was organized in the year 1893 by the Rev. A. M. Hackman, while serving the Schaefferstown Circuit. Annual Conference, 1894, made it a charge, appointed the Rev. S. L. Rhoads, and made an appropriation of $100 toward his salary. He served the class two years and under his leadership a frame church was erected, which was completed in the fall of 1895 at a cost of approximately $3,000. Conference designated it a Mission Station in 1896 and appointed the Rev. L. R. Kramer. It remained in that classification two years and received an annual appropriation of $300. At the close of the conference year 1897-98 there was a membership of eighty-nine, and a Sunday School enrollment of 190 pupils and eight teachers.

A tower and bell were placed in 1899. Several years later a metal ceiling was constructed. An annex, increasing the size of the seating room by about one-third, was built to the rear or north end of the building in 1925, costing $6,000. Reopening services were held beginning Sunday, June 14, the Rev. S. L. Rhoads, former pastor, preaching the sermon. In 1938 the basement was remodeled and fitted out for Sunday School use, and a new heating plant was installed, at a cost of $1,130.

The first trustee board was composed of John Clendenin, Isaac Rutter, and John Q. Miller. Their successors have been: Henry Dearwechter, Harry McKinney, William H. Boyer, John A. Beaver; and the present board: William J. Dearwechter, Charles H. Biever Sr., George L. Rutter, Wayne R. Miller, and Harold F. Dissinger Sr. Henry Dearwechter, Charles Hess, Cyrus Shott, John Boyer, George B. Simmers, William H. Sholly, John A. Biever, Charles H. Biever Sr., and James Grant have served as general superintendents of the Sunday School. Present heads of the department of Christian Education are: Adult, William C. Becker Sr.; Young People’s, Harold F. Dissinger Sr.; Children’s, Howard G. Lehman. David D. Dillman is president of the Brotherhood; Mrs. Wayner R. Miller, president of the Women’s Missionary Association; Shirley Gamble, president of the Youth Fellowship; Gene Lehman of the Young People’s Society; and Mrs. Harvey Lehman is superintendent of the Primary Department of the Sunday School. Raphael A. Gingrich and Chester W. Hartman were granted quarterly conference license.

The ministers appointed to Pleasant Hill as a charge, or as affiliated with other charges, are as follows: Lebanon Circuit (English), 1893-94; Pleasant Hill, 1894-96; S. L. Rhoads, 1894-96; L. R. Kramer, 1896-98; Lebanon Circuit (English), J. B. Daugherty, 1896-99; Pleasant Hill, L. R. Kramer, 1899-1901; West Lebanon, Jacob Runk, 1901-03; Pleasant Hill charge, Jacob Runk, 1903-04; Lebanon West and Pleasant Hill, M. H. Miller, 1904-06; Pleasant Hill charge, 1906-19,
THE CHURCHES OF LEBANON COUNTY


Lebanon Salem Church

Salem Church, mother of churches, has played an important role in the origin and achievement of United Brethrenism in Lebanon County. The contributing factors which form its background have to some extent been recited in previous pages. In dealing now with this local church as a unit of organization certain details are added. These are the more necessary because of some errors of fact appearing in print. Furthermore, inasmuch as its first church building was the second east of the Susquehanna River in which United Brethren worshipped, we deem it of sufficient importance to give proper treatment to its significance.

The brick building, 40 x 60 feet in size, constructed in 1817, was located on the east side of North Seventh Street, about 150 feet north of Lehman Street as of the present city plan. The deed by which the church lot was transferred states correctly the facts in which we are interested. It is dated May 26, 1817, and in abbreviated form is as follows:

Between Abraham Light of Lebanon township, Lebanon county, and Barbara his wife of the one part; and Felix Light, Martin Light, brothers of the said Abraham Light, and Abraham Light, Jr., son of the said Abraham Light, of the same place, yoemen, Trustees of the Menonist Society, settled, established, living, or residing in the said township in the county of Lebanon and its vicinity, on the other part.

Whereas the members of the said Menonite Society afore-said have associated and agreed to build a meeting-house or House and place of public worship on the piece of land hereinafter described, now,

This Indenture witnesses: for consideration of five shillings, for the use, purpose, intend, benefit of the Menonist Society, religious fellowship, or community, (In margin written: "Denominated Menonists, in Lebanon township, Lebanon county and vicinity, as a place whereon to erect a meeting-house for the use of the said Society or Community) wherein to perform Divine services and religious worship.

All that parcel of land, part of the plantation of the said Abraham Light, situate in Lebanon township, Beginning at a stake in the road leading from the Borough of Lebanon to Stoever’s Mill, thence by and along the said road, north seven degrees west eleven perches and three-tenths to a stake; thence by the land of the said Abraham Light, south
eighty-seven degrees east six perches to a white oak; thence by the same south eight degrees west seven and six-tenths perches to the road leading to the Blue mountains; thence by the land of said Abraham Light near by the said road south forty-five and one-half degrees west five and two-tenths perches to the place of beginning, containing forty-seven perches.

When the Borough of Lebanon was incorporated in 1821 its eastern boundary ran along the line of Abraham Light’s tract. The northern borough line was run along the present Church Street, being the southern boundary of Hans Light’s tract, beginning at Seventh Street and extending westerly. This left the meeting house outside of the borough boundaries. The road described as leading from the borough to Stoever’s Mill (now Freeport Mills) is the present Seventh Street. The road branching off at an angle, described as the road leading to the Blue Mountains (To Mt. Zion) is no longer in existence. An old map of the year 1851 of lots and streets attests the facts of location and shows the location of the Blue Mountain Road, which at the time (1851) was called “Light Street.”

In comment concerning the parties to the deed, it may be said that the grantor, Abraham Light Sr. and two of the grantees, Martin and Felix Light, were sons of John Light 2nd. Abraham Light Jr., the third grantee was a son of Abraham Light Sr., named as grantor. From this circumstance it was quite natural that this edifice should become traditionally known as “Light's Meeting House.” Abraham Light Sr. was one of the first to receive the preachers of the Evangelical Association who came to Lebanon.
The Reverend John Seybert, presiding elder, organized the first Lebanon class for that denomination in the year 1826. A statement from the pen of W. W. Orwig relating to the formation of the class at Lebanon, gives additional evidence of the work of the Reverend Felix Light:

Two years previous to the formation of the first class there, a considerable revival had taken place, of which Father Felix Licht, a Mennonite preacher, Father P. Breidenstein, and his son John, were the principal instruments. Many were roused out of their lethargy, and began to inquire earnestly for the way of salvation. For some years they kept aloof from all Christian denominations, having been warned most emphatically against unity with any of them by certain preachers, who were known as Liberty men, Universalists, etc.

Here then is further proof of the evangelical zeal and catholic spirit of Felix Light, and of the underlying forces which retarded organization of classes.

The recital of the transition from what might appear to be a purely Mennonite Society to a United Brethren organization is given in Chapter III. Suffice it to say in this connection that the class grew in numbers and influence. In the twenty-eight years intervening between the erection of the first and the second church buildings it won the support of the town inhabitants as well as of the rural folk. A resolution on record in the Salem Church Book sets forth these facts:

Whereas the old meeting house was quite inconvenient to the town, the foundation giving way, considerably, we saw proper to build, and by a quarterly conference held at J. L. Meyer's Campmeeting in 1845, with unanimous vote (decided) to build a new church in the Borough of Lebanon with the following arrangement: Building Committee, Tobias Kreider, Joseph Light, Thomas Light; Trustees, Rev. Casper Light, Abraham Light, William Light.

Two town lots on the southeastern corner of Church and Ninth Streets were purchased by deed dated September 17, 1845, at a cost of $200 as a site for the new church. At the annual conference beginning February 12, 1845, the Reverend Christian Smith Crider was appointed to Lebanon Salem and remained three years. Under his administration the lot was bought and a two-story stone church erected. The corner stone was laid by the Reverend Simon Dressbach, then minister of Highspire Circuit, assisted by the pastor. The building was dedicated October 18, 1846 by Bishop John Russel, assisted by the Reverend George Miller of Pennsylvania Conference, and the pastor.

Trustees following those named above, from 1846 to 1879, in the order of their election were: Abraham Sherk, Peter Zimmerman, Peter Ulrich, John Funk, Cyrus Mutch, Michael Snyder, Daniel Kreider, John Kochenderfer, Joseph F. Light, Joseph Light, (J. S.), David L. Light, Josiah M. Gettle, Emanuel Dundore, Joseph
Bomberger, Abraham Miller, Philip Shaeffer, Rudolph Kreider, Jacob B. Rouch, Gideon Light, Moses Heilman, Joel Light, John Yings, and Jacob Werner. A number of these were members of out-of-town classes.

This congregation from 1840 to 1842 was on the Lebanon Circuit. In 1842-43 Lebanon and Annville congregations formed a charge, but on conference records from 1843 onward, Lebanon Church is designated, "A Station." Through all the years, however, until 1903 when Bethany class was turned over to Annual Conference, classes other than those consisting of Salem members were a part of Lebanon Station. At the same time and until very recently, this church had four or more classes, each with its own leader and separate meetings. The average number of classes from 1848 to 1870 was ten—the minimum in any one year was seven, and the maximum thirteen. Trinity, Kochenderfers, Ebenezer, Avon, St. Paul's, and Bethany churches were developed from classes once belonging to Salem. The part that the Salem congregation had in their origin is stated in the sketches of these several churches.

As a matter of record, something may be written concerning the burial places of the sainted dead of the congregation. There was a cemetery on the old meeting house plot until the year 1876 when, the dead having been removed, the ground was sold for $1,300 as building lots. In the year 1850 a burial plot—probably the oldest graveyard of the Light family—at Eleventh and Mifflin Streets came under the care of the church trustees through a bequest by the late Joseph Light. In that year the executors of the said Joseph Light, deceased, gave a deed for this plot to the church trustees in trust for the congregation. Four years later the trustees purchased an additional eighty-seven perches adjoining the original plot. In 1880 the trustees were given authority to sell the ground. By that year the congregation had possession of a new cemetery at Ebenezer. In this latter and in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery one can now find the tombstones which once marked the resting place of those interred in the two older cemeteries.

Six years after the new church was built the trustees were instructed to build a parsonage on one of the lots owned by the church. This house, constructed with materials from the old meeting house, was sold to Gideon Light at an appraised value of $2,350, in 1869; and later resold to Salem’s trustees. They then erected two new houses, sold one of them and the old parsonage, and retained the other for a parsonage, which has been the pastor’s residence since 1873. It has passed through several stages of remodeling and enlarging.

Salem congregation organized one of the earliest Sunday Schools in the conference. At annual conference session January 12-15, 1854 it was decided by resolution “That the $30.00 collected by the Sabbath School in Lebanon shall according to their request be appropriated to establish Sabbath Schools in Oregon.” A similar amount was given by the Lebanon School the following year to be used to establish a School in Kansas Territory.
was the first general superintendent. Stephen Light, Samuel Peters, Boaz W. Light, William Lenich, John B. Spangler, Thomas G. Spangler, and Cyrus Yingst followed Mr. Sherk in that capacity. In the last fifty years there have been but three general superintendents: Clinton E. Boltz, 1896-1906; Edward P. Strickler, 1906-44; and J. Anson Wilhelm, 1944-46. As early as 1850 increased attendance was stressed by special action in quarterly conference, and the Sunday School has had a continued steady growth, reaching a peak of 1,509 in enrollment and 810 in average attendance in 1934.

In organized work with young people this congregation also set the pace. Before Christian Endeavor was known, its pastor, the Reverend Ezekiel Light reported to the quarterly conference that early in the year 1878 he "organized a Young People's Christian Association with about eighty members who were nearly all young
people and children. Its object was to attract the young folks to the
church and to train them for active work, as also to lead the un­
converted to Christ.” It was divided into three departments; Chil­
dren’s, Seekers, and Christian Workers. This was probably the
second organization of its kind in the denomination, being preceded
by one organized in First Church, Dayton, Ohio, in 1871, known as
a Young Men’s Christian Association, then later changed to a Young
People’s Christian Association.

The house of worship erected in 1845-46 was remodeled in 1873
at a cost of $3,289.03. In the fall of 1885 the Reverend David S.
Longenecker was appointed to Salem Church. During his four
years as pastor he received 375 members and the Sunday School
enrollment rose from 526 to 800. The stone church had become
quite inadequate, consequently, in the first year of the Reverend H.
S. Gabel’s pastorate, plans were made to tear it down and to erect
a brick structure. The last sermon heard in the old church was
preached by the Reverend Henry Schropp some months before his
death which occurred November 17, 1890. He had been pastor 1851-
54. At the time this sermon was preached brother Schropp was in
his eightieth year and was living in retirement in Lebanon.

The occasion was deeply memorable, the old church, the
old pastor, his old companions, most of them dead to the
world but alive to him at this hour, the old story of the cross
so powerfully and sweetly inspired him that his hearers, al­
though accustomed to, and anticipating a more than ordinar­
ily grand effort from him, were spellbound as the gospel of
Christ flowed from his warm heart and eloquent lips, filling
them with sublime delight, holy awe, and divine reverence.9

The corner stone was laid July 6, 1890 by the presiding elder,
James Shoop, assisted by pastor Gabel, and the Reverend Samuel
Etter Jr. On December 21, 1890 the first story was formally opened
for divine worship by the Reverend C. J. Kephart. On Sunday May
15, 1892 the completed building was dedicated by Bishop E. B. Kep­
hart, assisted by the Reverends James Shoop, James G. Fritz, and
the pastor. The structure cost $18,700.

The Reverend Harry E. Miller, whose biography appears el­
sewhere in this volume, began his ministry in the fall of 1904. Under
the leadership of his immediate predecessor, Dr. I. H. Albright, the
congregation had begun the work of redecorating the auditorium,
recarpeting the floor, and installing a large pipe organ. This work
was completed in Dr. Miller’s first year. During the second and
third years a spacious Sunday School Chapel was erected costing
$10,000. Major renovations costing $6,000 were made in 1916. Very
extensive exterior and interior constructions were completed in 1930,
costing $45,000. The final touch of the hand, heart and mind of
pastor Miller to the temple in which he for so many years preached
a compelling gospel was given by the installation of a beautiful
memorial chancel with all its appropriate sacred appointments. On
the day of consecration, May 5, 1940, Bishop G. D. Batdorf consum­
mated this devoted endeavor by imposing dedicatory ceremonies.

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This church exceeds all others of the conference in supplying men for the ministry. Those who became members of annual conference are as follows: Felix Light, Casper Light, John Light, Henry Light, Jacob Doerkson, Rudolph Light, Jacob Snavely, Peter L. Zimmerman, Ephraim Light, Joseph F. Light, Ezekiel Light, G. D. A. Garman, John W. Boughter, Joel Light, Job Light, Jonas Knoll, Samuel B. Wengert, Harry E. Miller, Ira E. Albert, Samuel A. Rauch, Harry E. Schaeffer, Harry F. Boeshore, Harry F. Fertig, Harry C. Mark, Russel L. Shay, Ira Fornta, Alden G. Biely, Raymond G. Uhrich, Marvin Schell, James O. Bemesderfer, Paul A. Miller, Harry J. P. Himmelberger, and Samuel Bemesderfer. Quarterly conference license was also granted to Mark Light, Earl Tschudy, and Brunner Tschudy. Among those who received license as local preachers are: John Light, John Fees, Joseph Light, Tobias Kreider, Calvin V. Boger, Frank J. Heisey, Samuel Bemesderfer, J. Anson Wilhelm, and Richard P. Zimmerman.

Mrs. John F. Mussleman, Miss Susan Bachman, and Miss Mabel Beckley have gone forth as missionaries to foreign fields from this congregation.

Outstanding laymen who have given an excellent quality of service over extended periods of time, other than those already named, are as follows: William P. Kimmel, superintendent of the Primary School, forty years; John Adams, Sunday School teacher, 1894-1946, financial secretary, 1895-46, Junior Christian Endeavor superintendent forty-two years; Charles D. Kimmel, Sunday School chorister, 1906-1946; Harry Adams, secretary of the Seminar Bible Class, 1902-46; R. V. Schanbacher, secretary of official board, 1902-46. So far as Sunday School attendance is concerned, Aden Light had a record of perfect attendance over a period of fifty-eight years and six weeks. He entered into rest February 16, 1946. Church trustees not previously mentioned are: Abraham Herr, Amos Adams, Tobias Kreider, Jacob H. Light, Jacob Nye, George Bachman, Harry S. Burgner, Harry B. Dougherty, Charles Spahr, and Rank K. Donmoyer.

Thomas G. Spangler, Edward Strickler, and John Adams have been lay delegates of the annual conference to the General Conference.

Ministers appointed by annual conference to serve Lebanon First, or Salem Church from the time such appointments were first made until 1840 were those of Lancaster Circuit. While the Lebanon Church was a part of Lebanon Circuit, Jacob Rupp was its minister, 1840-41; and Philip Fry and Christian Peffley, 1841-42. John Light served the Lebanon-Annville charge, 1842-43. From 1843 onward, ministers appointed to Lebanon Salem were: John Light, 1843-45; Christian S. Crider, 1845-48; John A. Sand, 1848-51; Henry Schropp, 1851-54; George W. Hoffman, 1854-57; David Hoffman, 1857-60; John Stamm, W. J. Leacock, 1860-61; Andrew Steigerwalt, C. J. Burkert, John Stamm, 1861-62; Andrew Steigerwalt, D. A. Tawney, Ezekiel Light, 1862-63; J. B. Daugherty, L. W. Craumer, 1863-64; J. B. Daugherty, H. B. Winton, 1864-65; J. B. Daugherty, 1865-66; Jacob
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Lebanon Trinity Church

The German language was used almost exclusively in public worship by our brethren in Lebanon until about 1860. Not only in this county but throughout the entire conference, our denomination was to a degree handicapped by this restriction. The brethren of the Salem Church began to take note of the growing demand for preaching in the English language. Consequently a motion was passed at a quarterly held December 26, 1859 "that we form an English class, and that we make a request that Annual Conference give us an English Mission." The first part of this double motion was immediately carried into effect. The second part was delayed seven years. Annual conference appointed English speaking preachers over the period, 1860-1864, who served as assistants to the minister in charge. W. J. Leacock, C. J. Burkert, D. A. Tawney and H. B. Winton served in this capacity.

In 1865 H. B. Winton, Abraham Sherk, Cyrus Mutch, Jacob B. Rauch, and Felix H. Light were appointed trustees for a contemplated English church in Lebanon. Annual conference of the year 1866 placed on its list of charges Lebanon English Mission Station and assigned G. W. Miles Rigor to the work. In 1867 the Mission was named "Lebanon Trinity." At a quarterly conference held in Salem Church, August 8, 1866, attended by the officers of first and second churches, a committee consisting of one person from each of Salem’s eleven classes, was appointed to secure subscriptions to the amount of $5,300 for the erection of a house of worship for the new congregation.

Fifty-nine of Salem’s members, divided into two classes, constituted the nucleus for this new mission. From among its members, Josiah M. Gettle, Jacob B. Rauch, Felix H. Light, Abraham Sherk, and Daniel Weaver were elected a new board of trustees who, by deed dated April 1, 1867, purchased a lot on the northeast corner of Ninth and Willow Streets for the sum of $5,250. The cornerstone for the new structure was laid in July, the Reverend W. S. Keys officiating. In the spring of 1868 the lecture and class rooms of the church were finished, and formally dedicated by Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner; and on the 23rd day of May, 1869, during the session of General Conference which met in Salem Church, Bishop Jonathan Weaver preached the dedicatory sermon in the sanctuary or second floor of the new church. The following Sabbath, the balance needed to pay off the debt ($8,000) was secured in subscriptions, and Trinity Church was solemnly dedicated to Almighty God.
The Reverend Rigor appointed in 1866 remained with this congregation four years. During his pastorate the membership increased.
from 59 to 139, and the school enrollment reached 230 including officers and teachers. During the Reverend Daniel Eberly's pastorate, in 1874-75, a tower surmounted by a spire 157 feet high was constructed and the church otherwise improved. The presiding elder in his report to annual conference commented thus: “For symmetry, beauty, and convenience Trinity is unsurpassed by any house of worship among the United Brethren in Christ.” In 1885 the interior was badly damaged by fire which necessitated extensive repairs and complete redecoration. Seven years later the parsonage, which had been a part of the church plant from the beginning, was enlarged, and additional rooms for Sunday School use were provided. In 1900 the church and parsonage were again remodeled, a pavement, curb, and gutter were laid at an expense of $5,500. Two years later a large pipe organ was installed and its cost, plus some remaining debt, totaling $6,000, was paid.

Trinity congregation observed a Golden Jubilee Anniversary during the week of June 24 to July 1, 1917, with special services. Former pastors—Bishop C. J. Kephart, Dr. C. I. B. Brane, Associate Editor of the Religious Telescope, and the Reverend Z. A. Weidler shared in the sacred festivities of the occasion. The pastor, Dr. B. F. Daugherty, and the trustees, Asaph S. Light, John H. Fisher, John Hunsicker Sr., John H. Seltzer, and George B. Marquart constituted the committee on arrangements. The following year Mr. and Mrs. John Hunsicker Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. John Hunsicker Jr., presented the congregation with a new pipe organ in memory of Thomas Hunsicker. Its value was $4,800. Improvements costing $2,800 were made during the same year. Over the period 1924-27, renovations, reconstructions, and new furnishings cost $11,621.97. Additional property next to the parsonage was purchased in 1930.

When Trinity's 75th anniversary came around another celebration was held. The committee planning for it were: the Reverend M. H. Wert, pastor; and the trustees, J. Walter Esbenshade, John Hunsicker Jr., J. S. Bouder, and C. W. Rettew. Two charter members had the extreme pleasure of witnessing seventy-five years of congregational development: Mrs. George B. Marquart, aged ninety-two, and Harry Shay, aged eighty-seven. The latter found great delight in relating his experience of coming to Trinity Sunday School barefooted to ford the Quittapahilla Creek at Strickler's Mill on North Ninth Street. Mrs. Marquart was a teacher of a ladies' class for many years. A few weeks before the anniversary occasion she participated in a program of “The Friendly Circle Bible Class,” reciting several hymns which were sung in Trinity School when she was in her teens.

The Sunday School from its beginning has had some of the best facilities for effective instruction. It has always enjoyed the benefit of close organization and efficient supervision. Its general superintendents were: Asaph S. Light, George B. Marquart, Elmer E. McCurdy, John Hunsicker Sr., John H. Seltzer, Harvey Barnhart, C. A. Boyer, Samuel D. Clark, and Joseph S. Bouder.

Appreciation and rendition of the best type of sacred music has
been characteristic of Trinity Church. For the past forty years the choir has been very capably directed by John Hunsicker Jr. He was preceded in that role by Major H. P. Moyer. Ella Moyer, Lillian Burkey, George Grant, Mabel Walmer, and Marion Light are among those who have presided at the organ. In very recent years a junior choir has furnished some very fine music under the leadership of Mrs. S. D. Evans.

The Reverends S. L. Rhoads, and Bruce Souders, ordained elders of the conference, received their first license by vote of this congregation. The Honorable Elmer E. McCurdy and wife gave $1,000 as a memorial to apply on a chapel and school room at Santa Cruz, New Mexico. It became known as “The Edith M. McCurdy Mission Chapel” in honor of their deceased daughter.

More than one-fourth of this church’s history was made during one pastorate—that of the Reverend B. F. Daugherty, D. D., (1862-1944) who served from 1911 to 1934. By educational evangelism, preaching of sound doctrine, untiring visitation, and careful oversight of administrative affairs, he exercised an effective ministry. His two other pastorates were with Baltimore Fifth Church, 1891-94; and Harrisburg Otterbein, 1894-97. He was professor of Latin Language and Literature at Lebanon Valley College for a period of ten years. From 1906 to 1911 he was president of Westfield College, Illinois. He represented East Pennsylvania Annual Conference as delegate to the General Conferences of 1921 and 1929, and was a member of the general boards of Christian Education, and Church Trustees. Trinity Church prospered under his leadership and reveres his memory.

The complete list of pastors is as follows: G. W. Miles Rigor, 1866-70; W. S. H. Keys, 1870-74; Daniel Eberly, 1874-76; Lewis Peters, 1876-77; Lewis Peters, J. T. Shaffer, 1877-78; J. T. Shaffer, 1878-81; M. P. Doyle, 1881-85; J. W. Etter, 1885-89; C. J. Kephart, 1889-94; Z. A. Weidler, R. Rock, 1894-96; G. W. Miles Rigor, 1896-98; C. I. B. Brane, 1896-1906; S. E. Rupp, 1906-11; B. F. Daugherty, 1911-34; M. H. Wert, 1934-42; and M. G. Sponsler, 1942-46.

**Lebanon West, St. Paul’s Church**

The Reverend D. S. Longenecker, in the second year of his pastorate at Salem Church, opened an appointment at West Lebanon. A lot was purchased in the extreme western limits of the community on Lehman Street. On this lot a small frame chapel was erected whose cornerstone was laid on Sunday afternoon, December 18, 1886, by presiding elder Amos Graul and pastor Longenecker. On December 17 of the following year, the Reverend Longenecker reported to the quarterly conference that he

Commenced a revival at West Lebanon eight weeks ago which is still in progress, forty-nine penitents were at the altar of whom the greater part have professed conversion. I have organized a class of twenty-four members. The number will be increased in the near future. William Runkle has been elected class leader and John Gross steward. The Sunday
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School has so far been conducted by the superintendents and pastor of this church, but we expect to form a permanent organization on the first of January.

Later records show that D. H. Dillman was elected the first local superintendent of the Sunday School.

May 24, 1890, the official board of Salem Church voted to transfer the chapel and grounds to the trustees of St. Paul's: D. H. Dillman, D. W. Zeller, and John Gross. For this act of courtesy and generosity the above trustees, in behalf of the members of St. Paul's and of the West Lebanon community in general, expressed ardent thanks to Salem Church by special resolution passed at quarterly conference.

In 1893 the Reverend J. H. Mark became pastor. In 1894-95 he received eighty-one church members and the Sunday School reached an enrollment of 203. The building was renovated; and reopened September 8, 1894. The church had four prayer meeting classes, whose leaders were: the pastor, M. H. Miller, who later became a member of annual conference and minister at St. Paul's, F. R. Fertig, and William Templin. The members of brother Templin's class were under the watch care of the church. George Lengle, Jacob Frantz, Thomas Clark Sr., and William Templin were the class stewards, while Aaron Reed was the general steward.

During the Reverend H. E. Miller's pastorate, in 1898, an eighteen foot annex and a tower were erected, and the entire building renovated, at a cost of $1,168.19. A Junior Christian Endeavor and a Woman's Missionary Association were organized during the Reverend C. E. Bougher's term, and an Intermediate Society under the Reverend Mark G. Holtzman. Gideon R. Blough was granted quarterly license to preach the gospel on December 14, 1910, and P. B. Gibble, student pastor at St. Paul's, was recommended for annual license April 14, 1913.

St. Paul's is the only church in a community of more than a thousand people, consequently it has always had a large Sunday School constituency. For years the building was inadequate to properly house the School and it was not advisable to renovate or enlarge it. Steps were therefore taken in the fall of 1932 to erect a new one. The trustees, Cyrus Gross, Charles Lilly, Raymond Miller, William Carmany, and Levi Houtz, together with the pastor, were constituted a building committee. David S. Funk of Palmyra, member of Campbeltown Church, was appointed an advisory member of the committee and given supervision of the building project. Architectural plans having been completed and financial arrangements having been made, ground-breaking ceremonies were held April 9, 1933.

The cornerstone was laid June 25th. The new brick structure, well adapted for worship and graded Sunday School instruction, was dedicated by Bishop G. D. Batdorf, November 26, 1933. The Reverend H. E. Miller, and Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, also had part in the day's services. The building cost $20,218.06. Within two years after completion the building was severely jolted by an
explosion of a large quantity of powder stored for quarrying operations, about a half mile to the west. The repair bill amounted to $500, half of which amount was covered by the Powder Company’s insurance.

The Reverend E. E. Bender (1881-1944) was minister of the church when this building was erected. It was largely due to his boundless energy that the work was begun and completed. He began his work as a minister in 1910, having previously given some years to teaching in the public schools. His ministry came to a close at St. Paul’s March 7, 1944, when he was unexpectedly called to his eternal reward.

David H. Dillman, Sunday School superintendent, teacher, trustee, secretary of the quarterly conference, and lay delegate to annual conference, gave strong lay-leadership to this congregation from the time of its organization until his death, January 31, 1921. In addition to lay members serving in several official capacities above mentioned, Mrs. George Lengle, Misses Anna and Fannie Gingrich, Mr. and Mrs. William Donley, Augustus Miller, Augustus Becker, are among those who have given long and faithful service. William Donley, Jacob Frantz, Wilson Haag, and Warren Clemens composed a quartet which sang the praises of God to the delight of many.

Three names for this church appear on annual conference minutes: Lebanon Fourth, St. Paul’s, and West Lebanon. In recent years West Lebanon is most frequently used. Its connection with charges and the ministers appointed is as follows: Lebanon Salem, D. S. Longenecker, 1886-88; Lebanon Circuit, F. H. Ruloff, 1886-89; West Lebanon, L. W. Craumer, 1889-90; West Lebanon and Memorial, 1890-93; Amos Graul, 1890-92, Samuel Etter Jr., 1892-93; West Lebanon, 1893-1901, J. H. Mark, 1893-95, Uriah Gambler, 1895-97; H. E. Miller, 1897-99; C. E. Boughter, 1899-1901; West Lebanon and Pleasant Hill, Jacob Runk, 1901-03; West Lebanon, J. Warren Kauffman,
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Lemberger’s Emanuel Church, East Hanover Township

Aaron Albert and wife Mary of East Hanover Township granted one acre of ground for the nominal sum of one dollar, in the year 1879, to Ephraim Burgner, David Hetrich, and Michael Houser, trustees, for the erection of a church. It was erected in 1880 and named after the Lemberger family, of whom Lyon Lemberger lived nearby. The Rev. Benjamin K. Keck was minister of the Bellegrove circuit to which the class was attached when organized and the building erected. Its location is just beyond the western limits of the Indian-town Gap Military Reservation.

During the summer of 1919, improvements and repairs were made costing $2,000. These consisted of new oak pews, new carpet, and repainting. The pastor, the Rev. George Hess was in charge of special services of reopening. On Saturday night, July 28, Dr. H. E. Miller was the guest preacher, and on the Sabbath following, Dr. S. C. Enck preached at the morning hour of worship and the Rev. M. H. Jones in the evening.

Albert Mickey is the Sunday School superintendent. The trustees are, Lee Mickey, Aaron Rhoad, A. L. Behney, Norman Books, and David Hauser. At the close of the conference year 1945-46, there is a membership roll of fifty-four members, and the Sunday School reports an average attendance of forty. Drs. H. F. Rhoad and E. M. Rhoad received quarterly conference licenses by vote of the Lemberger’s class.

The church has been affiliated with the following circuits: Belle-grove, 1779-1882; Jonestown, 1882-87; Fishing Creek, 1887-88; Jonestown, 1888-99; Bellegrove 1899-1901; Grantville, 1901-03; Lickdale, 1903-06; Grantville, 1906-34; and Lickdale, 1934-46.

Lickdale Grace Church

John Binkley, pastor of Bellegrove Circuit, in the year 1869 organized a class known as “Union Forge Class,” Union Forge being the name at the time of the village now named Lickdale. During one year only, 1869-70, does the name of this class appear on quarterly conference records. The name of Henry Bohn is listed as its steward and he reported certain sums of money as contributions to the pastor’s salary. The close proximity of Union Salem and Monroe Valley classes probably accounts for the brief existence of the Union Forge class. In time, however, the center of the larger
population and the location of a site along a more traveled route won out over its contemporary rivals, in the establishing of a permanent work.

F. J. Butterwick with the support of a few loyal brethren—"by dint of hard effort against internal prejudice and opposition," so the presiding elder reports, succeeded in organizing a class and in erecting a church building. The building was dedicated in the month of September in the year 1901. E. E. Arnold, J. G. Bohn, and A. W. Donmoyer constituted its first board of trustees. Members of the board at present are, Herbert Yost, Mrs. Bertha Soliday, Robert Weirich, Mrs. John E. Harnley; and Margaret Groh who also, since 1929, has been superintendent of the Sunday School.

The church has been attached to the following circuits: Bellegrove, 1901-03; Lickdale, 1903-06; Grantville, (Dauphin County), 1906-07, Jonestown, 1907-22; and Lickdale, 1922-46.

**Mountville Church.** Swatara Township

The Mountville Church, earlier known as "Black Oak Hill Church," located along the old Lebanon-Jonestown Road about two miles south of the latter town, was erected in 1863. Prior to that the class held services over a period of about ten years in a schoolhouse which stood a few rods north of the present edifice. David Light, son of Peter Light, donated land for the building but never gave a deed for the same. Through the courtesy of Mr. Light's heirs, the church trustees secured proper title in 1940. Henry Light, Andrew Boltz and John Light were appointed trustees for the "Mount-
ville Meeting House,” February 13, 1864. Henry Light, Benjamin Boltz, George Emrich, and Joseph Koons were its early class leaders. S. W. Gelbach was first elected in 1897, and with the exception of two years, due to illness in his family, held this office until the present, Miles Light taking his place during those two years. Class stewards serving in the early years were: David Light, Charles Lantz, Amos Fox, Adam H. Light, Josiah Moyer, and Henry Sholly.

The Sunday School, at first holding sessions during the summer months only, was organized while the class met in the schoolhouse. Isaac Koons, John Meily, George Feaser, Isaac Gingrich, Thomas W. Runkle, W. O. Sholly, and John F. Smith have been its general superintendents. The Missionary Society was first organized during the ministry of the Rev. P. M. Holdeman. (It was reorganized, March 18, 1917, with twenty-three members.) Mrs. John F. Smith was its first president, and Mrs. M. C. Winters heads the organization at present.

There have been several additional acquisitions of property. In 1928 eighteen perches of land for parking space were purchased for the sum of $280. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meily donated eight perches and 156 square feet for a drive and additional parking area, in 1940. The old cemetery lot, originally the property of the Evangelical Association was deeded to the United Brethren in the same year. Anticipating transfer of title, a cemetery trustee board consisting of John Darkes, Walter Meily, Martin Meily, Harry Emrich, and Mason Koons, was organized in 1936.

The original structure was extensively remodeled and enlarged in 1940. A sixteen by forty foot addition including tower, was erected, the corner stone being laid with appropriate exercises by Dr. S. C. Enck, on July 29th. Remodelings consisted of facing the front with brick, placing of a new slate roof, constructing a room as a partial second story in the south gable, and decoration of the sanctuary. New equipment installed consisted of furnace, electric lights, chairs, pews, carpet, chancel furniture, and purchase of a piano and hymn books. Expenditures amounted to $8,182.74 in money, and many hours of labor by members were donated. A week of elaborate services marked the reopening, and on the Sabbath following, December 1, Dr. Enck rededicated the house of worship. The Rev. C. R. Swartz, pastor, was chairman of the committee which carried forward this work and he had associated with him, Thomas W. Runkle, John F. Smith, M. C. Winters, Robert Heisey; and John W. Darkes, the builder.

John Light, trustee and class leader over a long period, was also a local preacher. Isaac B. Koons received quarterly license by vote of the Mountville class in 1885. The Reverend Koons was in the active work of the ministry, with the exception of ten years, from 1886 to 1931, and served the following circuits: Lehigh, Northampton, Sinking Springs, Grantville, Bellegrove and Lickdale. He was the last of conference preachers to possess a good command of the German language, and because of this he had many calls from our
own and other denominations to preach in German on special occasions. His gift in the use of pointed illustrations was remarkable, and his interchanging employment of humor and pathos greatly moved his audiences.

The Mountville Church has been affiliated with the following Circuits: Lebanon, 1850-1863; Bellegrove, 1863-1871; Jonestown, 1871-82; Lebanon, 1882-1903; and Bellegrove, 1903-46.

Myerstown Church

The Rev. Samuel Enterline, while pastor of Lebanon Circuit, after several unsuccessful attempts to secure a preaching appointment in a home in Myerstown, finally decided, in the spring of 1843, to preach at the village crossroad. At the close of the service Mr. John Daniels, who was somewhat under the influence of strong drink, invited the minister to preach at his house on his next visit to the community. The invitation was accepted, and on April 25, 1843, the Reverend Enterline preached at Mr. Daniel's house and stayed with Daniel Myers for the night. During the night the preacher was sent for by Mr. and Mrs. John Myers, whom he found in deep distress on account of conviction of sin. Before morning both were happily converted and became the firstfruits of United Brethren preaching at Myerstown.

In a revival service which followed at the home of the John Myers family, about thirty persons were converted, among whom was this same Mr. Daniels who was the first to open his home to the itinerant preacher. A class was organized on October 13 of that year, consisting of John and Sarah Myers, Daniel and Catharine Myers, Daniel Myers Jr., Susan B. Myers, Jonas and Nancy Eckert, John and Anna Mary Daniels, Nicholas and Catharine Eckert, and Catharine Gamble.

During the following year the class decided to erect a house of worship. A lot fronting 60 feet on South Cherry Street with a depth of 180 feet was sold to the trustees, John Myers, John Daniels, and Jonas Eckert, by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Myers for the consideration of fifty dollars which amount they returned to the trustees as their donation toward the expense of erecting a church. A one-story structure was erected thereon in 1844. Four years later when the church was attached to Lebanon Salem Church, the trustees were, Daniel Myers, J. Zinn, and G. Lindemuth.

The stone building served the congregation until 1869 when a lot of ground located on East Main Street, known as the "Wolf Plot" was purchased and a two-story brick church was erected. Plans called for a building 40 by 70 feet, which, when completed, cost $8,000. This represented quite a large expenditure for our people in those days. George Zeller, a member of the Mt. Aetna church, made a pledge of $1,800 and Christian Groh, class leader of the local congregation pledged a like amount. Other members and friends of the church supported the enterprise so generously that the church could be dedicated free of debt. The building committee included the pastor, Rev. L. W. Craumer, Benjamin Artz, and
Christian Groh. The old church lot was sold for $400. Bishop J. J. Glossbrenner laid the cornerstone early in the spring of 1869 and dedicated the church January 1, 1870.

Rather numerous alterations and additions have been made to this house of worship. In 1902 a small chapel, 20 x 30 feet in size
was built adjoining the main building on its west for use as a Junior room and Christian Endeavor Society meetings, and the entire interior of the original was redecorated. A pipe organ, the gift of Andrew Carnegie, Isaac B. and Mary Haak, and the Rev. A. M. Blecher family, was installed in 1905. Its value plus extensive improvements made at the time represented an increase of property value of $4,800. Six years later the former small chapel was replaced by a larger one, 47 by 50 feet, with galleries and other facilities for Sunday School work, at a cost of $10,176.27.

In a comparatively short time further reconstructions and better physical equipment seemed advisable. Consequently a new slate roof was placed on the building in 1928. In August of the same year a committee consisting of Edgar M. Landis, Elmer L. Haak, John D. Ebling, Harry L. Lehman, Harry K. Zinn and John H. Schell, was appointed and authorized to proceed with the work of a general remodeling. Pastor D. E. Long, though not named on this committee, in his characteristic masterful way of working behind the scenes, had much to do in launching and bringing to a successful completion the following: enlarging, rebuilding, and relocating of pipe organ, changing choir loft, rebuilding stairways, changing method of opening the art windows, placing new ceiling in the auditorium, new chairs in the chapel, new indirect lighting system, new carpet, new pulpit furniture, refinishing of interior woodwork, and refreshing of walls. A week of reopening services began on July 7, and closed on July 14, 1929. Bishop G. D. Batdorf, Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent, and former pastors, Doctors I. M. Hershey, O. L. Mease, and H. E. Miller; were guest preachers during the week, and Prof. Harry Wilhelm, a local musician, gave an organ recital.

This enterprise cost the congregation $20,000. By excellent cooperation on the part of individuals and church organizations during the remodeling and on annual ingathering occasions, the church debt was paid by 1937.

The congregation's first parsonage was a house adjacent to the church on the west. This was renovated in 1903. A new vapor heating system with automatic control was installed in 1929. It was replaced by a fuel oil heating plant in 1941, costing $604. In 1942, the Isaac B. Haak dwelling located directly east of the church was purchased for the sum of $5,550, and renovations were subsequently made costing $3,800. This exceptionally fine manse occupied by the present pastor, the Rev. C. R. Longenecker and wife, was dedicated by Dr. Enck on April 19, 1942.

The Myerstown Church in its spiritual and material progress has had the loyal support of many devoted lay members. Among those more widely known were Mr. and Mrs. Isaac B. Haak. Mrs. Haak was a great worker in the local church, and was the first treasurer of the East German Conference Branch, a position which she held over a period of thirty-six years, including the years serving in East Pennsylvania Branch. Mr. Haak held many positions of trust in the local church and in annual conference organization. His contribu-

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tions to special local projects stimulated others to larger giving. He represented East German Conference as a lay delegate to the General Conference sessions of 1893 and 1901. A memorial tablet, in recognition of the devotion and work of these two servants of God, was placed in the church sanctuary at Myerstown in 1920.


From 1844 to 1849 the Myerstown church was attached to Lebanon Salem Church, and its ministers were: John Light, 1844-45; Christian S. Crider, 1845-48, and John A. Sand, 1848-49. In 1849 a new charge, the third to be organized in Lebanon County, was created of classes and churches in the eastern end of the county, and named for this church—“Myerstown Circuit.” Ministers serving the Myerstown Church from that year to the present are: Jacob Roop, 1849-50; Solomon VonNieda, 1850-52; G. A. Mark Sr., 1852-54; Christian Peffley and Christian Siegrist, 1854-55; Henry Schropp, 1855-56; David Moyer, 1856-59; Andrew Steigerwalt and Ephraim Light, 1859-60; David Hoffman, 1860-61; James G. Fritz, 1861-63; Andrew Steigerwalt, 1863-64; Lewis Fleisher, 1864-67; L. W. Craumer, 1867-71; H. E. Hackman, 1871-72; J. W. Kunkel, 1872-74; Simon Noll, 1874-75; J. H. Unger, 1875-76; S. V. Mohn, 1876-78; Job Light, 1878-81; Jacob H. Mark, 1881-83; M. J. Heberly, 1883-85; Jacob P. Smith, 1885-89; D. S. Longenecker, 1889-92; Charles Bauer, 1892-93; J. A. Keiper, 1893-1901; A. H. Souillard, 1901-02; A. H. Souillard, H. E. Miller, 1902-03; H. E. Miller, 1903-04; J. R. Meredith, I. M. Hershey, 1904-05; I. M. Hershey, 1905-08; D. S. Eshleman, 1908-09; Joseph Daugherty, 1909-12; O. L. Mease, 1912-16; I. M. Hershey, 1916-25; D. E. Long, 1925-29; I. N. Seldomridge, 1929-39; and C. R. Longenecker, 1939-46.

Ono Church

“Union Church, Built, 1850,” is the inscription on a stone in the north gable of a small brick church which stands on the main street in the village of Ono, East Hanover Township. Its earlier name, "Mt. Nebo," clung to the village and church many years after "Ono" became the name of the Post Office located there. The Mt. Nebo class had representatives attending the Lebanon Quarterly Conference as early as 1849. Frederick Schaffner was its first class leader. Moses Boger, D. Kauffman, W. Fritz, David Wentling, David Brown, Samuel Sherk, George Behney, Josiah Brown, and John Seltzer were among the early class leaders and stewards.
Ono Church

Schaefferstown Church

The United Brethren, The Evangelical Association, and several other denominations held services in the Union Church many years. The Evangelicals erected their own chapel in 1870. From 1871 onward for some years Michael Houser was a trustee for the Union Church representing the United Brethren. Class leaders and stewards from 1871 to 1876 were Henry Anspach, Henry Neidig, Solomon Kuntz, Michael Miller, J. Okum, Michael Houser, Philip Schaeffer, David Hetrich, and S. B. Smith.

At a quarterly conference of the Jonestown Circuit held August 19, 1915, plans were submitted for the erection of a new church. A lot had previously been purchased by the United Brethren, located a short distance west of the union house. The trustees, George A. Behney, Levi Winters, Grant Emrich, Josiah Seabolt, and George Sherk were authorized to proceed with the work of construction. A frame structure, costing $6,000 was dedicated May 20, 1916 by Dr. D. D. Lowery. Ten years later this building was repainted on the exterior and interior and a new carpet was placed at a cost of $806.

Two trustees in office when the church was built, viz.; George Sherk and Grant Emrich, still serve in that capacity, and those serving with them over the period were H. C. Shuey, William Shuey, Simon Boltz, and Benjamin Boyer. Warren Emrich and Frank Miller are among those who were superintendents of the Sunday School. Mrs. Grant Emrich is president of the Ladies' Aid and Mrs. Warren Emrich is its treasurer. The Christian Endeavor Society president is Edward Steiner, and Henry Shuey is treasurer.

The class from its beginning was attached to the Lebanon Circuit until 1862. Since that year it has formed part of the following circuits: Jonestown, 1862-69; Harrisburg Circuit, 1869-73; Grantville Circuit, 1873-77; Jonestown Circuit, 1877-79; Bellegrove Circuit, 1879-82; Jonestown Circuit, 1882-89; Bellegrove Circuit, 1889-93; Lickdale Circuit, 1903-06; Jonestown Circuit, 1906-07; Grantville Circuit, 1907-22; and Jonestown Circuit, 1922-46.

Palmyra First Church

The Landmark History of the United Brethren Church in a brief
The account of the church at Palmyra states: “In the year 1843 Rev. Simon Noll preached in a house near the toll-gate.” The toll house was one of a small number of houses and shops which stood beyond Palmyra’s western crossroad in Dauphin County—a community which bore the name, “Mechanicsburg.” The Rev. Noll in 1843 was serving the Dauphin Circuit. The village of Palmyra proper at that time consisted of scattered residences and shops standing along the main east and west thoroughfare, between the said crossroad on the west and another on the east now the intersection of Railroad and Main Streets. There are indications that United Brethren adherents residing in Palmyra attended the Gravel Hill Church prior to the organization of the town class, which took place in about the year 1853. Officers of the Palmyra class listed in quarterly conference records from 1853 to 1872 are: Jacob Miller, J. W. Miller, G. W. Miller, George Segner, Benjamin Fishburn, John Risser, Isaac K. Hoffman, and Israel Gruber.

By 1870 the congregation had increased sufficiently to undertake erection of a church building. At a quarterly held in the Mountville Church, October 22, 1870, John Gruber, Isaac K. Hoffman, and Daniel Funk were elected trustees for a church to be built in Palmyra. A faded, fragile document which had lodged in the cornerstone of the first church building for sixty years states that these three trustees met at the house of Daniel Funk in Palmyra, November 2, 1870, and made detailed plans for the erection of a frame building, 33 x 46 feet in size. A lot, fronting fifty feet on the south side of Main Street and extending approximately 320 feet in depth, was purchased at a cost of $300. Work of construction was begun immediately and the cornerstone was laid in January 1871. The house of God was dedicated to sacred worship by Bishop David Edwards May 21, 1871. The Rev. John Binkley, minister of the circuit was in charge of the dedicatory services, and Revs. David Strickler and Nehemiah Altmann were also present.

Another document taken from the old cornerstone shows that more than 400 persons subscribed, or made payments in cash, to the building fund, amounting to $2,492.63. The subscription list is made up of names of persons who lived in the Palmyra community, and of members representing every class on the twelve-point Bellegrove Circuit scattered from Palmyra to Fredericksburg.

The “Little White Church,” as it was known by the people of Palmyra served the needs of the congregation until the year 1899. The village had developed into an enterprising town. In the year 1897 the Rev. J. R. Blecher was appointed to the Bellegrove Circuit now reduced to four churches, of which Palmyra Church was one. Under his energetic ministry the congregation grew rapidly and a new church was erected on a new site. On the northeast corner of West Main and College Streets stood a brick building known as “Witmer’s Academy.” This property costing $3,000 was purchased April 4, 1899. The Academy building was razed and a brick church with parsonage attached were erected at a cost of $16,072.87. The cornerstone was laid July 2, 1899. The completed structure was
THE CHURCHES OF LEBANON COUNTY

dedicated, April 22, 1900, with an unusual array of speakers present: Bishop J. W. Hott delivered the sermon at the morning service, Dr. Wm. M. Bell, general missionary secretary preached in the afternoon, Dr. H. U. Roop, president of Lebanon Valley College addressed the Young People's meeting at six o'clock, and at seven o'clock the closing and dedicatory services were conducted by Bishop E. B. Kephart, who preached a powerful sermon. The trustee board consisting of Elias Hartz, S. F. Engle, A. L. Lessley, A. G. Stauffer, and Charles Benson, constituted the building committee.

Erection of the second church edifice was quite as much of a venture as that of the first. Some within the congregation were faint of heart, and from without there were those who said it would not be long until there was a sheriff's sale. Fortunately the prophets of ill omen turned out to be false prophets. The congregation continued to make progress spiritually and numerically and time proved that the trustees and pastor had acted wisely in building adequately. Annual conference of the year 1904 constituted Palmyra Church a charge, and from 1911 onward it has been designated as "Palmyra First Church" on conference records.

In the period 1910-38, numerous alterations were made to the building. Originally a partition separated the church sanctuary and the Sunday School auditorium. This was removed in 1910. During the same year a pipe organ was installed, and the church refrescoed—total expenditure was $5,500. In 1916 a large balcony was
constructed at the north end, the basement was excavated and fitted out for social and Sunday School purposes. These, together with other renovations and improvements, cost $8,400. A new Moller Pipe Organ was purchased in 1922. Cost of organ, installation, some redecorating, and work on the heating plant, brought the amount of expenditures to the sum of $6,410.97. The organ was dedicated by Dr. S. C. Enck, October 29, 1922.

In 1927 the pastor's family vacated the parsonage so that it might be used by the elementary grades of the Sunday School. After the rooms, as originally built, were used for several months by these grades, work was begun on reconstruction. While this work was going forward there was a remodeling of the main Sunday School quarters. The church pews under the north gallery were removed, the space was laid out in three class rooms for Young People's classes separated by sound-proof curtains, and new sectional chairs were placed. At the same time also a new furnace was installed. The cost of reconstruction and new equipment was $4,300. The work was completed by March 25, 1928, when the rooms were consecrated.

An additional plot of ground, having a frontage on North College Street of 138 feet and extending along North Street a depth of 200 feet, was purchased in 1930. It provided ample space for a parsonage and garage, and a parking lot. The new parsonage, constructed of Watsontown red brick, strictly Colonial in architecture, garage, landscaping, and lot, cost a total of $17,771.63. The building committee consisted of J. R. Engle, W. E. Kreider, E. M. Baum, H. R. Seltzer, and M. M. Moyer. Dr. Enck dedicated the parsonage December 14, 1930, and in his report to annual conference at its 1931 session he made the following statement: "Rev. P. B. Gibble, pastor of the congregation had charge of the services. This is one of the best equipped parsonages in the conference and is a credit and an asset to the congregation as well as the conference."

The most general remodeling and improving of the building since its erection were undertaken in 1937-38. This included the following: reconstructed steps to the main entrance, new two-story vestibule with stairway, removal of cumbersome arches, and supporting pillar which had stood almost in the center of the sanctuary since removal of the main interior partition in 1910, covering of walls and ceiling with weather-wood in blending colors, erecting of a new chancel having seating room for a choir of thirty-six, refinishing of woodwork throughout and of church furniture, constructing new windows at the north balcony, placing glass shields for all windows, new carpet, new radiator covers, and new ornamental lanterns. The expense incurred was $18,449.34. Sunday, November 20, 1938 was reopening day, with Dr. S. C. Enck, conference superintendent preaching the sermon. Bishop G. D. Batdorf preached the sermon and rededicated the building at the morning hour of worship on the following Sunday.

Sunday School work at the Palmyra Church began in 1873. In
the years immediately following, sessions were held only periodically, and growth was slow. In 1885 Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Engle and family moved to Palmyra. The parents were immediately brought into the work of the church under the ministry of the Rev. Peter L. Hains. Their contributions of time, money and talents, proved to be a tower of strength to the struggling congregation. The Sunday School, of which Mr. Engle was general superintendent from 1885 to 1916, showed an increase in attendance of a few score persons to an enrollment of 829 during the period. Mr. M. M. Moyer was elected superintendent upon Mr. Engle's death in 1916, and has retained that office to the present. Theodore E. Lerch has been secretary of the School since 1904. About the same year, H. R. Seltzer, John A. Detweiler, and W. E. Kreider began to teach, and have continued to the present.

The women of Palmyra First organized a Women's Missionary Society while the church was still attached to Bellegrove Circuit. Mrs. John R. Kelchner was its first president. Others serving as head of this organization were: Mrs. M. H. Jones, Mrs. Sarah Hartz, Mrs. Edward Stopfel, Mrs. Hilda Erb Kreider, Mrs. Nelle M. Engle, Mrs. Emanuel M. Baum, Mrs. Charles P. Evans, Mrs. William E. Kreider, and Mrs. Elizabeth Spitler. The present officers of the Society are: Mrs. Ray A. Brehm, Mrs. Robert E. Hartz, Mrs. Harry B. Gingrich, Mrs. James Nelson, Mrs. William K. Bowman, Mrs. Allen Evans, Mrs. Harry Daubert, Mrs. P. B. Gibble, Mrs. Ammon E. Frye, and Mrs. LeRoy B. Yeatts Sr.

Special Missionary support has been provided by the Sunday School for Mrs. J. Hal Smith and Mrs. Charles W. Leader engaged in the foreign field; and Mrs. Nelle M. Engle in home mission work. Mrs. Engle, a member of the local society, served twenty-three years as secretary of the East Pennsylvania Conference Branch, and three years as its president. She has also been a member of our denominational Women's Board. Before taking up work with the Home Mission Board in its offices at Dayton, Ohio, she gave a brief period of service as one of the staff of workers in New Mexico.

have held the office of president of the Lebanon County Christian Endeavor Union. Those who have given long-time service, not previously mentioned are: Charles S. Noll, member of the Choir since 1903; Ray A. Brehm, financial secretary since 1919; H. R. Seltzer, secretary of the quarterly conference since 1915, and H. S. Heilman as chief usher since 1908.

Palmyra Church was attached to the following circuits: Lebanon, 1853-60; Hummelstown, 1860-61; Lebanon, 1861-63; Bellegrove, 1864-74; Union Deposit, 1874-89; Bellegrove, 1889-98. Pastors since 1885 have been: P. L. Hains, 1885-87; H. W. Zimmerman, 1887-91; Gottlieb Myer, 1891-93; C. S. Miller, 1893-94; M. H. Jones, 1894-97; J. R. Blecher, 1897-1901; R. R. Butterwick, 1901-06; C. A. Mutch, 1906-08; J. M. Walters, 1908-10; E. O. Burtner, 1910-23; and P. B. Gibble, 1923-46. Harold E. Beamesderfer was assistant, June-September, 1946.

**Palmyra, Second Church**

On an eminence of ground which commands an unobstructed view of a beautiful countryside stands the church which when first mentioned in boundary committee reports, was named “Zion’s Church on Gravel Hill.” Sometimes, in those early days, it was spoken of as “Landis’ Meetinghouse,” for the two-fold reason that it stood on land in possession of a member of the Landis family, and that, he was one of its founders. Henry Landis Jr. (1794-1855) married to Elizabeth Longenecker, was a local preacher of the class, and son of Henry Landis (1764-1844), who was preacher for the Mennonites. Henry Jr. conveyed to Jacob Bowman, David Heilman, and Jacob Rupp, trustees “for the congregation styled the United Brethren in Christ,” sixty square perches of land for the consideration of five dollars.

The following brethren were trustees over the period, 1855-72: John Kratzer, Samuel Bomgardner, Henry Landis, George A. Mark Sr., Henry Walmer, David Heilman, Samuel Miller, Samuel Etter, Jacob Fornwalt, John Stucky, and David Wilhelm. Stewards and class leaders over the same period were: Samuel Robb, H. Nye, E. Sanders, Abraham Berry, Solomon Boyer, Jacob Fornwalt, and Joseph Achenbach.

Sixty-three names compose the church membership roll at the close of the year 1887. In 1904, when Gravel Hill Church was detached from the town class, the membership numbered eighty-five. In the fall of that year the Rev. H. W. Trautman became pastor of the circuit, and under his preaching there was a great revival which gave new life and increase to the congregation. The little church proved inadequate and in its stead a new brick sanctuary was erected on the site of the old one, at a cost of $10,000. It was dedicated, May 20, 1906.

At annual conference session in the fall of 1911 the congregation became a separate charge. It was then that the church was named Palmyra Second Church. When the first structure was erected it
stood a full mile from the town's center of population. As time went on the farm lands between the town and the church on the hill were laid out in building lots. People locating on these new developments constitute the majority of the church's constituents, though it continues to minister to the spiritual needs of the rural area which from the beginning of its existence has been its field.

A feature of the sixth anniversary of the erection of the second building was the burning of a mortgage. A year later the Men's Bible Class constructed a walk from the Borough boundary to the church property and erected electric lights along the walk. A town lot was purchased at the corner of North Railroad and Poplar streets, and a brick parsonage and a two-car garage erected thereon in the year 1921-22, at a cost of approximately $11,000. This modern, spacious manse, was dedicated by Bishop Wm. M. Bell, May 21, 1922.

Palmyra Second Church has one distinction above all congregations of which we have knowledge. Since the conference year 1922-23 its benevolent apportionment set by annual conference has always been paid in full during the first month of a new conference year. In the same year a living-link missionary relationship was established. Representatives in the foreign fields have been, Miss Grace Renn, Mrs. C. E. Burris, Miss Angie Aiken, and Mrs. Edna Shutz.

More adequate quarters for the Children's Division of the Sunday School were provided by excavating and furnishing a basement under the church building. The first part of this project was accomplished by labor donated by the men of the church and an outlay of $1,166.68 in money. Consecration services were held January 22, 1928. The second phase of this enlargement cost $2,188.65, and the added rooms were dedicated October 27, 1934.

During the fourteen years of the Rev. A. G. Nye's pastorate other forward steps were taken. In 1929 all windows at the church building were made weather-proof by the placing of storm windows. In 1935-36 the sanctuary was redecorated, and other improvements made to the exterior and the interior, all at a cost of $1,250. Dr. W. A. Wilt preached the sermon on the reopening occasion, March 22, 1936. A new Hammond Electric Organ was installed at a cost of $1,420 and dedicated to sacred use by Dr. H. E. Miller, May 15, 1936.

Both the Seventy-fifth and the One Hundredth anniversaries were appropriately observed. To properly record its 100 years of service in the Master's Name, an historical pamphlet was printed and generously distributed. Former pastors, A. G. Nye, C. R. Longenecker, M. V. Fridinger, and neighboring ministers had a place on the program during week-night services, May 15 to 17, 1946. On Sunday, May 19, Dr. D. E. Young, conference superintendent, was the guest preacher at the morning hour of worship, and Dr. S. C. Enck, superintendent emeritus, was the evening speaker. The Rev. Calvin H. Reber Jr., serving this parish during the interim
of his missionary labors due to the world conflict, directed the special services and also prepared the historical sketch.

The congregation has both a church trustee board and a parsonage board. Members of the former are: Herman J. Grubb, W. H. Laudermilch, John D. Rhine, Cyrus Ellenberger, and William C. Noll; members of the parsonage board are: David J. Peffley, Edwin F. Cassel, W. D. Phillip, James Bowman, and William C. Noll. Other members of the official family are: Charles A. Clark, Eugene G. Lutz, Mrs. Alice Seltzer, Mrs. Martha Bomberger, Miss Mary Wert, Miss Estella Ellenberger, Mrs. Lucille Strohman, Miss Fern Smith, Mrs. John D. Rhine, Mrs. Esther Yost, Miss Esther Wert, Miss Christine Unger, Walter M. Fox, George C. Winters, and Mr. A. D. Gruber. Harry K. Bomberger was for many years superintendent of the Sunday School and lay delegate to annual conference. Edwin F. Cassel succeeded Mr. Bomberger in taking over both these responsibilities and has continued in them to the present.

The Rev. Allen G. Nye who has the distinction of Palmyra Second's longest pastorate was formerly a lay member of the congregation and Sunday School superintendent. Before answering the call to the Gospel ministry he taught nine terms in the public schools of Lebanon County. He was a member of Shirk's Church in 1893 when he was granted quarterly conference license, and in the same year he with his family moved to Palmyra. He was present at the Sunday School session held in the town church on the Sunday he was elected superintendent of the Gravel Hill School. In 1894 he was voted membership in annual conference and in the prescribed time of three years completed the study course and subsequently was ordained. From 1894 onward to 1942 he served with eminent success, without break, churches of this conference. Since retirement in 1942 he supplied, for brief periods, congregations at Hershey, Lykens, Littitz, and Lebanon Salem Churches.

Ministers appointed to the following circuits served this congregation: Lebanon, 1846-56; Hummelstown, 1856-59; Lebanon, 1859-60; Hummelstown, 1860-61; Lebanon, 1861-63; Bellegrove, 1863-69; Union Deposit, 1869-71; Bellegrove, 1871-74; Union Deposit, 1874-89; Bellegrove, 1889-98; Gravel Hill and Palmyra First, 1898-1904; Grantville, 1904-06; and Hershey, 1906-11. Since being constituted a charge in 1911, its ministers have been: Amos Lehman, 1911-15; C. R. Longenecker, 1915-20; S. L. Rhoads, 1920-25; M. V. Fridinger, 1925-28; A. G. Nye, 1928-42; M. H. Wert, Calvin H. Reber Jr., 1942-43; and Calvin H. Reber Jr., 1943-46.

Rocherty, Otterbein Church, North Cornwall Township

Some religiously minded citizens of the Rocherty community, which is located about two miles southwest of Lebanon City, felt the need of a house of worship for their community. With this object in view, and without any particular denominational organization, Samuel Boughter, Amos Tittle, and Jacob Shirk bought a lot
from Conrad Miller at a cost of $75. The Rev. John W. Boughter, who served the Lancaster Circuit in the year 1889-1890, extended his ministry to Rocherty. During that year a small stone church was erected. The cornerstone was laid August 31, and dedicatory services were appointed for the Sabbath of October 19 next ensuing. From mention of these events by the presiding elder in his annual report, it appears that the United Brethren, though yet without an organization, were the recognized owners of the property.

Annual conference session of 1890 attached Rocherty appointment to Schaefferstown Circuit and the Rev. H. M. Miller became its minister. On his first Sunday night service at Rocherty he organized a class of members consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Boughter Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Boughter Jr., and George Shires. Revival services were opened soon thereafter which continued for a period of seventeen weeks and resulted in sixty-nine conversions, having on one of the evenings thirty-two penitents at the altar.

The building as originally constructed had a very low ceiling and to the eye of one observer resembled a blacksmith shop rather than a house of worship. The walls were raised to a twelve-foot ceiling height in 1897, and at the same time a steeple was erected, a bell placed, and a recess for the pulpit was built, at a total cost of $600. A small annex was added to the main building, a basement for Sunday School purposes was constructed, the interior of the building repainted and the woodwork refinished, in 1940. The fiftieth anniversary was observed June 9, with the Rev. M. H. Miller preaching the sermon, and rededictatory ceremonies were conducted by Dr. S. C. Enck the following Sunday.
Immediate successors of the first trustees were: John Hoke, Henry Steckbeck, Cyrus Miller, Edwin S. Sheaffer, and David S. Light. Trustees of more recent years have been: Jacob Westenberger, Harvey Steckbeck, and Harry Dundore. The present board consists of: Albert B. Westenberger, Isaac Kreider, Jacob Spotts, Allen Dundore, and Herman Light.

The names of Samuel Boughter Jr., Jacob Westenberger, and Isaac Kreider form the complete list of Sunday School superintendents. Mrs. Ammon Treist, Mrs. Isaac Kreider, and Mrs. Albert B. Westenberger are respectively, president, secretary, and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Association. Similar officers, in the same order, for the Otterbein Guild are: Anna Mae Kreider, Edna Hoke, and Eleanor Graby.

Rocherty church has been attached to the following circuits: Lancaster, 1889-90; Schaefferstown, 1890-98; Chestnut Grove, 1893-98; Lebanon, 1894-1901; Schaefferstown, 1901-03; Lebanon, 1903-05; Iona, 1905-09; Lebanon, 1909-10; Iona, 1910-13; Lebanon, 1913-18; Iona, 1919-21; Campbell-town, 1934-46. For the year 1918-19, W. D. Krick served Rocherty as a student appointment. The minister for the year 1921-22 was Elias D. Bressler, when it also was a student charge. William Sauer served from 1922 to 1927,—a part of this period it was a supply charge, and part of the time under Lebanon Salem quarterly conference. From 1927 to 1934 Oscar K. Buch served Rocherty charge.

Jacob Weiss Home

Schaefferstown Church

Schaefferstown, the oldest town in Lebanon County, was laid out by Alexander Schaeffer in the year 1744. Mr. Leonard Hartman, a member of the local church, is in possession of a letter of church membership and recommendation of Alexander Schaeffer, dated May 7, 1738, given to him on leaving Germany by his pastor, the Rev. J. John W. Knoepfell.
Christian Newcomer preached in Schaefferstown more frequently than in any other place in Lebanon County, Felix Light's home only excepted. His first visit was in May, 1797, when he preached at some unnamed residence both afternoon and evening. In October of the same year Newcomer and Geeting came to Schaefferstown to take part in the dedication of the German Reformed Church. Of this event he writes,

Oct. 8—This day the church in this place is to be dedicated: may the Lord assist to perform the task acceptable in his sight. This forenoon the Rev. Mr. Wagoner delivered the first sermon; in the afternoon brother Geeting preached with great blessing; by candle light the Rev. Mr. Hendel delivered a handsome discourse. 9th.—The Rev. Mr. Rauhauser preached in the forenoon, in the afternoon Revs. Lochman and Williams; in the evening I preached from Hebrews 2, v. 3. 6

Newcomer's visits continued until the year 1824. Homes located in or near the town where he visited or preached were those of P. Miller, Jacob Bricker, Jacob Weiss, and Benjamin Brubacher. The last named lived at Buffalo Springs.

Mention of the Brubacher and Weiss families forms a connecting link of the early and later authentic records to show that there has been United Brethren preaching in Schaefferstown and its vicinity for a period of 150 years. Felix Light held preaching services regularly in the home of Jacob Weiss (1799-1851). In the year 1820 Mr. Weiss built a brick house which still stands; and when the family moved into it a religious service of a dedicatory nature was held by Felix Light and two of his preacher sons, John and Casper, under United Brethren auspices.

From the facts stated in a deed dated May 29, 1851, by which title was secured for a church lot of forty-seven square perches, fronting on Main Street, it may be assumed that the first church building was erected in 1851. This deed states that John Steinmetz and wife Mary sold the above lot for the sum of $152.05 to Benjamin Brubacher of Lebanon Township, Jacob Eberly and Benjamin Dissinger of Heidelberg Township, Trustees of the Congregation of the United Brethren in Christ of Schaefferstown, “to erect a house of worship for the members of said congregation.”

A church membership roll of the year 1873-74 contains the following names: George Steinmetz, class leader; Jacob Sanders, assistant class leader; Leonard Hartman, class steward; Cyrus, Sarah and John Beamesderfer, Anna Christ, Elizabeth Dissinger, William Grumbine, Joseph and Mary Horst, Annie Lauser, Elizabeth Moyer, John and Caroline McQuate, Elizabeth and Polly Sanders, John, Mary and Rebecca Simon, Barbara Spangler, Mary Steinmetz, Thomas Stengel, Jeremiah and Lucinda Steward, Samuel Winger, and Sarah Witmer.

The first building, erected of limestone, was burned out on July 2, 1919. The congregation then worshipped in an abandoned church.
of another denomination. The members were somewhat discouraged and at first felt they could not rebuild. However, after a season of prayer and thoughtful consideration, they took courage and with holy determination began to lay plans for a new building. Benjamin Hartman, Uriah Horst, and Harry Hewitt were appointed to oversee the work of construction. The cornerstone was laid April 25, 1920 by Dr. S. C. Enck. A beautiful modern structure of native limestone costing $16,208.44 was dedicated by Dr. Enck, August 14, 1921. The project was planned under the Rev. O. T. Ehrhart's pastorate, continued under the Rev. D. D. Buddinger, and finally completed under the Rev. H. E. Schaeffer, who took over in connection with his work at Avon after the Reverend Buddinger was called to his eternal reward. Fifty-eight members began this heroic venture—the number was seventy-two by the time the job was completed. A new bell costing $300 was placed in 1923. A lot adjacent to the church lot, was purchased for parking purposes in 1931 at a cost of $1,000. The interior woodwork was refinished and a carpet laid in 1940 at a total cost of $1,100.

Persons serving in official capacity at present are: church trustees—A. Lloyd Horst, Leonard Hartman, Paul Bright, Raymond Stohler, and Allen Noll; Sunday School—superintendent, John Stohler, treasurer, Clarence Becker, secretary, Bernice Keller; Woman's Missionary Society—president, Mrs. Irvin Miller, treasurer, Mrs. Daniel Corl.

Ministers serving the Schaefferstown Church were those appointed to the following charges: Prior to 1855, Lebanon, and Berks Circuits; Myerstown Circuit, 1855-69; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1869-71; Lebanon Circuit, 1871-78; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1873-74; Lebanon Circuit, 1874-78; Avon Circuit, 1878-89; Schaefferstown Circuit, 1889-93; Lebanon Circuit (English), 1893-98; Iona Charge, 1902-10; Iona charge, 1914-15; and Hebron charge, 1917-46. At three different periods, the Schaefferstown Church was a station and the ministers serving were: W. W. Fridinger, 1898-1902; Harry H. Fertig, 1910-14; and Cornel Beamesderfer, 1915-17.

Shirk's Church, East Hanover Township

The original Shirk's Church was a small frame building erected in the year 1825 as an "Unpartheyish Mennonite Gameinhaus," (Impartial Mennonite Meetinghouse). It was named for the Sherk family of whom Abraham, son of the Reverend Casper Sherk of Bethel Township, was the first to own the land on a parcel of which the house of worship was built. Abraham sold the farm to his son Peter, and Peter and wife Barbara gave title to Jacob Sherk to seventy-three perches for a church and burial lot for the sum of five shillings. Jacob Sherk (1783-1853) was the sole owner of this lot when the church was erected and while it was used as a Union Church. His name appears first on the list of subscribers, he handled the funds for the building enterprise, and as trustee for the estate of Peter Sherk and wife he made transfer of title of property to the United Brethren. Furthermore, he was
one of the members of the class at the time of its organization.

There is in existence an interesting document, dealing with the origin of the church building, which is in the possession of Mr. Erastus N. Albert, one of the present trustees, a grandson of Jacob and wife who were members of the first organized class. It consists of a number of leaves of foolscap, stitched together and on to a Harrisburg newspaper dated March 24, 1824. These pages contain a statement of purpose, a list of subscribers to the building project, a list of services and materials donated with the names of the donors, and an accounting of funds. The text on the first of these pages, of which a photostat copy appears on the opposite page, translated, is as follows:

March 25th, 1825, For the purpose of recording a list of subscriptions for an Impartial Mennonite Meetinghouse in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. It shall be built on Peter Sherk's land. Every sojourner to eternal salvation is hereby admonished to help this cause, according as he may be minded, and to subscribe what each may be willing to give. Brethren, God loveth a cheerful giver. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

On succeeding pages of these papers appear the names of fifty subscribers to the building fund and of thirty-eight persons donating time and materials. These persons were of various religious lineage, thus showing that this was not an exclusively denominational effort.

The building was dedicated September 11, 1825, as Shirk's Union Meetinghouse. Ministers of the United Brethren, Mennonite, Lutheran, and Dunkard denominations were present and participated in the dedicatory exercises. The Reformed Church, though sharing in the work of construction and using the building from the time of construction, was not represented by her ministry. Felix Light represented the United Brethren; Henry Landis, the Mennonite; John Henry and John Stine, the Lutheran; and Christian Wengert, the Dunkard.

From 1825 to 1845, the Shirk's Meetinghouse was recognized as a Union House. In the years between these dates the United Brethren followers increased and were permanently organized as a class. According to the memoir of Bishop Jacob Erb, the class at Shirk's was organized by him in the year 1827 while he was on a visit to his home in Pennsylvania from his regular conference appointment to the "Mission" in Canada. The members of this class were the following: Mr. and Mrs. William Runkle, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Maulfair, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Sherk, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Neidig, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Neidig, Mr. and Mrs. George Bomgardner, Mr. and Mrs. David Witmer, and Mr. and Mrs. John Harper. Of these, Jacob Sherk, Henry and Jacob Miller, William Runkle, and Jacob Albert (formerly Alberthal) had made contributions for the erection of the house of worship.

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An Appeal for Subscriptions to Shirk's Meetinghouse

In the year 1844 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania upon the prayer of sundry petitioners representing both the Mennonite Society and the United Brethren in Christ, authorized Jacob Sherk, trustee, named in the deed of trust to him given by Peter Sherk, to sell seventy-five perches of land, property commonly known as "Shirk's Meetinghouse," to Jacob Albert, Henry Neidig, and George Bongardner, trustees for the United Brethren in Christ. So far as the county record is concerned, the transfer of property was made February 10, 1845 for the consideration of one dollar.19

The Lutheran and Reformed congregations continued to hold service in this house of worship until the year 1848 when they jointly erected their own sanctuary known as Zion's Evangelical and Reformed Church. The United Brethren occupied the original building until 1887.

In that year they erected a new frame building some rods west of the original. Peter Dohner, William Ulrich, and Aaron Albert were trustees at the time. By their direction a printed pamphlet was issued, containing a brief historical sketch, and a statement
to the effect that a photo had been taken of the original church and that anyone making a donation of not less than five dollars would receive a copy.

In the period intervening between the terms of the first trustees and those in office at the time of rebuilding, the following served: J. H. Harper, David Winters, Thomas Bomgardner, Henry Crum, and Henry Winters. Other official members were: Isaac Bolton, Christian Seibert, Adam Gebhard, Henry Dautrich, John Neidig, Charles Fritz, and Moses Seltzer. Trustees serving at the present are: Erastus N. Albert, Jacob Albert, Mrs. Ellen Blatt, Harvey Kreider, and Paul Sattazahn. In a comparatively short time after the property came into the hands of our denomination the territory to which Shirk's Church looked as its field of operation was occupied by other United Brethren Churches which by now have hedged it in and have greatly restricted its work. Through an unswerving loyalty a few valiant souls have maintained an active organization through all the years.

![Shirk's Meetinghouse](image)

In the cemetery adjoining the church lot a small memorial stone has been placed in honor of a spiritual son of this historic congregation. The inscription on the stone is as follows:

"Rev. Ira E. Albert
a friend of Jesus
He gave his life for the
redemption of Africa
November 6, 1902
Near Rotifunk Sierra Leone
West Africa
Born November 13, 1868"
Ira E. Albert was converted in Shirk's Church at the age of nineteen, under the ministry of the Rev. Uriah Gambler. He began to teach in the public schools of the county at the age of sixteen and continued for eight successive terms. In 1895 he was received into annual conference and was ordained an elder four years later. He was graduated from Lebanon Valley College in 1897. Charges served by him were, Sinking Spring, 1895-97; and Elizabethville, 1897-99. On November 19, 1899, the Rev. and Mrs. Albert set sail on the steamer Oceanic for Sierra Leone, West Africa. As a missionary, he was very successful—loved, honored, and respected by all who knew him. On November 6, 1902, he "passed into the realms of glory through the murky waters of the Bompeh River." His wife before marriage was Miss Mary Richards of Annville, Pennsylvania, who has maintained a deep interest in missionary work, and who, in more recent years is known to the Church at home and abroad as Mrs. S. S. Hough. The mission school at Freetown, West Africa was renamed for him and through the combined gifts of Mr. Ralph Leininger of Brooklyn, New York, and of the Women's Missionary Society, Albert Academy was greatly strengthened within four years after his demise.

The ministers who have had the honor to serve the Shirk's congregation are those who have been appointed to the following circuits: Lancaster, 1827-30; Halifax, 1830-33; Dauphin, 1833-53; Hummelstown, 1853-66; Harrisburg, 1866-68; Union, 1868-69; Harrisburg, 1869-73; Grantville, 1873-89; Bellegrove, 1889-1901; Grantville, 1901-03; Bellegrove, 1903-04; Grantville, 1904-34; and Lickdale, 1934-46.
Water Works Church, North Annville Township

This church is located on an elevation of land several rods south of the Swatara Creek along which the Union Canal Company erected a steam power plant to pump water from the creek to the canal summit at the "Old Tunnel" west of Lebanon City. Because of these circumstances the church has been variously known as Mt. Union, Mt. Zion or Water Works. From land transfers to the canal company we learn that town lots were laid out, but no town ever developed.

Jacob Heilman and Michael Seltzer donated land upon which a small frame church building was erected by Peter Seltzer, son of Michael, about the year 1843. Heilman remained a trustee until his death in 1861. Those serving with him in that office were David Boger, and Daniel Lightner, and their immediate successors were Michael B. Noll, Daniel Helm, and John Gingrich. These men from time to time also served as class leaders and stewards. Benjamin Light, John A. Mark, David A. Mark, Henry Blouch, Ephraim Burgner, and John F. Sherk served the church in official capacity. Jacob Light, son of Benjamin, was one of the main supporters of this congregation through many years until his death in 1933. Harvey L. Seltzer and his brother Harry R., now members and trustees of Palmyra First Church, are descendants of both Michael Seltzer and Benjamin Light. Harvey L. has given some special financial support to this church.

The congregation, though never large in numbers, has nevertheless manifested a vigorous Christian life, and many precious seasons of enthusiastic revivals were experienced. In proportion to its membership this church has one of the largest and most active Women's Missionary Association in the Conference. With other churches of the Bellegrove Circuit, it has taken part in special rural projects. Its teachers cooperate with circuit and community Leadership Training courses. In 1938 two of the Sunday School classes
purchased new pulpit furniture which was dedicated by Dr. Enck on August 21 of that year. The church membership at the close of 1946 numbered sixty, the Sunday School enrollment was eighty-nine, with an average attendance of seventy-two. The W. M. A. membership was twenty-five. The pastor’s wife, Mrs. William E. Sherriff, is president of the Women’s Missionary Association, Mrs. Viola Light is its secretary, and Mrs. Charles Bomgardner is treasurer. Jacob H. Light, Oscar R. Light, Ammon Hitz, Charles Bomgardner, and Robert Snavely constitute the present trustee board. John H. Miller is superintendent of the Sunday School and class leader. The secretary of the Sunday School is Jacob Light, and the treasurer, Clarence Maulfair.

Ministers serving the Water Works Church were those appointed to the following circuits: Lebanon Circuit, 1843-63; Bellegrove Circuit, 1863-82; Lebanon Circuit, 1882-1903; and Bellegrove Circuit, 1903-46.

3. Abandoned Churches, Classes, and Appointments of Lebanon County

Blue Meetinghouse Appointment. The boundary committee of the year 1889 placed the Blue Meetinghouse appointment on the Schaefferstown Circuit. The building so designated is a stone structure located about one and one-half miles east of Kleinfeltersville in the extreme southeast corner of Heidelberg Township. Our denomination never owned the building and the appointment continued for about four years.

Bomberger’s Class was attached to Lebanon Circuit in the year 1871.

Beiley’s, Forge, and Lessley’s Classes were on the Lebanon Circuit during the decade 1850-1860. These are probably variant names for the same class which met in the vicinity of the New Market Forge on the Quittapahilla Creek, in North Annville Township.

Brightbill’s. (Though no longer the property of the United Brethren is listed under the active churches.)

Cornwall Appointment is listed as a preaching point on Avon Circuit in the year 1878.

Eisenhauer’s, Groh’s, Peiffer’s, Zinn’s, and Weiss’ Classes were shifted from Lebanon Circuit to Myerstown Circuit in the year 1849. All of them were named for families either from the fact that they respectively met in the home of the family named or that a member of such family was the class leader. Their origin and continuance is uncertain.

Gingrich’s Class. A class by this family name was a part of the Lebanon Circuit from 1848 to 1855, and the latter year was attached to Annville. From the record of quarterly conferences the class-name was also Meadowville, Long Meadow, and Shaffer’s. It had considerable strength as reports from the stewards show. George Gingrich, J. Fitring, Peter Gingrich, Moses Light and J. Kettering were its leaders and stewards. The family and place-names would indicate that the class was composed of members residing in the vicinity of the Beck Creek some distance west of the village of Rocherty.

Hill Class met in homes located about midway between Schaefferstown and Hopeland. In 1871 it was attached to Lebanon Circuit, in 1873 to Schaefferstown Circuit, in 1874 to Lebanon Circuit, and in 1878 to Avon Circuit. The membership in 1873-74 consisted of twenty-seven persons, of whom thirteen were of the name Eberly. Elias Eberly was the class leader. Mrs. Susan Eberly, now residing in Lititz, the mother of Mrs. A. M. Shissier, was a member of this class.
Monroe Valley Class was attached to Lebanon Circuit in 1862. It received its name from the Valley in which its members lived—a valley in northern Bethel Township. John Phillips, Philip Mesae, Samuel Adams and Andrew Louser were its leaders and stewards.

Schneider's Class met at the Schneider (Snyder) home located just west of the Swatara Creek on the boundary line of Lebanon and Dauphin Counties. By report of the boundary committee of the year 1871 it was detached from Union Circuit and attached to Bellegrove Circuit.

Snyder's Class, meeting in a Snyder home near Iona, was attached to Avon Circuit in 1876.

Spayth's was the name of a class listed as a point on the Lebanon Circuit in 1871.

Sunnyside Class, named for that group of homes now forming the eastern section of Cleona Borough, appears as a preaching appointment on Lebanon Circuit in 1875.

Union Salem Church located about a mile easterly from Lickdale on the old road to Fredericksburg was erected jointly by six denominations in the year 1859 on land purchased from Daniel Shugar. The denominations participating and trustees representing them are as follows: for the German Baptist and Mennonites, Samuel Groh; for the United Brethren, Abraham F. Sherk; for the Evangelical Association, E. E. Thompson; for the German Reformed, Levi Seiler; and for the Evangelical Lutheran, Daniel Shugar.

A United Brethren class was organized in the year 1860 and held services regularly in this frame church until a few years after the erection of our church in Lickdale. Samuel Groh joined the United Brethren and was the leader of the class from 1860 to 1867. John F. Light was his immediate successor. Michael Domoyer, Hamilton C. Dixon, Christian Batdorf, John F. Light, and a Mr. Sattazahn were stewards. Several attempts were made to revive the class after it was officially merged with the Lickdale class, but for about thirty years past the class has been disbanded. United Brethren ministers are still invited to participate in annual home-coming services held by interested people.

The Union Salem Class formed part of Lebanon, Jonestown, Bellegrove and Lickdale Circuits, respectively.

NOTES
1. Grantville is in Dauphin County, but Grantville Circuit included certain Lebanon County Churches.
2. Lebanon English Circuit was an appointment in East Pennsylvania Conference when at the same time there was a Lebanon Circuit in East German Conference.
5. From Memoirs, Annual Conference Minutes, East German Conference, 1881.
6. The church dedicated on this occasion was the second erected by the Reformed congregation, and was replaced by the present building in 1858. According to the minutes of the Coetus of the German Reformed Church, May 15, 1897, Hendel was the minister at Philadelphia, Geeting at Antietam, Rauhauser at Hagerstown, Md., and Wagner at York. Williams and Lochman were Lutherans, the latter being then pastor of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church at Lebanon.
7. There is no uniform spelling of the family name. The German was Scherrick. The predominating English spelling is, Sherk, which has been followed in this volume, except in this instance, for the reason that "Shirk's" has for many years appeared on official conference records.
8. The claim has been made that the class at Shirk's Meetinghouse was the first class organized east of the Susquehanna River. Bishop Newcomer's statement, quoted on page 56 of this volume, that he organized a class at the home of Christian Herr in Manor Township, Lancaster County, September 17, 1816, rules out this claim.
10. Deeds H-773, and I-46 in the Recorder's Office, Lebanon County; and the Laws of Pennsylvania, 1844, section 2, page 347, set forth the details of these transactions. These recitals agree in fact with the privately held papers mentioned above.