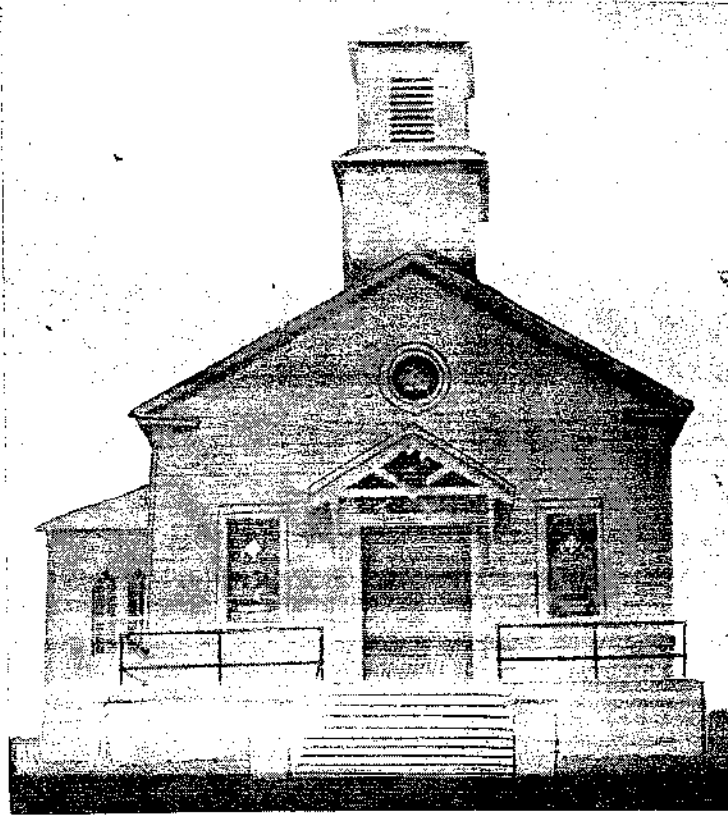


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1852 Centennial Anniversary 1952



"THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH IN THE HILLS"

Zion's Evangelical and Reformed Church

TABORTON, NEW YORK

SUNDAY, JUNE 29th, 1952 — 7:30 P. M.



REV. EDWARD W. FUHRMANN
Pastor

FOREWORD

A church anniversary is not merely another occasion to observe in a special way. It is more than a festival. It is the commemoration of the founding of a Christian organization for the purpose of proclaiming and teaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth.

In this year of grace the members of Zion's Church look back on a vigorous yet truly humble past. There is nothing of the spectacular, the unusual to boast of. The Founding Fathers of the Church were men of the soil and the forest immigrating with their families from Germany, many coming from the area around Friedewalde in Hesse, to begin a new way of life. These fearless, ambitious men, whose families shared with them the hardships of life, depended upon the bounties of Mother Nature, and patiently accepted the good with the ill. It is to these hardy men and women, who had not forgotten their Christian obligations to preserve and pass on to future generations the teachings of Jesus Christ, and the Pastors and their wives, that we humbly dedicate this Anniversary Booklet.

This Little White Church with its beautiful Sanctuary ideally located in the eastern hills above the Hudson Valley, is evidence of the honest efforts made by the parents and grandparents of this generation to keep the Light of the Gospel undimmed.

Now that Zion's has reached an important milestone in its history, it is not enough that we remember the past and give due honor to those responsible for the very existence of this Church.

If Zion's is to continue to contribute to the spiritual development of the individual and the community, creating honest, dependable, law-abiding Christian citizens, it will be absolutely necessary that every confirmed member acknowledge his and her obligations, as accepted on the

day of confirmation, when each promised to be true to God and Christ and to Zion's Church. For only a church whose members possess BURNING HEARTS (a sincere enthusiasm) for Christ's Work can be a living blessing to the local area, the state, the nation, and to the world. Zion's was established to lead generations of Christians on the Road of Life from the day of birth to the day of death. It must keep the Light of Christ's Gospel burning brightly. This can only be done if all members give their whole-hearted co-operation in promoting the worthy projects of the local church and the denomination.

May each of us gladly accept our individual share in keeping Zion's a Church with a "BURNING HEART" for the Master, thereby assuring future generations of Christians in this area of the continued teaching and preaching of the "New Life" as prescribed by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us do today the Work of the Master so that "Tomorrow's Children," for whom we are responsible, will hold sacred what our love for Christ and His Church has wrought and that men will say as they look on our labors, "See! This our Fathers did for us."



HISTORICAL NOTES

The following interesting information with respect to Lot No. 151, Middletown on which Lot this Church is located, was found by Mr. Clark Cipperly, Attorney and Counselor at Law, in the Van Rensselaer Survey Book and Ledger in the New York State Library at Albany and the Rensselaer County Clerk's Office at Troy.

May 20, 1800—Timothy Bowerman lives on this Lot—has about 20 acres cleared.

May 21, 1827—Leased for two years to Daniel Bowman for rental of two loads of beach or maple wood.

December 3, 1844—William P. Van Rensselaer and wife sold Lots No. 151 and 153 to Richard J. Knowlson, Gideon Butts, and George Horton for \$900.

August 4, 1852—Richard J. Knowlson, and Gideon Butts conveyed to George Horton $\frac{2}{3}$ interest in Lots Nos. 151, 152, 161, and 142; excepting the Meeting House and School House Lots conveyed March 26, 1852. (According to information this deed was never recorded and was lost.)

December 30, 1865—Property sold by Mr. and Mrs. George Horton for the sum of \$150 to Henry Werger, John Werger, and Jacob Shipe, Trustees of the Evangelical Protestant Church of Sand Lake with the stipulation that "The premises above conveyed are to be used and occupied for Evangelical Protestant Meeting House and for no other purpose whatever."

December 20, 1866—Mr. and Mrs. George Horton sold to Frederick Marmerro, Peter Hoffman, and Carl Hoffman, Trustees of the German Evangelical Protestant Church Cemetery Association, one acre of land. "The above described land is conveyed, to be expressly for a cemetery or burial ground and for no other purpose, and it is understood expressly that the Trustees of said grounds are to make, maintain and keep it well fenced at all times." The deed for this property was delivered to Mr. Conrad Brown; January 6, 1880.

Subsequent data, found in a typed manuscript written in German,

was compiled by the Rev. Jacob Schoettle who served this Church from 1916 to 1919.

In January of 1852 the Rev. G. Bochert Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ghent, Columbia County, visited this area for the purpose of inviting the German speaking natives to worship in the small log Meeting House standing on the wooded hillside between two ponds, the Big and Little Bowman Ponds named after David Bowman, former lessee of this property. Due to a heavy snow storm the first Sunday service was poorly attended. Two weeks later, with clear blue sky and brightly shining sun shedding its rays upon the snow-covered countryside, and a favorable attendance at hand, it was decided to have Rev. Bochert conduct Services in the Meeting House every two weeks. A temporary Board of Trustees was elected to serve until the following April. The men elected to serve on this Board were Henry Werger, John Werger, John Bauer, Conrad Braun, Conrad Massenpflug, and Abraham Werger.

Despite the stormy weather and the distances many had to travel, the young congregation gained in membership.

At the first Easter Service and Communion seventy persons participated, an excellent record for the times. A special collection, amounting to \$6.00, was taken up for the purpose of buying necessary items to be used at the services. The following men were elected to serve on the Board of Trustees: Henry Werger, Adam Pfeiffer, Andreas Schwarz, Carl Hoffmann, Conrad Braun, John Werger, and John Bauer.

It would seem as if peace and harmony had been established with the founding of a Christian Church. Unfortunately, human nature took a hand in the spiritual growth of the small congregation. Rev. Bochert reports that a spirit of opposition and slander prevailed in the Sand Lake Church so that the attendance at the Services, and the deep interest of the members in things spiritual, was seriously affected. The Pastor made an earnest effort to lead the Little Flock back to the Fold—but to no avail. This breach of Christian Fellowship was responsible for the resignation of the Rev. Bochert. With his resignation quite a few of the members left the Church to attend the Services in the Methodist Churches in West and East Sand Lake. The doors of the Sand Lake Church were locked, and the "Gospel of the True Light" was dimmed.

It was only during the winter of 1865-66 that a goodly number of

the folks who had left Zion's after Pastor Bochart's resignation decided to return to the Mother Church. They and the few families who remained loyal reorganized the Congregation. On December 30, 1865 the Trustees Henry Werger, John Werger and John Scheib were authorized to purchase for the sum of \$150 the acre of land on which the Meeting House was situated. One year later, December 1866, the members bought an acre of land on the hilltop adjacent to the Church for the burial of their Loved Ones.

Beginning with September 25, 1866 this Church has been served by full time Pastors. On this date Pastor Frederick Heinle conducted his first Service, continuing his Pastorate until October 1867. The Church records were neglected during this period. He was succeeded by The Rev. Bruno Dietrich who served Zion's from October 1867 to January 1878. Under his leadership the Congregation continued to show much interest in the Work of the Master.

From February 1878 to August 1879 the Rev. F. H. Sydow endeavored under somewhat strained conditions, to carry on the propagation of the Gospel. After a little over one year he felt it necessary to seek other fields of labor.

For the next three years, September 1879 to October 1882, the Rev. George Vetter served the Charge. On New Year's Day of 1882 a 300 pound bell, costing \$90, was dedicated, and on Christmas Day of the same year an organ valued at \$70 was installed. In the summer of 1882 it was found necessary, because of the poor condition of the foundation, walls, and roof of the old Meeting House, to make extensive repairs. On Sunday September 5 with a large Congregation in attendance, the Pastor rededicated the renovated House of God. The following month the Pastor resigned.

With the coming of Pastor M. Goffney in January 1883, a new era opened for the Little Church. In May of 1883 the Congregation joined the Evangelical Synod of North America, and on November 11 the Parsonage was dedicated. The first Mission Festival was held on September 17 with the Revs. Nestel of Albany and Becher of Troy assisting the local Pastor. The special Mission Offering came to \$65. Just one year later the Rev. Goffney resigned and was succeeded by the Rev. J. G. Biegert whose term of service came to a close on November 25, 1889 with the coming of

Pastor F. Ewald. Under his leadership the Parsonage stable was built, a pulpit dedicated, a large stove installed, and the cemetery laid out in lots.

The eighth Pastor to serve Zion's Church was the Rev. E. J. Schmidt who delivered his first sermon on July 23, 1893 and left the Charge in the spring of 1896.

Pastor C. F. Fleck continued the work in the area until the autumn of 1904 at which time he accepted the Call to serve another Church. In 1903 the wagon shed was constructed. His successor was the Rev. W. E. Neumeister who preached his first sermon on December 11, 1904.

In 1905 further improvements were made, namely the laying of a new floor in the Sanctuary, as well as a new roof, the installation of a metal ceiling, paid for by the Ladies Aid, and necessary repairs on the Parsonage. The Ladies Aid and Mr. Adam Schumann of Brooklyn donated a sum of money with which to purchase two art glass windows. The windows were bought from Mr. William Chapman of Albany. They are located on the right and left sides of the Chancel. Rev. Neumeister left the Taborton Charge in September, 1907 to accept the Call to serve St. Paul's Church in Troy.

The Rev. George Kern, the only living former Pastor of our Church, began his Pastorate on October 17, 1907. During his nine and a half years of service as Pastor, eight new art glass windows were dedicated, a new organ purchased, a new lighting system installed, a new carpet laid in the Chancel and an Altar cloth procured. Incidentally, the first English Service was inaugurated by the Pastor in 1908. Unfortunately, due to a serious illness which required an operation, Pastor Kern was obliged to resign in the early part of the summer of 1917.

On August 20, 1917, Rev. Jacob Schoettle accepted the Pastorate of the Taborton Charge. He was responsible for the founding of a Young People's League and the introduction of frequently conducted services in the English language.

This concludes the information as compiled by the late Rev. Schoettle, whose widow, Mrs. Anna Schoettle is a resident of the City of Schenectady, living with her youngest son Edward. May God continue to watch over her and bless her with inner strength, courage, and fortitude.

Pastor Schoettle severed his connections with this Church in the spring of 1919.

On Sunday June 22, 1919, the Rev. Oscar Adolph Egli, a young minister just out of the Seminary, took charge of the Taborton Parish, including the East Poestenkill and West Berlin Churches. He served this area for 27 years, or until his untimely death in the Beth Israel Hospital in Newark, New Jersey early Wednesday morning May 28, 1947. He and his daughter Doris, with Mr. Emmott Perry, had attended the Spring Meeting of Synod in Irvington, New Jersey. He was married to Miss Anna Marie Kuebler of Newark, New Jersey, former member of St. Stephan's Church of that city, on April 26, 1922. (The writer was a member of the Bridal Party.) Their one and only child, a daughter, Miss Doris Hannah was born on October 2, 1931. On February 26, 1946, after a long and dserious illness, his beloved wife was called to her Eternal Rest.

During this period of 27 years, there was opportunity for much improvement on the Church Property. Following major improvemnts are herewith listed: 1921, erection of Parish Hall; landscaping of Church Grounds and cemetery; redecorating of Sanctuary in 1926; purchase of an Individual Communion Service; new hymnals; electrification of all Church buildings including the Parsonage; four new art glass windows; installation of heating plants in Church and Parsonage; installation of Hammond organ; complete renovation and enlarging of the Church, including new Chancel furniture and a memorial Baptismal Font. Much of the Church equipment is in memory of Loved Ones.

During the interval of the "Passing On" of the Rev. Egli and the Invitation and Call of a new minister, both the Congrégation and the Synod arranged to fill the pulpit every Sunday. On one such occasion a member of the Evangelical and Reformed clergy preached a "trial sermon." It was during the week of August 11, 1947, that the present Pastor, enjoying with his family the annual vacation in the summer home built in 1908, on the east shore of Big Bowman Pond, was invited to conduct the Service. It was not the first time that he had the privilege and sincere pleasure of preaching in the Taborton Church.

Since his childhood he had attended the Sunday School and the Services during the summer months. Both he and his parents were close friends of the former Pastors and their families, as well as of a number

of local families. On many a Sunday during vacation he substituted for the late Pastor Egli. He always looked forward to that wonderful experience of preaching the Word of God in the "Little Church in the Hills."

After the Service on August 17, the members of the Board asked him to take charge of the August 24 Hour of Worship. He gladly accepted. It was after the Service on that date that he informed the trustees that he had asked permission of the Rev. Eugene Henzel of Albany, representing the Synod in the selection of a successor to the late Pastor Egli, to apply for the vacant pulpit. Permission was granted and on September 7, 1947 at a special meeting the Congregation elected him as their Pastor. On Wednesday, December 3, at 9:30 in the morning the new Pastor and his family moved into the Parsonage.

In the past few years the Church received memorial gifts, a red silk damask Altar Cloth, a missal stand, two brass offering plates and receiving basin, and the Altar Edition of the Book of Worship presented by the Confirmation Class of 1951. Needed improvements were made in the Church, Parish Hall and Parsonage such as lavatories with running water, a hot water heater, a space heater, an extra large sink, floor covering, a new set of dishes and cutlery, the painting of the interior of the Hall, new tables and benches, an extra door on the dance floor leading to the fire escape, and the painting of the exterior of the Church.

This concludes the brief history of our Church. WHAT OF THE FUTURE? Only the deep interest in the Work of the Master through His Church, and especially the sincere loyalty of every member, both the young people and the adults, will make it possible for Zion's to continue to be a "Pillar of Light" in this community and even as distant as the remotest corner in God's world. God give us men, women and young people whose love for Christ, the Lord, will give Him FIRST place in their hearts and their service, who will hold fast to the true teachings of the Gospel, who will always be ready to serve the Church knowing that what they do for the least of God's children they are doing it for the Lord Jesus Christ. All that this Church has done and will continue to do is in the Name of the Risen Lord and Master, Jesus the Christ. To Him be all Honor, Glory and Praise.

*Jesus calls us! by Thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Thy call;
Give our hearts to Thy obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all!
God Help Us!*



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

And now remains only the agreeable duty to record the writer's sincere gratitude to Mr. Clark Cipperly, Mrs. Walter Senechal, and the Misses Marjorie Herman and Audrey Teal for their kind cooperation in helping to prepare this Anniversary Souvenir Booklet. Thank you very much.

DIRECTORY OF THE CHURCH -- 1952

Rev. Edward W. Fuhrmann, *Pastor* Mr. Philip Brown, *President*
Mr. Emmott Perry, *Organist* Mr. Charles A. Hoffman, *Vice-Pres.*
Mr. Nathan Shier, *Secretary* Mr. August Meyers, *Treasurer*

Trustees: Messrs. Charles H. Brown, Loren Brown, Adam Budesheim,
George Dobert, Willard Gundrum and Charles Smyth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Superintendent, Mrs. Willard Gundrum; Assistant
Superintendnet, Mrs. John Cann; Secretary, Mrs. Charles Brown;
Treasurer, Mrs. William Bubie.

WOMEN'S GUILD: President, Mrs. Lawrence Hoffman; Vice President,
Mrs. George Dobert; Secretary, Mrs. Philip Teal; Treasurer, Mrs. C
Edward W. Fuhrmann.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEAGUE: President, Mr. Harold Brown; Vice
President, Mr. Kenneth Teal; Secretary, Miss June Dobert; Treas-
urer, Miss Audrey Teal.