

*The Story
of a
Hundred
Years*



BY *The* FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
9211 MIDDLETOWN, . . . OHIO.
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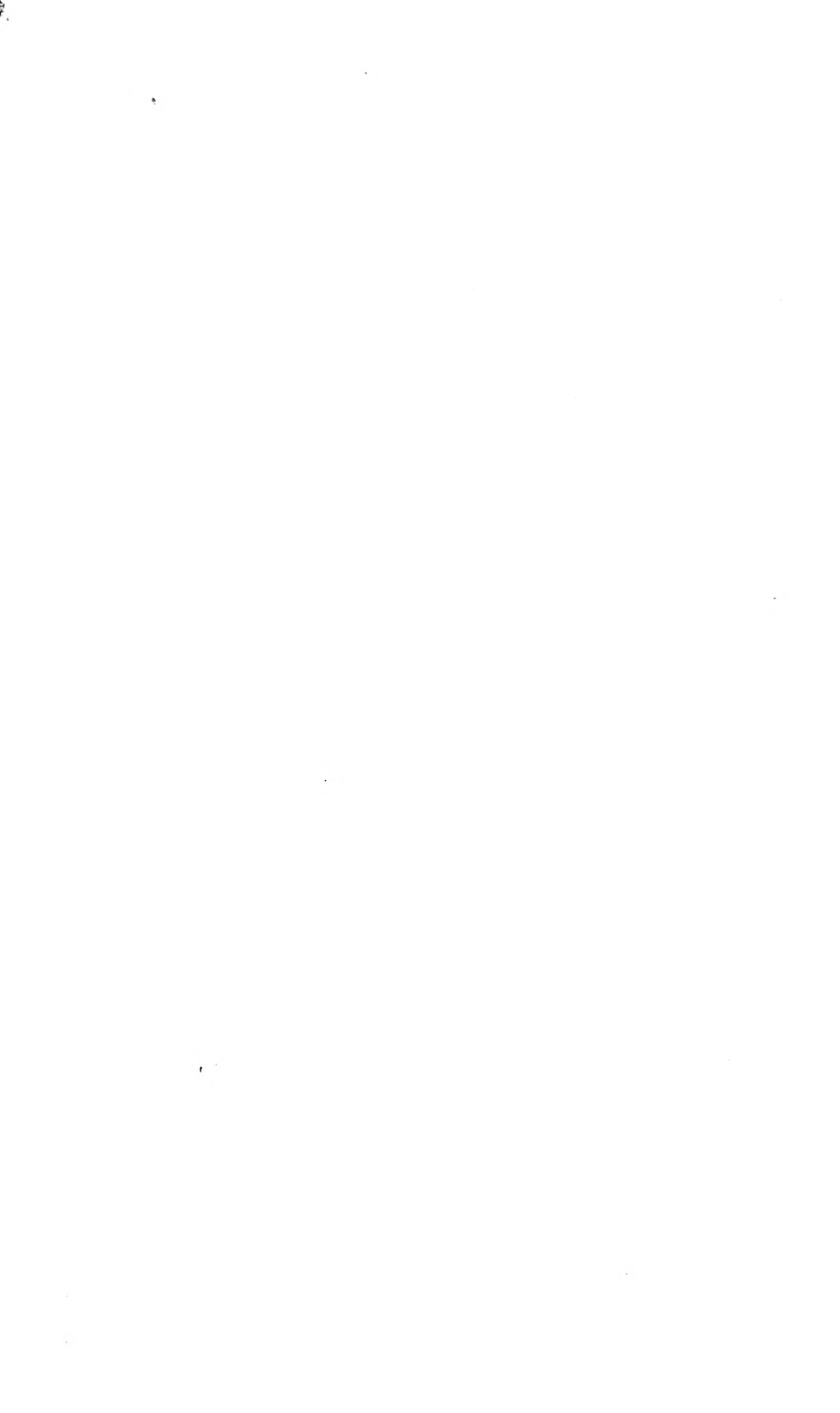
PRINCETON · NEW JERSEY



PRESENTED BY

Rev. B. J. Brinkema

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Middletown, O. First
Presbyterian Church.
A history of the life and
work of the First



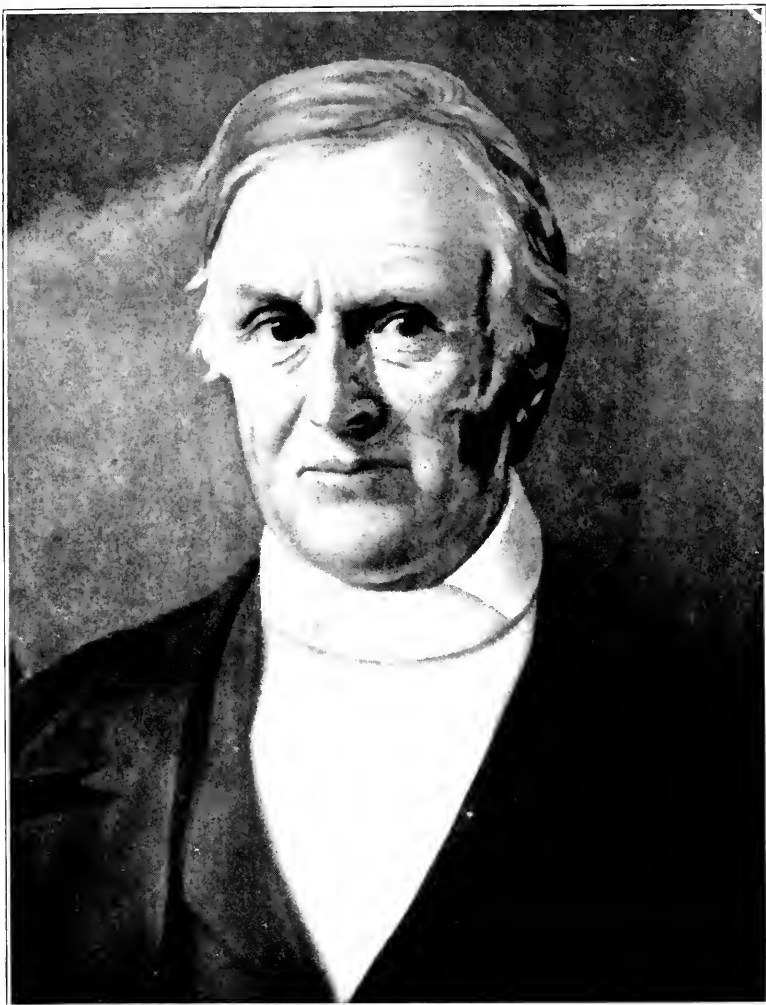
A HISTORY
OF THE LIFE AND WORK OF
The First Presbyterian Church
OF MIDDLETOWN, OHIO
(DAYTON PRESBYTERY)
From Its Foundation in 1819 to 1919

Prepared Under the Direction of the Boards of the Church
in connection with the
Centennial Celebration held in the Church
October 19th to 26th, 1919

Middletown, Ohio, November 1, 1919

*“I was glad when they said unto
me,
Let us go into the house of the
Lord.”*

—Psalm 122:1



Rev. Francis Monfort, born 1782, died 1855, the first pastor of our Church, serving from 1819 to 1824. Mr. Monfort was the grandfather of Rev. Joseph G. Monfort, D. D., the venerable editor of the Herald and Presbyter.

This illustration was made from a copy of an oil painting by an artist who had known Mr. Monfort for several years. As an aid in his work the artist used two daguerreotypes of Mr. Monfort, taken when he was seventy years old.

The Story of a Hundred Years.

Can you imagine now for just a few minutes that you are living one hundred years ago? In other words, can you put yourself in the position of the few men and women who came from the New Jersey Church, at Carlisle, and Dick's Creek Church, near Blue Ball, to organize the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown—our church? Can you think of our beautiful, prosperous, happy city being a little hamlet, with not over three hundred citizens, with one small school house and two struggling churches? You must know nothing of the good roads, of the railroads, or even of the canal. You will have to make your journeys on foot or on horseback. You must know nothing of the daily newspaper. Only occasionally you will see a new pamphlet or a new book. You must think differently, dress differently, work differently, be entertained differently, than is your present custom. But you have at least one thing in common with those men and women of one hundred years ago—you can love God and worship Him, the same as did they, and so may have the same interest in His Church.

The first part of our story was written fifty years ago by Rev. Joshua L. Russell, who was the pastor of our Church at that time, and was read by him at the semi-centennial of the Church in 1870. He, no doubt, had talked with some of the founders of the Church and those who had labored for its welfare for years. This "History of the First Fifty Years of the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio," as Mr. Russell entitles it, is printed here just as it appears in the manuscript from which he read except that a few paragraphs have been added so as not to cause a break in the account of the ministry of Mr. Russell who served in the Church for about two years after the semi-centennial celebration. His manuscript is still in the possession of the Church. The writing is notably neat and legible. The ink seems to have faded little, if any, and the paper is only slightly discolored. The story as told by Mr. Russell follows.

FIRST PERIOD, 1820—1840 A. D.

AT the spring meeting of the Miami Presbytery, held at Lebanon, April 6th and 7th, 1819, a petition was presented from Middletown, Ohio, supplicating, first, occasional preaching; second, liberty to form a Presbyterian Church at that place. The petition was granted, and Rev. Francis Monfort was appointed to preach one Sabbath at Middletown.

A little later in the month (14th), a number of persons residing in and near Middletown met, according to agreement and notice before given, for the purpose of being organized into a Presbyterian congregation. From the records of that meeting it would appear that it was simply preliminary, no organization proper being effected, although M. W. Karr, was elected clerk; A. Campbell, collector; and Ezek. Ball, treasurer.

During the following year, their plans and efforts having so far matured as to warrant further steps, another congregational meeting was held on Saturday, the 29th of July, 1820, the specified purpose of which was the organization of a church. The Rev. Francis Monfort, pastor, and the elders of the New Jersey Church (an older sister in the numerous and well-grown Presbyterian family making its home in this highly favored valley), were present by invitation to assist in the organization of the church.

After a sermon by Mr. Monfort, he, with the elders of New Jersey Church present, viz.: Zebulon Baird, Tunis D. Vanderveer, Hendrick Lane, Peter Covenhovin and Ankey Wyckoff (some of whom are yet alive), constituted by prayer a sessional meeting. An invitation was then given for the reception of members. After deliberation and conversation with persons making application for membership, session adjourned, to meet in the same place on the 6th of August. On Sabbath, the 6th of August, Rev. Francis Monfort and three of the elders, viz.: Zebulon Baird, Peter Covenhovin and Ankey Wyckoff, met pursuant to adjournment, and received applicants for membership. The total number of those who thus, in the good providence of God, became associated together in the organization of this church

was but twelve. Five of these, Mr. Archibald Campbell and his wife, Mrs. Sarah Campbell; Moses W. Karr and Mrs. Ann Karr, and Miss Jane Robinson, came by certificate from the Presbyterian Church of Dick's Creek; four, Nathan Peppard and Mrs. Peppard, David Potter and Miss Jane Malery, by certificate from the Presbyterian Church at Mt. Pleasant, Kentucky; three, Mr. John M. Barnett and Mrs. Jane Barnett, his wife, and Ruth Fisher, by examination. A little band, indeed! A mere handful! But these few humble Christians were the nucleus about which future forces and influences were to be gathered and grouped. That early church was like a little vine. But God had planted it. He watched and watered it, and it has grown and borne much fruit. And already many Eschol-like clusters have been gathered for the heavenly vintage.

The building in which these Christians gathered for worship, and where this organization was effected, and wherein they worshipped for ten succeeding years, was probably a schoolhouse that formerly occupied a part of the present site of the public school building on the corner of Main and Second streets. An interesting fact associated with the history of that old and almost forgotten school room is worthy of mention. In it the first Sabbath School established in this town was organized and for some time conducted. It was on a kind of union basis. The Baptist Sabbath School was an offshoot or outgrowth of it, a number of persons who held to the distinctive tenets of that denomination having withdrawn some two years after its organization and established a school of their own. Of that first school, the one now a part of this church, is the legal and legitimate successor, and until a very recent date the records of that early school had been transmitted in the keeping of this church. It appears from the Presbyterial Records, that about this time a petition was presented from the Middletown Church for the ministerial labors of Rev. Francis Monfort one-half his time, which petition was granted, provided he concur. That this arrangement was agreeable to Mr. Monfort, and that he labored here, we learn from statistics and historical notes gathered in 1842 at the demand of the Presbytery. Rev. Francis Monfort supplied the pulpit of this church one-half

his time for two years, commencing soon after its organization.

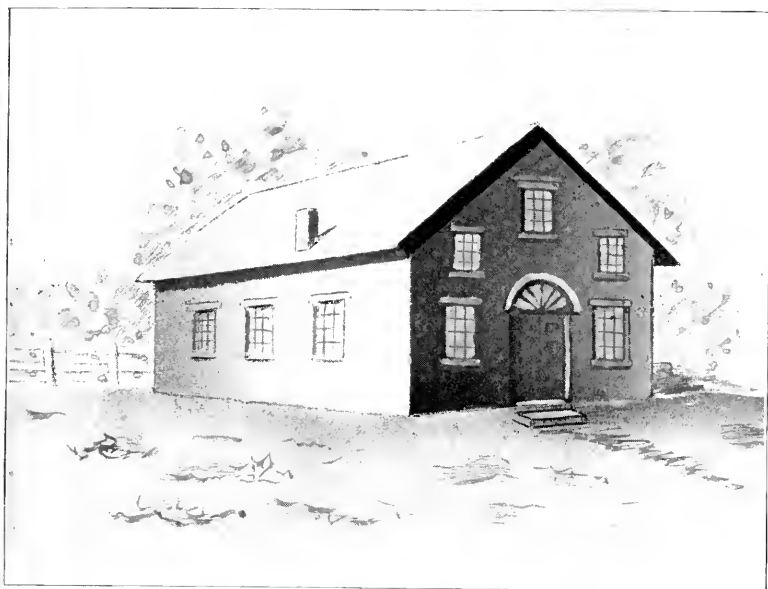
At a communion season in June, 1821, fifteen more were added to the church, ten of whom united by certificate and five by profession of their faith in Christ. On Friday, June 21st, preceding communion, a congregational meeting was held for the purpose of electing elders. Three were chosen, viz.: Wm. McClain, Nathaniel Peppard and Moses W. Karr; and on the next day, Saturday, they were solemnly ordained to the holy and Scriptural office. In July, 1822, Rev. John Ross visited Middletown as a missionary and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. From this date until 1828, a space of six years, we find no recorded data from which to judge of the condition of the church. That it still lived and struggled on we judge from occasional hints in the records of the Presbytery. Such, for instance, as the receipt of a collection on behalf of some benevolent object, or the appointment of some neighboring minister to preach for a Sabbath, or to hold a series of meetings. That the church was destitute of regular ministrations of the Word is evident. In those days the facilities of worship and church privileges were not as abundant and easy of access as now. But perhaps the Christians of those days, if they had fewer helps and advantages, sought light and strength more earnestly of God. We may well make honorable mention of these fathers and mothers of our church, and hold them in sacred remembrance for their earnest faith and patient works. We must remember that the church was still feeble. It was an infant yet, and one rocked in the cradle of adversity. Its members were in moderate circumstances and few in numbers and could not sustain the regular means of grace. Besides, the Presbytery had a very large missionary territory to occupy, bounded on the south by the Ohio River, on the north by the lakes, east, by what was known as "Washington Presbytery," west, ad infinitum.

In August, 1828, previous notice having been given, the congregation met for the purpose of electing two additional elders. Choice was made of Archibald Campbell and Ephraim Gray, who were ordained at the earliest opportunity. In the following month this church, in connection with

the Franklin Church, made application to the Board of Domestic Missions that it might be supplied with regular preaching for one year.

Rev. Samuel Smith was sent in answer to this request to occupy the field, and was received by this church, but not by Franklin. Mr. Smith was a man of more than ordinary ability and attainment, so estimated by those who knew him best. His labors seem to have been much blessed of God, judging by the results, for in the course of a few months, at a communion in which he was assisted by Rev. John Hudson, eleven were received on profession of faith in Christ, among whom were Ann Lefferson, long useful and now lamented in this church, Mary Galbreath, now living in Franklin, and Margaret Yeager; also three on certificate. This was succeeded by an ingathering of nine on profession of faith in the following August. And just here let a note be made of the fact that of those who were thus gathered in, but one received the ordinance of baptism, showing that they were the children of faith, dedicated by their parents to God. Thus does God seal as His own the children of His people, and cause His blessing to rest on the fulfillment of the Scripture taught and enjoined ordinance of infant baptism.

Early in 1829, the church, feeling the necessity of a building in which to worship God, began to move in the matter. In January a subscription was circulated for the purpose of securing funds requisite to such an enterprise. About nine hundred dollars (\$900) was pledged, one-half of which was to be paid in by the 10th of May, the remaining one-half by the 10th of September. It seemed a great undertaking, yet the hearts of the people were in it. "They had a mind to work," as had the builders of the wall in the days of Nehemiah. And some gave money, and some gave work, and some gave money and work, and some prayed. And so the work went on. An incident illustrative of the spirit which characterized the people at that time should be known. The solicitor of subscriptions came into the shop where an apprentice lad, not a church member, but one earnestly anxious for the welfare of the church, was at work, and asked him to subscribe. He had no money and



Our first church building, erected on Broadway, in 1832, near where the Lutheran Church parsonage now stands. Some of the brick in this building were used in the construction of the building now standing directly back of the Lutheran Church.



Rev. John B. Morton,
Pastor, 1840-47, 1853-65. Mr. Morton was a tower of strength in Middletown during his long pastorate in this church. He founded and taught a private school for young women while here. He is buried in the Middletown Cemetery.

could not see his way clear to obtain any. It was suggested to him that he put down some definite amount and endeavor to obtain it. This he did. The amount was ten dollars. He obtained it by working after his regular day's work was done in odd ends of time. He experienced the blessedness of giving.

Upon this financial basis the church began to operate. Nine hundred dollars (\$900) certainly seems to us in these days of enlarged ecclesiastical enterprises and splendid temples a very paltry sum with which to begin a church building. But we must remember those days were, in some respects, simpler than our own, and prices of labor and material were vastly different from the high rates of the present. The first step was to secure a suitable place. A beautiful site was purchased of Daniel Doty, in the southern part of the town, shaded and retired, the stately trees of which suggest God's first temples. Nothing further seems to have been done in this matter for two or three years, although doubtless it occupied much of the thought and feeling of the people. This period of time (1829-1831) seems to have been a time of spiritual prosperity and enjoyment. The church had now what it had never before experienced, viz.: the benefit of constant ministrations. Mr. Smith, who during the year preceding had been laboring with it but one-half his time, now gave all his time and labors. But he was probably not yet ordained to the full work of the ministry, for the Sessional Records make mention of the fact at every regular communion of some neighboring minister being present to administer the Sacrament. Yet his labors were blessed to the edification and growth of the church. Covering this time we find such minutes as the following:

February 29th, 1830. Rev. Adrian Aken administered the Lord's Supper. Seven were received on examination into church membership at this time, among whom were Mr. Patterson Mitchell, Mrs. Elizabeth Bonnell and Isaac Vadder.

July 3rd, 1830. Rev. J. W. Frazier administered the Lord's Supper. Two added on profession.

October 2nd, 1830. Rev. J. W. Frazier again administered communion. One was added to the church.

April 30th, 1831. Communion season. Five added by profession, two on certificate. Of these, one, Mary Fish, now Mrs. Denny, is still a member of the church. Ministers present, Revs. Dr. Thomas, Gaines, Weaver and Smith. It must have been about this time or soon after that Mr. Smith's labors ceased in this church.

In April, 1832, a meeting of the church members was held at the house of Mr. Wm. McClain to consider plans of church building, at which it was resolved, first, that the building should be built of brick and its dimensions should be forty-five (45) feet in length and thirty-five (35) feet in width; also resolved: That said house shall have three doors in it, one large double door in front and one small door on each side, and nine large windows and three small ones.

Mr. Wm. McClain, Wm. Judd and Moses W. Karr were appointed a building committee and instructed with "full powers" to erect the building. A contract was made with Meeker S. Morton to build the house, which was fulfilled at the specified time, and for which he received the sum of seven hundred and eighty-nine dollars and fifty-three cents (\$789.53). The work of plastering was let to Eli Green for forty-five (\$45) dollars; the making of shutters, cornicing and staircase to David Potter for eighty-four (\$84) dollars; the furnishing the church with pews to David L. Murray. The total cost of the building was about eleven hundred (\$1,100) dollars. The seats were sold to defray the expense of building them. Three hundred (\$300) dollars were realized from the sale. The unoccupied seats were offered for rent at the rates of one, one and one-half and two dollars per year, as we learn from plats of the seats drafted for the convenience of the trustees and still preserved.

A peculiar and somewhat unusual disposition, however, was made of four pews, as we learn from a resolution unanimously adopted at a congregational meeting held February 11th, 1833. "Resolved, That the four pews on the south of the pulpit, numbered thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two and thirty-three, be reserved for the use of those persons who have paid liberally toward the building of this house, and who have since moved away." What particular benefit these absent persons were expected to reap from their pews it is

difficult to imagine. However, the church, as we find in a subsequent item, very sensibly concluded to rent out these four seats already specified until such time as these persons to whom the church had thus shown its grateful good will, should return and claim them.

And thus the church became possessed of its first building, which still stands and now is owned and occupied by the German Lutheran Church. From the time of the occupation of this building for a number of years nothing unusual occurred. During this period Rev. John Hudson supplied the pulpit of the church one-fourth of the time for one year. Succeeding him Rev. Alexander Guy preached for one year. Then in the spring of 1837 application was made to the Presbytery for the services of Rev. J. S. Belleville. This was granted and Mr. Belleville labored here for a year or more. And so earnest were his labors in word and doctrine that he became known throughout this section of the country, far and near, as "Boanerges," the Son of Thunder. During this period one member was added to the Session, viz.: G. B. Crawford, ordained elder April 15th, 1837, and some twenty to twenty-five were added to the membership of the church, making a total of ninety-two members received during the twenty-years which we have now reviewed, the greatest number at any one time in connection with the church being between sixty and seventy. It was a time of trial and struggle; and often its condition seemed hopeless, dying, and, behold, it lived. It was sustained and fostered by the Presbytery and many appropriations were made on its behalf. Of the men of God who ministered here during this first twenty years of its life we add the following notes:

Rev. Francis Monfort, who organized the church, died June 18th, 1855, aged seventy-two and one-half years. After a long and useful life in the ministry, embracing about forty-two years, the greatest part of which was spent in the Miami Valley, he came to his grave like a shock of corn fully ripe. Let him be and in honor for his work's sake! All the rest are yet living.

Rev. S. B. Smith, in infirm health and advanced age, resides somewhere in the East.

Rev. John Hudson, also infirm, is living at West Liberty, Iowa.

Rev. Alexander Guy, who retired from the ministry some years since, resides in the town of Oxford, in this county, and Father Belleville, whose failing health has not permitted him to labor in the ministry actively for years, resides in Dayton, Montgomery County, Ohio.

SECOND PERIOD, 1840—1867.

THIS period embraces thirty years, the earlier portion of which is characterized by gradual growth. It begins with darkness and closes with light. At the opening of the year eighteen hundred and forty the affairs of the church were in a very discouraging condition. Even with the help received from the Board of Domestic Missions, it was impossible to sustain regular preaching. The people very eagerly and gratefully availed themselves of the means of grace occasionally afforded, but they had lost heart. And so almost in despair they besought the Presbytery at its spring meeting in April to devise some means by which the church might be kept alive. It seemed that this candlestick was about to be removed out of its place. The Presbytery, deeming the church located in too important a place to be neglected, gave attention to the request and instructed their Commissioner to the Assembly, Rev. John Belleville, to secure a minister, sent out under the auspices of the Domestic Missionary Board, to labor in this place. In the meantime Rev. M. Russell, the father of a later pastor, who had not been licensed, was appointed at that same Presbyterial meeting to preach during the month of May in this church.

On application of Mr. Belleville, Dr. Wm. McDowell, Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions, recommended a young man, licentiate of the First Presbytery, New York, whom he described as well fitted for the field and its work, and whom we need not name as the pastor, so many years of whose life were given to this church.

Rev. John B. Morton came to Middletown in June and began his work. In October of the same year the church requested leave of the Presbytery to employ him six months, which request was granted. Mr. Morton served the church

thus as stated supply until the fall of 1842, when the church of Franklin requested his labors one-half the time for six months. He then preached during that winter in the two churches on alternate Sabbaths. In the fall of 1841 Mr. Nathaniel Furman, since deceased, and Mr. Patterson Mitchell, a brother beloved, to whose fidelity and earnestness this church owes much, now a resident of Dayton, were elected and ordained Ruling Elders. During the period in which Mr. Morton served the church as stated supply, a space of almost three years, thirty-four members were added to the church.

There seems to have been a more than usual manifestation of the Divine Power accompanying and applying the preaching of the truth in the early part of the year 1843. Many careless ones were awakened, and sought and found peace in the atoning blood of Jesus. Daily meetings were held a part of January and through the entire month of February. In this work Mr. Morton was assisted principally by Rev. Thomas E. Thomas, occasionally by Rev. Samuel Newall, then of Lebanon, since called to Paris, Illinois, Rev. Samuel B. Smith and Rev. John S. Weaver. Some twenty-five were added to the church on profession of their faith in Christ, among whom of the living were Miss Elizabeth Glascoe and Mrs. Sarah Hilt, yet residing here and abiding fast in the faith of the Son of God; also Mr. Wm. Mitchell, now a Ruling Elder. Of those gone to the upper Sanctuary were Dr. Peter Vanderveer, elected elder February, 1856, died January 16th, 1861; Miss Margaret Vanderveer, afterward Mrs. Morton, died July, 1865, and Mrs. Eliza Wampler, called to her reward in Heaven February, 1866, but the memory of whose earnest life is sweetly fragrant in the hearts of those who knew her; also Miss Elizabeth Leffer-son (Mrs. Thomas Wilson), died August 8th, 1872. These all are blessed for they died in the Lord. These do rest from their labors and their works do follow them. Immediately succeeding this revival the church extended a call to Mr. Morton to become its pastor. The following record bears date of Thursday, March 14th, 1843.

“The members and supporters of the Middletown church met for the purpose of electing a pastor. Rev. James Coe

moderated the meeting which resulted in the choice of Rev. John B. Morton by a unanimous vote.”

Patterson Mitchell, Elder, was instructed to prosecute the call at the ensuing meeting of the Presbytery. At the meeting of the Presbytery, April 4th, the call was presented, found in order, put into the hands of Mr. Morton, and accepted by him.

Tuesday, 25th of April, was appointed as the day of his ordination and installation to the pastorate of the church.

Rev. James C. Barnes, of Dayton, was appointed to preach the ordination sermon; Rev. James Coe to preside and deliver the charge to the pastor; and Rev. John S. Galloway to deliver the charge to the people. Those brethren and fathers in the ministry have all yielded up their earthly stewardship and joined the general assembly and church of the first born who are enrolled in heaven. Mr. Morton continued pastor of the church for four years, during which time eighteen more were added to its membership, and one elder, Wm. Cassady, elected at what precise date it can not be ascertained, no minute having been made of the fact. Yet as his name first appeared in sessional meetings held during the spring of 1847, it must have been about this time he was inducted into office. Rev. Mr. Morton labored but one-half his time here during the last two years of his pastorate.

In April, 1845, by mutual agreement, the Presbytery sanctioning, he was released from labor one-half his time and engaged by the Franklin church for this unoccupied portion of time.

In 1846 the same arrangement was effected. And in 1847 the pastoral relation between Mr. Morton and this church was dissolved by Presbytery. At the same time permission was asked and obtained, on the part of the church, to employ Rev. S. M. Templeton, who had just attached himself to this Presbytery, by a regular dismissal from the Presbytery of Coshocton. We do not know and have not been able to ascertain the age of Mr. Templeton, nor the length of time he had been preaching, or whether this was his first settlement, although we infer that he was young in the ministry if not in years from this fact, that a little memorandum book, which has fallen into our hands, in which

he kept the roll of his Sabbath School class while he was a student in the Seminary at Allegheny, bears date of the year 1839, but seven years prior to his coming here.

Mr. Templeton served the church as a stated supply for eighteen months. Then in the fall of 1848 he received a call to the pastorate of the church, but was never installed pastor. For what reason it does not appear. He obtained permission of the Presbytery to retain the call for six months in his hands without positively deciding upon it, and at the expiration of the six months renewed the request, which was again granted.

During the latter part of 1850, Mr. Morton, who, in the meantime, had been pastor of the Franklin Church, resigned his pastoral office and removed to Middletown and supplied jointly with Mr. Templeton the pulpit here for about a year.

During those years the church moved along quietly, nothing remarkable or unusual transpiring to distinguish them. Some twenty-five persons in all, upon profession of faith and by certificate, were added to the church. Mr. Templeton died at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, some time between 1860 and 1865.

In 1853 Mr. Morton was invited to supply the pulpit of this church for six months. It was about this time that the church became entirely self-sustaining. For at this date we find the last appropriation ordered by Presbytery for the assistance of the church. About this time, too, the church began to lay plans for a new building, but of this proposal no minutes or records of any kind seem to have been kept, or if made they were long since lost, excepting a faded subscription list recently unearthed, and in which may be found names of many living members of this community. The result of those plans is seen in the building which the church now occupies. It was begun in 1854 and finished in 1856, its probable cost being from ten to twelve thousand dollars. The building committee was Dr. G. E. Wampler, Thomas Wilson, John L. Martin and Wm. S. Young. The dedication sermon was preached by Rev. J. S. Kemper, of Dayton, in the summer of 1856.

About this time Mrs. James Brookfield, a member of this church died and left by will the sum of five hundred dollars



Pastor 1867-72.
Rev. Joshua L. Russell,



Rev. Joseph W. Clokey,
Pastor 1873-78.
Mr. Clokey was a leader in the
early temperance crusades.

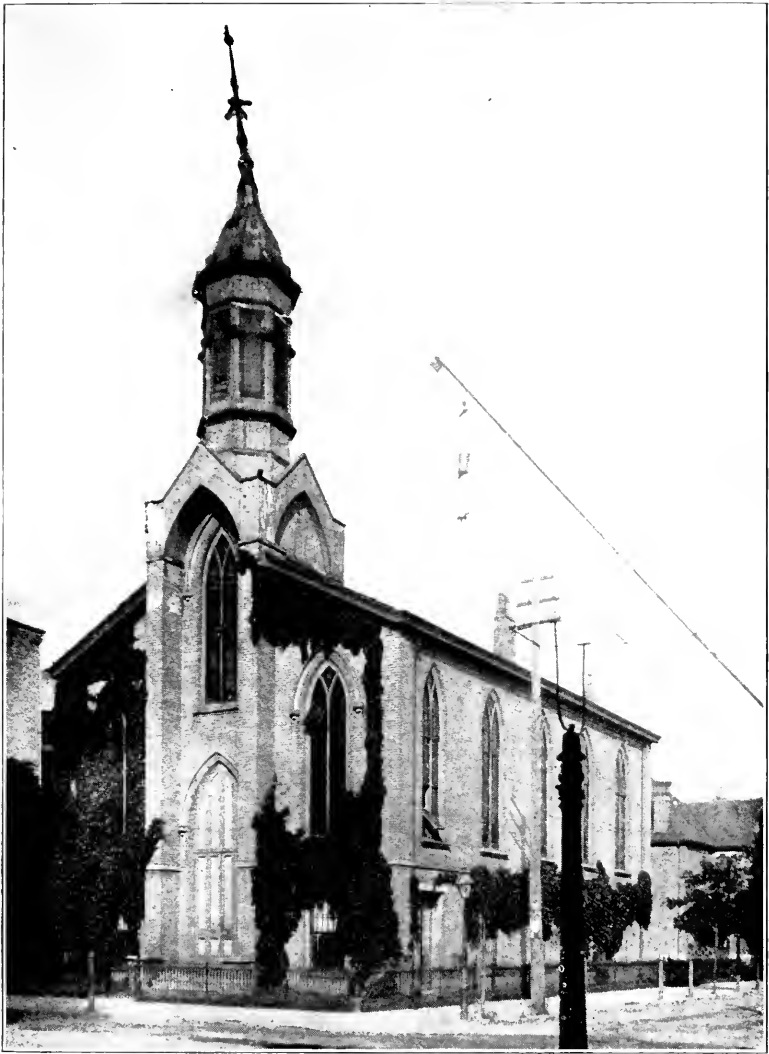
to the church, which bequest was appropriated in the building of the church. Mrs. Brookfield presented to the church the silver baptismal bowl yet in use. This bowl is itself an object of some interest. It is at least one hundred and twenty-five years old and bears these inscriptions:

“The Gift of Thomas Villett
to Cornelius Van Scis,
August, 1747 A. D.
Success to the Brig Fanny.”
“Presented to the Presbyterian Church at
Middletown, Ohio,
by Mrs. Brookfield,
August 1st, 1845.”

And thus this which was once a wine bowl for revelry upon the high seas, is now a quiet vessel in the Sanctuary of the Lord, unlike the old time vessels of the Lord which were taken from the Temple to grace the Babylon Bacchanals. Sometime history, instead of repeating, reverses itself.

Rev. Morton continued to supply the church until April, 1856, when he was a second time called to be its pastor. He accepted the call and Thursday, April 29th, was appointed as the day of installation. Rev. J. S. Kemper was appointed to preside and preach the sermon, Rev. J. H. Brooks to deliver the charge to the pastor and Rev. J. Coe to the people. Unavoidable circumstances prevented the installation at the appointed time and the service was held October 3rd.

During these three years (1853-1856) five elders were added to the session—Wm. Mitchell and Dr. Samuel R. Evans were elected February 19th, 1854—Dr. P. Vanderveer, Wm. M. Mills and Stephen E. Giffin (the latter afterward removed to Hamilton, served efficiently in the Session of that church for years and died in 1869), were elected and ordained in February, 1856. At the same time Messrs. J. S. Clark, Peter Butler and Solomon Brock were elected and ordained deacons. This period seems to have been characterized by great spiritual activity, and may almost be described a continuous revival. Ninety two were added to the church, sixty-two of them on profession of faith in Jesus Christ. From this time until the spring of 1865, a little



Our Second Church Building.

Erected on the site of the present building, northeast corner of Fourth and Main Streets. Dedicated, 1856. The material in this building was used in the construction of the Oakland Church in 1892.

more than seven years, Mr. Morton continued to be pastor of the church. During this time seventy-seven were added to the church. Death having made inroads upon the Session and some members having removed, in November, 1861, David Mumma and Horace P. Clough were elected and ordained elders. Also in March, 1864, P. P. LaTourrette and David E. Taylor were elected, but Dr. Taylor declined to serve.

On March 26th, 1865, Mr. Morton resigned the pastorate. For the next two years, from June, 1865, to 1867, Rev. G. I. Taylor served the church as stated supply. Nine members were added to the church. Four elders and five deacons were also elected in April, 1866, viz.: Alexander Ure, Thomas Wilson, J. G. Clarke and R. K. McIlhenny, elders; John Blair, John Kemp, C. B. Johnson, James C. King and Langdon Sheaff, deacons.

The two last named have since removed from the bounds of this church, Langdon Sheaff to occupy the position of superintendent of the Y. M. C. Association, first in Cincinnati, and afterward in Cleveland, Ohio.

THIRD PERIOD 1867—1872.

DURING the spring of 1867 the church building was remodeled and greatly improved in its internal arrangements. A pipe organ was purchased and set up in a recess constructed for it, in the rear of the pulpit.

In June, 1867, a unanimous call was extended to Rev. Joshua L. Russell, a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and a licentiate of the Presbytery of Miami. The call was accepted by him, and on the 16th of August following he was ordained and installed pastor of this church by the appointment of Presbytery. Rev. T. E. Thomas, D. D., of Dayton, preached the sermon, Rev. John B. Morton, of Middletown, presided and proposed the constitutional questions, Rev. E. R. Bower, of Springfield, delivered the charge to the pastor, Rev. H. W. Taylor, of Franklin, the charge to the people.

The church about this time seems to have received a baptism of the spirit of zeal and energy and its growth in every respect was constant and marked. This condition

continued until the fall of 1869 when the signs of earnest Christian life and work became still more abundant. The prayer meeting began rapidly to increase in numbers. The Sabbath services were characterized by an almost painful solemnity. The attendance on the preaching of the word increased till every available spot in the church was occupied. The people seemed to be hungry for the truth, and the more purely Jesus Christ and Him crucified was preached, the better did they appear to be satisfied. Daily meetings were appointed and largely attended for weeks. The power of God's spirit was manifest. The members of the church were revived. Impenitent men and women began to inquire into their personal duties and obligations. Deep convictions succeeded; sins were confessed, pardon was sought, peace was found. The old and the young alike felt the need of Jesus Christ. Sabbath after Sabbath newly pardoned souls confessed Christ in the presence of His people until in the three months succeeding the "Week of Prayer" more than one hundred had been, as in Pentecostal days, added to the Lord and to His Church. In nine cases both heads of families came together to profess their faith in Jesus and to walk as heirs together of the grace of Christ. Verily of this season it may be written that "He brought us into His banqueting house and His banner over us was love. There was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing." The influence of this remarkable revival upon the life and history of the church can not well be exaggerated. It established the church strongly. It inspired it with hope and courage. It infused fresh life blood into it. It gave the people a sense of the divine favor and implanted a spirit which has never departed since, as may be seen in the continued accessions that marked the remainder of this pastorate and the succeeding one. And in the character of the majority of those who united with the church at this time the church was especially blessed. They were chiefly mature men and women, and their incoming gave the church a sense of strength which has made her like a strong man rejoicing to run a race.

In April, 1869, Charles S. Barnitz and John Breeding were elected and ordained deacons.

On the 29th of July, 1870, this church celebrated its "Semi-Centennial" anniversary. A history of the church was read by the pastor, Rev. J. L. Russell. Addresses were delivered by Rev. J. L. Belleville and J. B. Morton, also by Rev. T. E. Thomas, D. D., then pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dayton, Ohio. Letters were read from Rev. George I. Taylor, Alexander Guy, Wm. Cassidy and others associated with the church as ministers or members in years past. Withal it was a most profitable occasion, reviving old and blessed memories of divine grace and providence, stimulating the faith of God's people in the Covenant promises of God and implanting hope and courage for the future.

In the spring of 1871 the church at a congregational meeting by a full and fair vote adopted the plan of electing elders and deacons for the limited terms.

During the summer of 1871 a preaching post was established at Jacksonburg, a village six miles west of Middletown. A number of persons having been converted under the preaching of the word, and others who in former years had been in connection with some evangelical denomination, but who had long been deprived of the regular means of grace, being quickened and revived spiritually, it was felt desirable that a church should be organized at this place. Hence the Presbytery of Dayton was petitioned by a number of persons, who pledged themselves to become members of such an organization, to establish a Presbyterian church at Jacksonburg. The petition was granted, and the church was organized. The church at Jacksonburg was very justly regarded as the offspring of the Middletown church. It originated in the labors and preaching of the pastor of the Middletown church, assisted by the earnest efforts of a zealous and faithful Christian band.

In the month of September, 1872, Rev. J. L. Russell was called to the pastorate of the Park Presbyterian Church, of Dayton, and at its meeting Presbytery, in the same month, translated him to take charge of the Park church.

During these five years from 1867 to 1872 the church was greatly strengthened. It grew from a membership of one hundred to almost three hundred, and such was its strength

not only numerically, but spiritually and socially, that it passed easily to the first place among the churches in the town.

During the pastorate about seventy members were received by certificate, one hundred and thirty-one on examination, thirty-six infants were baptized and fifty-nine adults. There were also sixty funerals and thirty-four weddings at which the pastor officiated.

FOURTH PERIOD—1870 TO 1919.

We have in our church today as one of our most active workers and faithful attendants a distant relative of our first pastor, Rev. Francis Monfort. Her father was an elder in the Presbyterian Church for forty-two years and clerk of the Session in our Church for about thirty-six years of the last half century. No doubt very frequently the work of the church and its interests were the subject of the meal-time and fireside conversations in her home. For these reasons, as well as because of her ability and interest in the work, it is only fitting and proper that the story as told by Mr. Russell should be continued by this member, Miss Josephine LaTourrette. This she has done most acceptably.

FOR a period of seven months after the close of Rev. J. L. Russell's labors the church was without a pastor. At the end of that time, on April 22, 1873, a call was made out to Rev. Joseph W. Clokey to become its pastor. This call was immediately accepted by him and his labors began on the first Sabbath of May of that year. The installation services took place June 5, 1873. Rev. J. H. Montgomery, of the Third Street Presbyterian Church, of Dayton, Ohio, preached the sermon. Rev. J. R. Hughes, of the Memorial Church, of Dayton, presided and proposed the constitutional questions and delivered the charge to the people. Rev. Samuel Findlay, D. D., of the New Jersey Church, delivered the charge to the pastor.

This pastorate, so happily begun, continued for five years when Mr. Clokey was released July 3, 1878, to accept a call to the First Church of New Albany, Indiana. During his ministry here our church was blessed by two gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit, the one occurring at the begin-

ning of the year 1875 and lasting nearly two months; the other in the spring of 1877 and continuing over one month. The first of these awakenings was remarkable for its results among the adults; the second, for its results among the children.

The attendance, both at the services on the Sabbath and at prayer meeting, was very large, averaging on Wednesday evening no less than 100 the year round, often running up to 140 and 150 persons.

The Young People's Association grew out of these same awakenings, having a membership of nearly 100 and an average attendance of 50 and often running up to 70 and 80.

The statistics of this pastorate are: Two hundred and twenty-seven added to the church, 156 being admitted by profession; of these, 67 were baptized; of the 156, 79 were over twenty years of age, 29 were over forty years of age, 14 were over fifty years of age, 3 between seventy and eighty years, 1 was over eighty years, and 1 over ninety years. At the close of this remarkable pastorate the church roll numbered 487 members.

Mr. Clokey was a faithful pastor, popular among the young people and well liked by the citizens of the town. He was a man of ability and of strong convictions, prominent in every movement for the betterment of Middletown and very active in the Temperance Crusade which occurred during his pastorate here. Mr. Clokey passed away August 17, 1919. He had been busily engaged in writing reminiscences for this centennial celebration when he was suddenly stricken with the illness which resulted in his death.

There was an interim of a few months after Mr. Clokey's labors closed during which all the services of the church were held regularly. Then on November 12, 1878, a congregational meeting was held and a unanimous call was tendered to Rev. Thomas H. Hench to become pastor. Mr. Hench accepted the call, and on December 8, 1878, entered upon his work here as pastor-elect.

The rotary system of electing the Ruling Elders and Deacons had been adopted by the church in 1871 during Mr. Russell's pastorate. This system had not proved satisfactory to the congregation, neither had it been conducive to



Rev. Thomas H. Hench, Pastor 1878-83.

harmony in the church, so at a congregational meeting held May, 1879, it was almost unanimously resolved that the church abolish the rotary system and return to the permanent system of office bearers, and this system has continued to the present time. The elders elected at this time were J. W. Hill, Montgomery Patton, John Blair, Alexander Ure, Alexander Hill and P. P. LaTourrette. The deacons elected were James B. Hartley, Dr. C. S. Barnitz, Wm. Caldwell, James McClellan and Dr. I. N. Foote.

This period of unrest and dissatisfaction greatly embarrassed the pastor-elect and interfered with the growth and progress of the work, but from this time the church increased in peace and harmony during his stay with us. His installation having been deferred, now took place in October, 1879. Rev. W. J. McKnight, of Springfield, preached the sermon and presided; Dr. W. W. Colmery, of Oxford, delivered the charge to the pastor, and Rev. J. H. Montgomery, of Dayton, the charge to the people.

Mr. Hench has himself testified to the very pleasant and cordial relations existing between the pastor and people dur-

ing the settlement of the matter mentioned above, and that every one respected his independent and impartial position.

After the restoration of harmony in the church there were not wanting tokens of the divine blessing on the church, especially in 1882. After the week of prayer the church enjoyed a season of awakening which resulted in the addition of more than 36 persons by letter and on confession of faith.

During the summer of 1881 the congregation expended over \$3,000 in repairing and remodeling the church. The pews were repainted in walnut, walls and ceiling were frescoed, stained glass windows were put in, new carpets were placed on the floor, a walnut pulpit and handsome chairs were placed on the platform and the organ was thoroughly repaired and the pastor's study was renovated and refurnished.

An effort made to organize a missionary society during Mr. Hench's first year failed because of opposition and lack of a general missionary spirit. After a year or two the pastor's wife succeeded in organizing a society. She also organized a Mission Band in her Sabbath School class, into which one or two other classes were received.

During the first two years of this pastorate there was an unusually large number of deaths among the members of the church and congregation, some of them leading persons in the church and community, such as Mr. George Jacoby, Mr. Thomas Wilson, Mr. David Mumma, a much beloved elder at that time, Mrs. Alexander Hill and others.

Mr. Hench was a man of pleasing personality, well liked in the church and community, a spiritual and Godly man, a faithful pastor, who felt he was not successful in doing the Lord's work here, and so at his own request the pastoral relation was dissolved by Presbytery, and he closed his pastorate here on Sabbath, May 27, 1883.

Rev. John Ballard Morton, for twenty-one years stated supply and pastor of this church, died on the 31st of March, 1882, during this pastorate.

After the termination of the pastorate of Rev. Thomas H. Hench, the pulpit was supplied by different ministers until August 4, 1883, when at a congregational meeting called for the purpose a unanimous call was tendered Rev.

Heber A. Ketchum, of Portsmouth, Ohio, to become pastor. The church in this instance departed from the usual custom in calling a pastor, as Mr. Ketchum was called without ever having visited the church and without even being personally known except to a very few of the members. A short time after receiving the call he visited the church, spent several days here and occupied the pulpit on the Sabbath to the general satisfaction of the congregation. Being well satisfied himself, he in due time accepted the call and made preparations for moving here. When he made application to Portsmouth Presbytery to dissolve his pastorate with the Second Presbyterian Church at Portsmouth, that church protested so strongly against it that Presbytery declined to sever the pastoral relation. This was a sore disappointment to our people.

After this several candidates were heard without satisfactory results, when on November 15, 1883, the Session acting upon the expressed wishes of a number of the members employed Rev. Henry B. Elliott, D. D., to supply the pulpit until the spring meeting of Presbytery, and at the annual meeting of the congregation on the last Saturday in March, 1884, the Session was authorized to employ Dr. Henry B. Elliott for six months longer which was done.

Mr. Elliott was an evangelical, scholarly and able minister of the Gospel, and faithful in the discharge of pastoral work and much beloved by the older members of the church.

From the Sessional Record the following is taken: At a congregational meeting September 18, 1884, the following paper was presented and unanimously adopted and ordered to be spread on the Sessional Records: "The Rev. H. B. Elliott, D. D., having signified his intention of retiring from the supply of our pulpit at the expiration of his present engagement with us, we take this occasion as a congregation to express our entire confidence in him as a man and as a Christian minister and most cordially bear testimony to the zeal and fidelity with which he has served our church for the past year, as well as to his rare ability as an expounder of the Word, being a workman, indeed, that needeth not to be ashamed. Our prayers and good wishes will follow him into whatever field his future lot may be cast."



**Rev. Scott F. Hershey,
Pastor 1884-87.**



**Rev. George M. McCampbell,
Pastor 1890-95.**

Dr. Elliott was called higher just about a year ago, during the summer of 1918, in New York City.

Dr. Elliott's pastorate closed about the middle of October, 1884, after which several candidates were heard, but no one was tendered a call.

In November Rev. Scott F. Hershey, Ph.D., was invited to supply us for a Sabbath or two, and his ministrations proving so acceptable to the congregation, he was, on the 17th day of December, 1884, employed as stated supply to the 1st of April, 1885. Mr. Hershey was at that time a member of the Lancaster (Ohio) Classis of the Reformed German Church.

Mr. Hershey was employed with the understanding that the privilege of hearing other candidates during the time be reserved. April 1st, the Session being satisfied it was the desire of the congregation that the labors of Mr. Hershey be continued as stated supply of the church, entered into an agreement with him to supply us for six months more or until the fall meeting of Presbytery, with the understanding that it be continued for one year from that time with approval of Presbytery.

From the beginning Mr. Hershey's ministrations were well received. The attendance at both the Sabbath services largely increased and continued to increase, as did the Wednesday evening prayer meetings. While there was no great religious awakening there were steady accessions to the church. No communion season passed without additions to the church. There were more than one hundred and five new members received, most of them being young people, as Mr. Hershey and his wife were both very popular among the young people, and as a result they steadily increased in numbers at all the church services.

Mrs. Hershey organized a class of young men, beginning with one member, and increasing to thirty or more, most of whom were from outside the church. She also took great interest in the Mission Band of Willing Workers which, quoting from the church narrative, raised \$115.00 in one year, \$25.00 of which was contributed toward a scholarship in Alaska. The Woman's Society and the Home and Foreign

Missionary Societies also became more active. In fact, all branches of church work showed renewed activity.

The church built and equipped a substantial manse adjoining the church at a cost of about \$5,041, which was provided for, and our church was entirely free from debt at the close of Mr. Hershey's labors, and seemed in a prosperous condition. On September 25, 1887, Mr. Hershey's work among us ceased, he having accepted a call to the Sixth Presbyterian Church at Washington, D. C.

Mr. Alexander Hill, an honored member of the Session, and Mrs. Caroline Corson, wife of Dr. John Corson, died during this pastorate.

The regular services of the church continued after Mr. Hershey closed his work here, different ministers preaching for us, until on March 20, 1888, a hearty and unanimous call was given to the Rev. W. J. McConkey, of Grove City, Pa., to become pastor. After due deliberation, Mr. McConkey declined to accept the call.

At a congregational meeting held on June 18, 1888, Rev. J. M. Simonton, of Danville, Pa., was voted a unanimous call to become pastor of this church. Mr. Simonton accepted the call and entered upon his work as pastor-elect September 2, 1888. On October 16, 1888, he was duly installed as pastor of the church. Rev. W. A. Hutchison preached the sermon, presided and propounded the constitutional questions. Rev. G. W. Gowdy, of the New Jersey Church, delivered the charge to the people, and Rev. S. S. Cryer, of the Cincinnati Presbytery, gave the charge to the pastor.

There was no marked spiritual awakening during Mr. Simonton's pastorate, yet there was a steady increase in the membership. At nearly every meeting of the Session and at every communion there were accessions to the church, both on confession of faith and by letter.

The church services both on the Sabbath and on Wednesday evenings were well attended. The statement is made that at this time one-fifth of the membership attended prayer meeting. The Sabbath School, although it did not increase in members, did not materially decrease.

A committee of six ladies was appointed at this time to look after and show due attention to any Presbyterian fam-

ilies who might move into this city. This committee was to serve for six months and consisted of the following ladies: Mrs. Montgomery Patton, Mrs. C. S. Barnitz, Mrs. Dr. McClellan, Mrs. C. B. Oglesby, Miss Lou Hilt and Mrs. Joseph Shafor.

Mr. J. K. Thomas, who for many years had been the efficient chorister of the church and Sabbath School, tendered his resignation to the Session March 6, 1889. In accepting his resignation the Session unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

“Whereas, Mr. J. K. Thomas has tendered his resignation as chorister of this church; and, whereas, his services for these many years in this capacity have been most faithful, his management wise and efficient,

“Resolved, That the resignation of Brother Thomas be accepted and that in its acceptance we would accord to him our due appreciation for his valuable and gratuitous services; and,

“Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be entered on the records of the church and that it be read at the next annual meeting of the congregation.”

On February 11, 1890, Mr. Montgomery Patton, an honored member of the Session, passed away.

Mr. Simonton, having previously resigned on November 12, 1890, at his request a meeting of the congregation was called. Having received a call to the Third Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati, Ohio, which he had decided to accept, he wished the congregation to join with him in asking the Presbytery of Dayton to dissolve the existing pastoral relation. With regret his request was complied with.

The pastoral relation between Rev. J. M. Simonton and this church was dissolved November 17, 1890, and his ministry closed on Sabbath, November 23, 1890, and we were again without a pastor.

Mr. Simonton was a kind, genial man, a faithful pastor, a man of spotless and consistent Christian character.

After an interim of a little over two months, on February 7, 1891, Rev. George M. McCampbell, of the First Presbyterian Church of Stapleton, Long Island, was tendered a call to the pastorate of this church. The call was accepted,

and on February 22, 1891, he entered upon his duties here as pastor-elect.

On May 22, 1891, Rev. G. M. McCampbell was duly installed as pastor of this church. Rev. George E. Gowdy, Moderator of Dayton Presbytery, presided and propounded the constitutional questions. Dr. J. H. Hutchinson, of Jeffersonville, Indiana, preached the sermon, Rev. Edgar W. Work, D. D., gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Mr. Willetts the charge to the people.

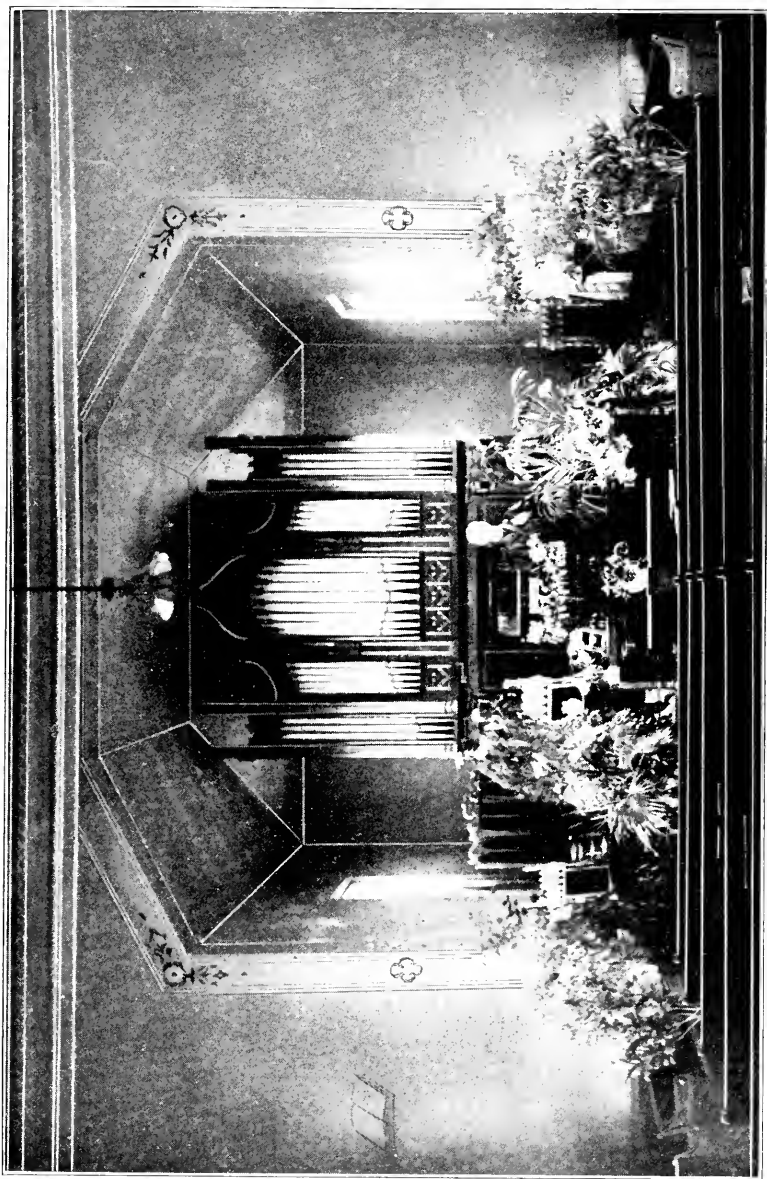
When Mr. McCampbell began his work the outlook was very encouraging. The congregation at the Sabbath services steadily increased in numbers, and there was a marked improvement in the attendance of the young people at those services. A large increase in the enrollment and average attendance of the Sabbath School was noticed, much beyond that of any former year. The same increase was noted in the Wednesday evening prayer meeting.

The Women's Societies were reorganized and were now working under the same plan as they had several years previous, when they had done such efficient work.

Mr. McCampbell adopted a systematic plan of house-to-house visiting, and so kept in touch with his people. A spirit of harmony prevailed and the church seemed in a prosperous condition.

At the annual business meeting of the congregation, April 4, 1891, it was decided to proceed in the erection of a new church edifice. This was a dream of years and was now about to become a reality. Over \$25,000 was reported to have been subscribed at that time for that purpose. A building committee of fifteen was appointed, consisting of the following persons: Theodore Marston, Wm. Caldwell, C. B. Oglesby, J. B. Hartley, Jos. Iseminger, C. B. Johnson, J. K. Thomas, Dr. C. S. Barnitz, Charles E. Margerum, George C. Jacoby, Murray Schenck, E. McCallay, H. P. Leabee, Dr. Samuel McClellan and P. P. LaTourrette. Full powers were delegated to this committee to select a site, adopt a plan of building and to secure further subscriptions.

On July 29, 1891, a congregational meeting was held to authorize this building committee, if the way be clear, to dispose of the present church site, excepting the parsonage.



An interior view of the first building erected on the present church site. This photograph was taken on the last Sunday that services were held in this building, in the summer of 1891. Rev. George M. McCampbell is in the pulpit.

After a free discussion of the matter the congregation decided by a large majority to authorize the trustees and building committee to dispose of the present site. They were also given the power and authorized to procure another site for the erection of a new church building.

In July of this year (1891) a meeting of the officers of the church was held to consider the advisability of holding outdoor religious services in Oakland Place, at that time a suburb of Middletown, as well as to conduct a weekly prayer meeting at private houses in that locality. It was decided that the pastor hold such out-door services during the time the weather would permit and also conduct the weekly prayer meetings. A committee consisting of Wm. Caldwell, C. S. Barnitz and J. W. Hill was authorized to erect the necessary seats and platform, as well as to obtain the permission of the owner of the ground to use the same for this purpose. This movement resulted eventually in the organization of the Oakland Presbyterian Church.

In August, 1891, it is recorded that Messrs. C. B. Johnson, William Caldwell, Theodore Marston, George C. Barnitz, James K. Thomas and Mrs. Rachel Magee, the last-named being a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, had contributed six hundred dollars and purchased two lots on the corner of Woodlawn and Garfield Avenues, in Oakland Subdivision, of the City of Middletown, Ohio, and that these persons had donated the same to the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown for the purpose of erecting thereon a chapel, or church, to be under the control of the trustees of the First Church until such time as the said church and congregation to be organized shall become self-sustaining. When the same shall be self-sustaining the donors desired that the lots be transferred by the trustees of the First Church to the trustees of the new church. The records state that this enterprise has had the support of many other persons, among whom were John L. Blair, William McLean, Charles B. Oglesby, Dr. Samuel McClellan, Mr. John W. Hill, Mrs. Jeanette Crawford, Mrs. Joseph Thum, Mrs. George Swainey, Sarah Beard and, at a later date, Mr. A. L. Foster.

At the annual congregational meeting of the First

Church, April 6, 1892, a resolution was introduced asking the congregation to donate the material in the old church building, or so much of the same as could be utilized for that purpose, together with all the furniture in it except the musical instruments and the chairs, for the purpose of building and furnishing a church or chapel on the lots above referred to. After discussion the congregation voted in the affirmative.

During this year the Oakland Church was completed and regular services were held with large congregations, especially on Sabbath evenings. A weekly prayer meeting was held. A committee from the First Church, consisting of Elders Marston, Evans and LaTourrette, was appointed to organize a Sabbath School, which was done February 19, 1893, with a very promising outlook for its future growth and prosperity as 86 names were enrolled as members of the school. Mr. John L. Blair was elected Superintendent. A Society of Christian Endeavor was also organized. The expenses of this church were borne by members of the First Church. These were busy times for the First Church with the building of two churches on at the same time.

It was finally decided by the building committee of fifteen to erect the new church on the old site. There was some objection to a new site, and many were in favor of using the old one, largely through sentiment. So the work was begun, and on Saturday, November 5, 1892, at 3:00 P. M., the corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies, in the presence of a large gathering of people. The program on this occasion was as follows:

- Hymn "With Joy We Lift Our Eyes"
- Scripture Lesson Psalm 87
- Hymn "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"
- Responsive Reading.
- Repetition of the Creed.
- Placing of the Box.
- Prayer.
- Laying of the Corner-Stone.
- Hymn "Christ Is Our Corner-Stone"
- Doxology.
- Benediction.

Mr. Alexander Ure, another of our honored elders, died November 21, 1892. Because of the death of three of the elders in a short time, it was deemed necessary to elect three others. At the annual meeting, April 5, 1893, this election was held and resulted in the choice of J. K. Thomas, George N. Clapp and Joseph W. Shafor. The last two mentioned are members of the Session today. On April 16 Mr. Thomas and Mr. Shafor were ordained and installed as Ruling Elders. Mr. Clapp, having been ordained in another church, was duly installed in this church. At this service the pastor preached a sermon on the office and duties of Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church.

The Session also decided to abolish the choir for reasons deemed wise, and Mr. C. S. Stanage who had been the leader of the choir was asked to act as precentor. He consented and acted in this capacity for some time.

On suggestion of Mr. McCampbell, the Session unanimously decided to adopt the systematic plan of benevolence for raising money for the different boards of the church by the distribution of envelopes, and the pastor was appointed a committee to carry the same into effect. Also a general visitation of the families of the church by the pastor and one of the elders was arranged for. A short time after this the names of the members of the church were apportioned among the elders, and they were expected to visit the members on their list at least twice each year and give a verbal report at the monthly meetings of the Session and a written report at the end of every six months.

When the old church was being dismantled and torn down the Methodists, having built a new church between Fourth and Fifth streets, on Broadway, offered us the use of their old church on Broadway, a few doors north of Third street, for a stated sum, and all services of the First Church were held there for some time. The work on the new building was progressing favorably, and when it was nearing completion it became necessary to determine who should have the authority to decide what decorations and furniture should be permitted in the new church edifice. A meeting of all the officers of the church was called to decide this question. Mr. J. K. Thomas was made chairman and P. P.



Rev. Thomas M. Scott,
Pastor 1896-1900.



Rev. W. Hamill Shields,
Pastor 1900-10.

LaTourrette clerk. On motion it was resolved that hereafter the Woman's Society of the church be given the authority to decide what decorations and furniture should be allowed, and said Society was further given full control of the parlor and kitchen furniture.

In the summer of 1893 we began to use the lecture room of the new church, and hoped to have the main audience room completed in the near future.

In the meantime the spiritual growth of the church was encouraging. The regular services were held as usual, at times with many discomforts. As a result of the extreme depression in business matters, there had been a falling off in giving. Our mission school in the Oakland Church continued to grow. The Woman's Society was very active in furnishing the new church and deserved great praise. The membership of the church was 423 and of the Sabbath School 410.

In December, 1894, several members of the church entered into an agreement with Rev. Henry E. Neff to supply the Oakland Church at their own expense. This met with the approval of Session.

Rev. Mr. Neff's pastorate began in January, 1895, and proved so successful that a petition was presented to the Dayton Presbytery at its April meeting of that year praying for the organization of a church in the Oakland field. This prayer was granted and the organization was completed on April 18, 1895. At this time forty persons presented themselves for membership and were received. Mr. John W. Hill and Mr. John L. Blair were elected elders and were duly inducted into office.

In the church narrative for the year ending March 31, 1895, we find much praise given the different societies of the church. The Woman's Missionary Society was commended for the noble work done. The Senior and Junior Endeavor Societies had been very active, as had also the King's Daughters, and each of these organizations had done much good. The Woman's Society deserved special praise for the grand work accomplished. It had raised more money than in any former year, had managed its affairs with signal ability and the building committee was greatly indebted, not only to this

Society, but also to the Senior and Junior Christian Endeavors, and to several classes in the Sabbath School for the material financial aid afforded toward lifting the debt on the new church building.

In May, 1895, is recorded the death of James Crawford, who for many years had been a faithful worker in the church and especially in the Sunday School.

The new church building was entirely completed and it was expected to begin to occupy the auditorium permanently on Easter Sabbath, 1895. The session appointed Dr. C. S. Barnitz chief usher, with a corps of assistants.

Articles of Incorporation for the First Presbyterian Church were taken out in October, 1895.

The pastoral relations existing between Rev. G. M. McCampbell and this church were dissolved by Presbytery October 14, 1895.

In the Sessional Records of April 26, 1891, during this pastorate, mention is made of the death of Mrs. Susan Patton, a devoted, faithful and most conscientious member of this church, never absent from a service unless unavoidably detained. The session wished to place on record their sense of loss and bereavement, not only as representatives of the church and congregation of which she was so long a faithful member, but also of her large circle of friends among whom she was a recognized example of "whatsoever things are lovely and of good report," and to express their appreciation for her liberal gifts to the church.

For nearly a year after the close of Mr. McCampbell's pastorate the pulpit was vacant. Several times meetings of the congregation were called for the purpose of calling a pastor, but the way did not seem to be clear until on August 16, 1896, a meeting was held which resulted in a unanimous call being made out to Rev. Thomas Smith Scott, D. D., to become the pastor.

Mr. Scott accepted, and on October 4, 1896, entered upon his duties here as pastor-elect. On November 16, 1896, he was installed as pastor. Rev. T. M. Hillman, Moderator of Presbytery, presided and propounded the constitutional questions; Dr. Maurice E. Wilson, of Dayton, preached the sermon; Dr. E. W. Work charged the pastor; and Dr. W. O.

Thompson, President of Miami University, charged the congregation.

When Mr. Scott took charge of the church it was not very prosperous spiritually, although the pulpit had been regularly supplied while we were without a pastor, but his first year among us was marked by increasing peace and harmony, also by an encouraging advance in all lines of Christian work. Five services were regularly held on the Sabbath—preaching morning and evening, Sabbath School and Senior and Junior Endeavor. New life and vigor seem to have been infused in them as shown by the increased number in attendance at these services, as well as at the Wednesday evening meeting, so that the outlook at the end of that year had much of encouragement in it. The King's Daughters, the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society and the Woman's Society were deserving of much praise for their zeal and for the good they accomplished. The financial obligations of the church were met with promptness. The number of communicants was 358. The Senior Christian Endeavor paid \$500 toward the church debt this year, 1896-7.

On January 16, 1898, Dr. S. R. Evans, senior elder, the oldest male member of the church, and a man highly esteemed by all, was suddenly called to his reward.

During the year ending April 6, 1898, besides Dr. S. R. Evans, a number of the older members died, among them being Jacob Banker, Mrs. Mary Puls, Mrs. Christian Caldwell, Mrs. Elizabeth Breeding and Mrs. Elizabeth La Tourrette.

At the annual congregational meeting of the congregation, April 4, 1900, after the reports of the Treasurer and of the different societies were read, we find that a hearty vote of thanks was tendered Wm. Caldwell, Treasurer of the Church, as well as to the Women's Societies for their efficiency and their fidelity to their respective duties during the year.

In the narrative for the year ending April 1, 1900, it is recorded that the pastor had been faithful in performing his duties, preaching the Word in season; that the Gospel had been the theme which had been constantly set forth;



Our present Church Home, Erected 1891-2.

that earnest work had been done, and that it would bring its harvest, for God had so promised.

Mr. Scott having previously announced his intention to resign as pastor, requested at the annual meeting that the congregation unite with him in his application to Presbytery to release him. By a rising vote the congregation resolved to concur with him in his request.

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Dayton, held April 10, 1900, the pastoral relation existing between Dr. T. S. Scott and this church was dissolved by mutual consent and his labors ceased here May 13, 1900. For nearly four months thereafter we were without a pastor, but we had occasional preaching by different ministers.

Dr. Scott was a faithful pastor, a true friend and an honored and respected citizen. His pastorate labors here closed May 13, 1900.

On Sabbath, September 2, 1900, Rev. W. Hamill Shields, of Detroit, Michigan, began his ministry here as stated supply under very favorable auspices. When Mr. Shields entered upon his pastorate there was a debt of between seven and eight thousand dollars on the church property. This debt was paid during his first year here and the mortgage cancelled, for which Mr. Shields and the contributors to that fund deserve great credit and praise for their liberality.

March 9, 1901, the Session resolved to hold the annual meeting April 3, 1901, and that if the way be clear to elect a pastor, and at the same meeting, the mortgage upon the church property having been satisfied, it was resolved that the dedication of the church be held on the second Sabbath of May, the 12th. A committee of five was appointed, consisting of three elders, Marston, Thomas and Clapp, and two deacons, Caldwell and Barnitz, to prepare a program for that event. Mr. Shields was to act with these gentlemen.

On April 3, 1901, Mr. Shields was given a hearty and unanimous call to become pastor of this church. He accepted this call and on April 18, 1901, was installed as pastor. Rev. J. G. Black preached the sermon, Rev. G. E. Thompson delivered the charge to the pastor and Rev. Edgar W. Work, D. D., of Dayton, delivered the charge to the people. The services throughout were very interesting.

On April 1, 1901, the report for the year gave the following statistics:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Whole number of communicants..... | 363 |
| Sabbath School enrollment..... | 197 |
| Contributed to Home Missions..... | \$161.16 |
| Contributed to Foreign Missions..... | 93.85 |

It must be remembered that throughout this part of our story the items of expenses and benevolences given are only those which were paid directly through the Church treasury and not through the societies and organizations of the Church. From time to time within the last few years different methods have been followed for meeting the obligations of the Church and its organizations and consequently the statistics are not always comparable.

On May 12, 1901, the First Presbyterian Church was dedicated to the service of Almighty God, free from debt, with intensely interesting services. Rev. W. O. Thompson, D. D., President of Ohio State University, preached the sermon, and an appropriate program of responsive readings and music was given. The prayer of dedication was made by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Shields. The ministers of the other churches were present and took part in the services. A very large and interested congregation was present.

During the year ending April 1, 1902, we find reported as items of interest that the pastor made 600 pastoral calls; during this year the membership was 404; that 61 members were received, 31 on confession of faith, 24 of whom were from the Sabbath School; that Mrs. Margaret Suydam, one of the oldest members, was called home after but a brief illness. Her love for the church has been shown in her bequeathing her estate to it, to be used for the glory of God. We find it reported also "that the passing away of Mr. James B. Hartley, one of the oldest members and a deacon for many years, leaves many with a sense of personal loss. He was a good man, full of faith and the Holy Ghost. His works will follow him and his memory will remain fragrant so long as we ourselves shall endure." Also Mr. Charles Barnitz, son of Dr. C. S. Barnitz, one of our members who served in the Spanish-American war, died on the very eve of his return

home from the Philippines. It is a glorious thing to die at the post of honor and duty.

On April 20, 1902, W. H. Johnson and A. L. Foster were ordained and installed as deacons.

On April 1, 1903, at a meeting of the Session a committee was appointed to solicit funds for the Foreign Missionary Board to increase the amount already contributed to enable our church to have its own Missionary in the foreign field. This was a great movement for our church to take, and one that not only blessed ourselves, but was an example and inspiration for others to follow. It was a forward step in the Kingdom of God. The year ending March 31, 1903, had been a year of blessing in spiritual things. The church gave to all the benevolent interests at home and abroad a total of \$1,126.00, and now the new church year was to begin by the adoption of this new movement which was a success. All of the societies of the church received the same spiritual blessing. Thirty-six members were added to the church this year.

When the church year closed March 31, 1904, 163 new members had been added to the church since Mr. Shields had become our pastor. The church was still prospering spiritually and financially. To the Boards of the Church and other benevolences \$1,234.00 had been contributed. This includes the paying of \$450.00 in salary to our foreign pastor, Rev. A. E. Street, of Hainan, China. This was the result of the movement begun in 1903. The Sabbath School gave \$50.00 that year toward the support of a Home Missionary in the South. During this year Mr. John D. Breeding, one of the oldest members, passed away.

On March 3, 1904, Mr. W. K. Rhonemous was elected elder, and on December 4, 1904, he was ordained and installed by the pastor in the presence of a very large congregation. On September 1, 1904, the Sabbath School was changed to the morning, being held just before the church services. This made a marked increase in the morning congregation. The evening services were largely attended, and at some of the special services the auditorium was filled. This year of 1904-05 was a happy and successful one. The Sabbath School was in a most flourishing condition, with

efficient officers and teachers. Many of the young people attended the church services. The Woman's Society was prosperous, too. The ladies refrescoed the Sunday School room and also recarpeted it. The Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society had done its usual good work. The total number of communicants was 470.

April 6, 1905, the following was placed in the records of the church :

Middletown, Ohio, April 6, 1905.

Mr. P. P. LaTourrette,
Middletown, Ohio.

Dear Brother :—

At a meeting of the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church held last evening a vote of thanks was extended you for your faithful and long continued services in its behalf, and as Secretary thereof, I was instructed to forward you notice of our action. Trusting you may receive your reward and that we may receive for many years the benefit of your counsels and advice, I am,

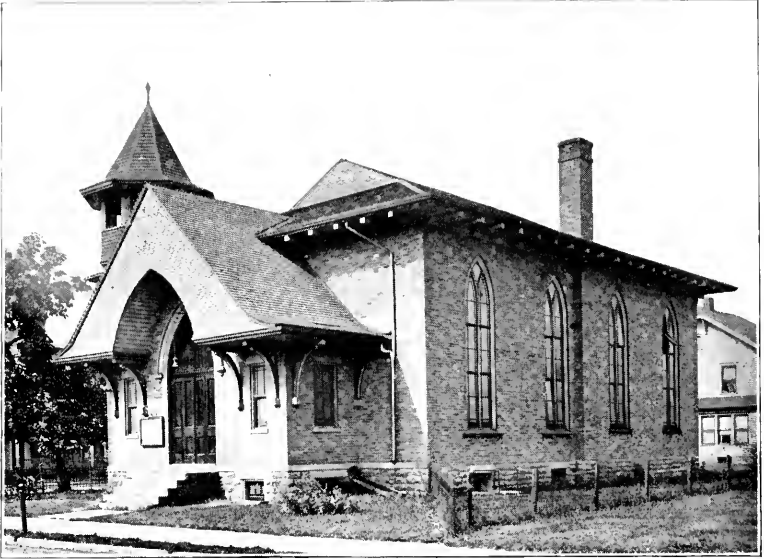
Very truly yours,

W. H. JOHNSON.

On October 21, 1905, the name of P. P. LaTourrette appears for the last time signed to the minutes as Clerk of the Session. He had held this position and had missed very few meetings since March 31, 1872, a period of 34 years. His name, however, was signed to the church narrative of April, 1906. Some of the members who passed away this year were Mrs. Elizabeth Lefferson, Mrs. Elizabeth Shafor and Mrs. Mary G. Foote.

During the year ending March 31, 1906, the Oakland Church was dissolved and its 30 members absorbed into the membership of the First Church. The Sunday School at the Oakland Church was continued, however, under the direction of the First Church. The session appointed Mr. Frank Otter, Superintendent, and William McLean, Assistant Superintendent, and they, with the assistance of faithful teachers, did a splendid work.

In the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held April 2, 1906, are the following statements :



The Oakland Presbyterian Church.



The Oakland Presbyterian Church Manse.

“The Woman’s Society of the Church cannot be too highly praised for its work done this period. The Woman’s Missionary Society must be equally praised for its faithful work.

The Forward Movement pledged itself to give \$300.00 to Rev. D. J. Flemming, of Lahore, India.

The Christian Endeavor Societies, Senior and Junior, are steadily moving forward.

The Sunday School under the efficient leadership of Mr. W. K. Rhonemus has gone steadily on, the average attendance being higher and more faithfully sustained than in years.

There were 62 additions to the church this year, the membership now being 447, and the spiritual condition of the church is very encouraging.”

Among the members who passed away this year was Mr. John Ross, for many years the faithful and devoted sexton of the church.

Peace and the utmost harmony prevailed and the success of the future seemed limited only by our faith. This was the best year financially for a long time. December 19, 1906, at a congregational meeting J. L. Blair, Murray Schenck, Frank J. Otter, R. C. Vanderveer, William McLean and A. T. Wilson were elected elders, and O. F. Kendle and Carl F. Williamson were elected deacons.

For the year closing April 1, 1907, the narrative says, “The loss by death has been a sad one, as many old and valued members were taken. The three faithful elders, John Blair, James K. Thomas and P. P. LaTourrette are sorely missed, as are also William Caldwell, our faithful Treasurer, and Dr. J. L. Thornton, the Bible teacher, and Dr. C. S. Barnitz, the oldest deacon.” Theodore Marston, another old elder, died the following year. These old and faithful friends so long associated in the work of this church, who loved it and were devoted to its interests above all other earthly things, in death were not long separated. “They have entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God. This familiar hymn which they have so often helped to sing expresses their feeling for the church :

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

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

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

Others who passed away this year were William Ling, Mrs. Lucy Hinkle, Mrs. Mary Smith, Mrs. Maria Margerum, Mrs. Rhoda Lucas and William McClellan.

On January 24, 1907, the Presbyterian Brotherhood was organized with R. C. Phillips, President ; R. C. Vanderveer, Vice President ; G. H. Stahl, Secretary, and E. L. McCallay, Treasurer. This organization was doing great good with a Senior membership of 50 and a Junior membership of 35. Because of its efforts the spiritual condition of the church was greatly improved.

At this time the Home Department of the Sunday School reported 121 members. Lack of funds, however, hindered the work. No one can estimate the value of the work done by this department under the supervision of Mrs. A. T. Wilson. It was largely a personal work. Mrs. Wilson was President of the King's Daughters. She also taught a Ladies' Bible Class in the Sabbath School for many years, and only gave it up when failing health compelled her to do so.

On January 23, 1907, Mr. W. K. Rhonemus was elected clerk of the Session for one year. On October 23, of the same year, he was elected permanent clerk.

During this year Elder Theodore Marston passed to his reward.

Mr. Otter being about to move away, resigned as Superintendent of the Oakland Sabbath School. Mr. R. C. Van-

derveer was appointed in his place and G. N. Clapp was chosen Assistant Superintendent.

April 1, 1908, we find that, counting the 30 from the Oakland Church, there had been added to the church since September 21, 1900, when Mr. Shields came, 280 members. No communion had passed without additions.

The spiritual prospects were brighter than ever before. The Sabbath School and Brotherhood were well organized and doing good and efficient work. The membership of the Senior Brotherhood had increased from 54 to 117 members, and the whole church and Sabbath School felt the quickening power of the Brotherhood and all was harmonious and hopeful. The membership of the Junior Brotherhood was about 50, and the boys were very enthusiastic and looking forward to a better home. From 20 to 25 of them were in the Sabbath School. The interest in the Young People's Society and The Workers' Mission Band was greatly increased and they were doing fine work. Much of this interest was attributed to the Brotherhood.

The Forward Movement Committee sent \$209.00 this year to our own Foreign Missionary.

All the societies of the church shared in the progress made and the prospects for the new year were such that we were led to believe it was to be one of the best in the history of the church.

This year many more of our faithful members were called home, among them Mrs. Alexander Blackie, Mrs. J. B. Hartley, Mrs. Sarah Gruver, Mrs. Rolla Crawford, Mr. George Jacoby, Mrs. James Blair, Sr., Mrs. Sarah Smoyer and Mrs. M. E. Stonebreaker.

The year ending April 6, 1909, was also one of great advancement along all lines of Christian work and contributions had materially increased.

The Senior Brotherhood numbered 127 members, and they were striving for 200. It had pledged \$15,625.50 for the Brotherhood Home, which if attained would make our church the most powerful institution for good in our city. The Brotherhood Bible Class was well attended. The Junior Brotherhood gave that year \$100.00 toward the \$1,000 they had pledged toward the Home. The Sunday School had an

average attendance of 207 and the services of the church were well attended.

It was during this year that the Duplex Envelope System of support to the church was introduced.

The Forward Movement this year sent \$163.50 to our Foreign Missionary, Rev. D. J. Flemming, of Lahore, India, in addition to the other missionary giving.

On March 9, 1910, the congregation met at the call of the pastor and session to consider the resignation of our pastor. By his request a motion was made that we accept his resignation and join with him in his request to Presbytery that the pastoral relation between him and this church be dissolved. This motion was carried.

A resolution of regret was then unanimously adopted, a copy of which was ordered given to Mr. Shields.

Mr. Shields was a very sympathetic, faithful pastor, and very much interested in the work of the young people, and consequently very popular among them and their attendance at church services was good.

In the narrative for the year ending April 6, 1910, it was reported that the Boards of the Church were working in perfect harmony and that the church was in good condition both financially and spiritually, that all the societies and departments were active and doing good work and the church was prosperous.

After Mr. Shields left us Rev. Henry J. Becker, of Dayton, Ohio, acted very acceptably as supply for the church.

On July 24, 1910, a congregational meeting was held, the purpose of which was to call a pastor. A call was tendered Rev. David Garrett Smith, of the Emanuel Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa. Mr. Smith accepted the call and on November 1, 1910, the installation took place. Rev. M. E. Wilson delivered the installation prayer, Rev. Daniel Myers, of Dayton, Ohio, acted as Moderator, Rev. John Grant Newman, of Oxford, Ohio, preached the sermon, Rev. Charles Frederick Goss, D. D., of Cincinnati, Ohio, charged Mr. Smith, and Rev. Henry J. Becker, of Dayton, charged the people.

When Mr. Smith became our pastor the different societies of the church were working harmoniously. The Sab-



Rev. David Garrett Smith,
Pastor 1910-18.

Mr. Smith resigned as pastor to enter the Army Y. M. C. A. Overseas Service. He served in the A. E. F. as Director of Religious Work, with Headquarters at Grantham, England.



Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema,
Our Present Pastor. Mr. Brinkema began his pastorate here
Nov. 1, 1918.

bath services and Wednesday evening meetings were well attended. Much interest was shown in the Sabbath School. The outlook was very encouraging and the indications were for a happy and successful pastorate and we were not to be disappointed.

On December 13, 1910, Mr. A. T. Wilson, a devoted and faithful member of the session, passed away.

The report for the year ending April 1, 1911, showed the total number of communicants as 426, and the Sabbath School enrollment as 270.

On April 5, 1911, Mr. R. C. Phillips was elected deacon and Mr. Carl F. Williamson was elected elder.

During this church year on September 12, 1911, Mr. S. Davis Long died. He was a faithful member of the church and always present at all the services.

In September, 1911, at a joint meeting of the Boards of the Church it was thought best that the Oakland Church building be repaired and services resumed there. A committee was appointed to investigate the cost of the repairs necessary. However, it was not until the following year after the Lyon meetings that the Church was reopened. On July 17, 1912, the Superintendent of our Sunday School, several of the teachers and some of the officers of the Church, effected a permanent organization with H. G. Gaige, Secretary of the Brotherhood, as Superintendent.

The work grew and flourished to such an extent that our Church officers decided to engage a pastor and begin holding church services. J. M. Murchison, a student at Lane Seminary, in Cincinnati, was persuaded to undertake the work at Oakland in connection with the position of Assistant Pastor of our Church. He began his duties at the close of the Seminary in June, 1913, holding one regular preaching service at Oakland every Sunday evening.

The interest in the Bible School continued to grow and the church services were well attended. The following year, 1914, upon the graduation of Mr. Murchison from Lane Seminary in May, he was engaged as minister at Oakland with the plan of effecting a church organization as soon as possible. Upon his return from his vacation in October, 1914, morning services were begun, and on December 14th

a petition containing sixty-two names was presented to Dayton Presbytery asking that the Oakland Presbyterian Church be organized.

The Presbytery promptly granted the request and appointed suitable committees to proceed with the organization.

This work was completed December 18th, when fifty-two members of the new organization were received. They elected officers and fixed the date for a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a pastor. Rev. J. M. Murchison was unanimously chosen.

At the regular congregational meeting of our Church held in April, 1917, it was decided that the work at Oakland had reached the point where the title to the Oakland Church property could safely and properly be transferred from the Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church to the Trustees of the Oakland Presbyterian Church, and a motion to this effect was duly carried. This action was taken at that time because of the desire of Oakland Church to build a manse on part of the church lot.

Our Church may well be proud of the success of its efforts in organizing and watching over Oakland Church till it became self-sustaining. This success was due in large measure to the encouragement given the officers of the new organization in enlisting the interest of all members of our church living in the eastern and southeastern parts of our city, and the securing of the transfer of their membership to that church by our pastor, Rev. David Garrett Smith.

In 1912 the Boards of the Church sold the Suydam property, which has been referred to herein before, and the proceeds afterward used in the extension and improvement program of the church, which resulted in the purchase of a new manse and the transforming of the old manse into the Westminster House.

During the church year ending March 31, 1912, one hundred and forty-six new members were added to the church. Of this number, eighty-nine were received on confession of faith. This increased membership was due largely to a series of meetings held in Middletown during February and March, 1912, and known as the Lyon Tabernacle meetings.

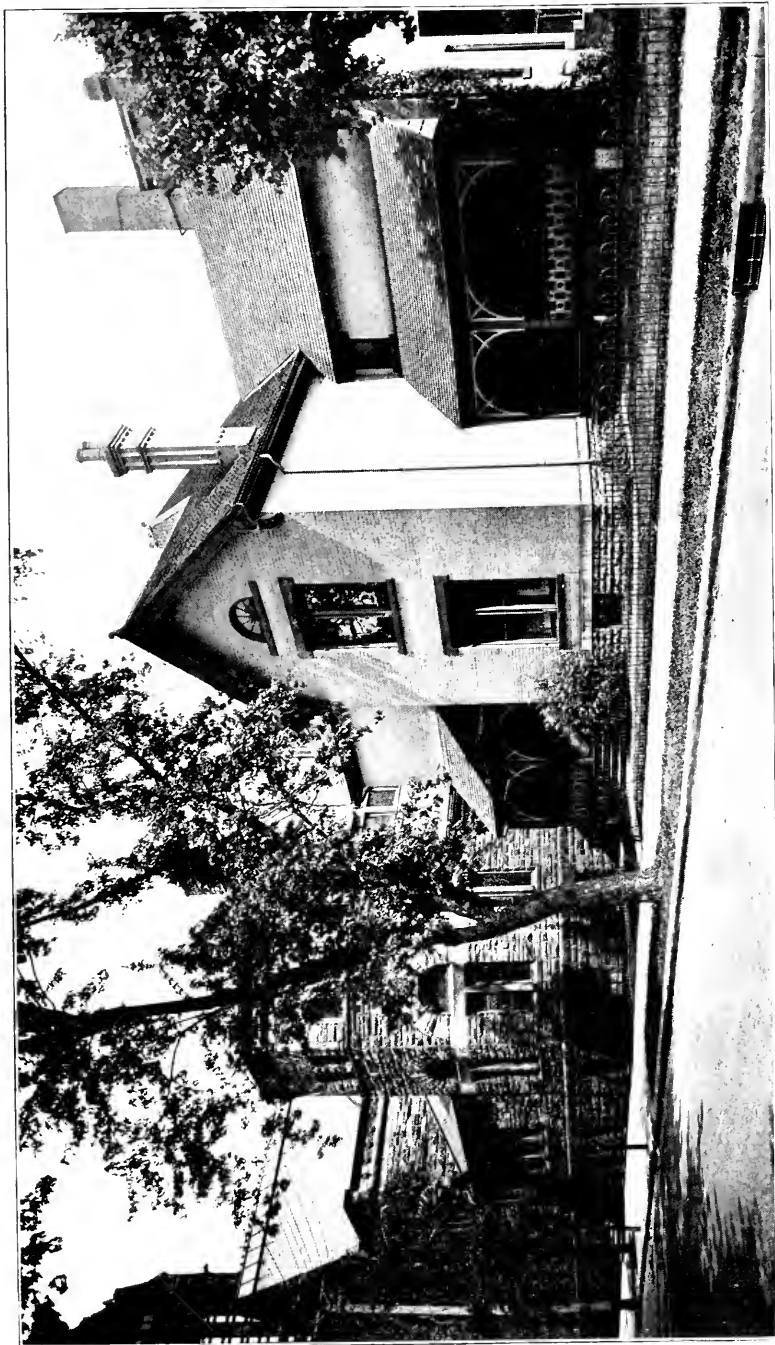
Practically all the Protestant churches of the city united in this movement which resulted in much good being done in our city, and many members being added to the rolls of the church. On Park street, near the Caldwell and Iseminger plant, a large tabernacle was built in which services were held two or three times a day for a period of six weeks. Rev. Milford H. Lyon was the evangelist in charge.

With the additions stated above, the membership of the church was increased to 548 communicants. The spiritual condition and life of the church was reported much better and deeper than during the previous year. Church unity prevailed and all the societies were in flourishing condition. The Sabbath School reported an enrollment of 300 scholars. Fifty-eight members of the Sabbath School were taken into the Church during this church year.

During the summer of 1912, Mr. R. E. Mitchell, who as musical director had done such efficient work at the tabernacle meetings, was employed to take charge of the singing in the church services and to assist the pastor in the Oakland church field. While here Mr. Mitchell also taught the Men's Bible class. In July and August of this year the Sunday evening services were held in a tabernacle which had been constructed on the Brotherhood lot at the corner of Fourth and Main streets. This innovation in the manner of holding these services proved quite successful. Ministers from nearby cities conducted the meetings and the singing was in charge of Mr. Mitchell. The attendance was good and no doubt many were influenced who otherwise would not have attended divine service.

It was during this church year, on June 1, 1912, that Mrs. Irene Thomas Dickey passed away. She was for many years an active worker in the Church and Sabbath School, assisting with the music, both instrumental and vocal. She was a faithful teacher in the Sabbath School as long as her health permitted.

In the latter part of March, 1913, our city was visited by the terrible flood which devastated the Miami Valley. The homes of many of the members of this church were ruined, or partially so, and the church suffered with the members. The pews and carpets in the auditorium were ruined and



The Westminster House
Erected in 1885. Served as manse until 1913, when it was rearranged and equipped for Sunday School class rooms and institutional work of the church.

the loss was quite heavy. The services during the following summer were held in the Sunday School room.

At the annual congregational meeting held April 16, 1913, the church membership was given as 588, the Sunday School enrollment as 438 and the average attendance at Sunday school as 255. At this time the Board of Elders was increased from 7 to 12 members, and the Board of Deacons from 5 to 14 members. The following men were elected to complete these boards: Elders, E. G. Barkley, C. E. Burke, A. L. Foster, Dr. D. F. Gerber and R. C. Phillips; Deacons, William Bevenger, F. O. Diver, W. S. LaTourrette, D. D. Lefferson, W. H. Minton, John C. Phillips, Dr. J. C. Stratton, John X. Smith, H. A. Thompson, H. S. Wise and E. C. Woodward. All these men were ordained and installed at the Sunday morning service June 15, 1913.

On October 13, 1913, the congregation decided to buy a new manse, the Sebald residence, 609 Yankee Road, and to convert the present manse into Sabbath School class rooms. This was made advisable because of the growth and interest that had lately been manifest in the Sunday School

Record is made of the death of Mrs. Phoebe J. Wikoff on January 3, 1915. She was at the time of her death the oldest member of the church and one of the most faithful in attendance even until very near the end of her pilgrimage.

When the Oakland Church was organized on December 18, 1914, twenty-one members of the First Church were dismissed to be taken into that church. This number was later increased to about forty. Consequently the report of the First Church for the year ending March 31, 1915, shows that the membership of our Church had been decreased to 582. It was reported at the annual meeting at this time that the Friendly Helpers' Class of the Sabbath School, had given One Thousand Dollars during the year toward the payment of the church debt. This class of ladies was organized shortly after the Lyon tabernacle meeting and has steadily increased in members until now it has an enrollment of sixty-three.

The years of 1915 and 1916 in our Church history were marked by much spiritual work being done. All societies of the Church were well organized and were faithfully per-

forming their varied duties. Some reorganization was made necessary because of the withdrawal of quite a number of our members and officers to unite with the Oakland Church, and because of the change that had lately been made in the Brotherhood Association, a change which later terminated in the organization of a Y. M. C. A. in Middletown. The use of the Westminster House for class rooms resulted in a renewed interest in the Sunday School and more efficient work was done in all classes. So the work of this period resulted not only in strengthening our own organization, but also in helping to provide for others opportunities for service and worship.

Mrs. May McCallay Renick, an earnest Christian worker, devoted to her church and faithful in her attendance at its services, passed away on January 8, 1916. In July of the same year Mr. E. L. McCallay, a faithful member for many years, died.

At the congregational meeting held on April 4, 1917, the following statistics were given: Members on active church roll, 595; Sabbath School enrollment, 334; given to Home Missions, \$511.00; to Foreign Missions, \$490.00; total of all expenses, \$8,460.30. The spiritual condition of the church and its various societies was reported as being good and the general condition of all affairs of the church as very favorable.

Mrs. Mary Thornton, one of our oldest members, died on November 16, 1917. For many years she was teacher of the Women's Bible Class in the Sabbath School.

In the spring of 1918 a special effort was made to reclaim for the Church those of our members who had moved to other places or, for some reason or other, had become delinquent in their church relations. A letter was sent by the pastor to all these members urging them either to renew their relations with this Church or to take letters to some other Church in which they could worship. As a result of this action several of our members were dismissed to other Churches, some were dropped from the roll, and others were placed on the "Reserve Roll." This accounts for the decrease in the membership as reported for the year 1918-19.

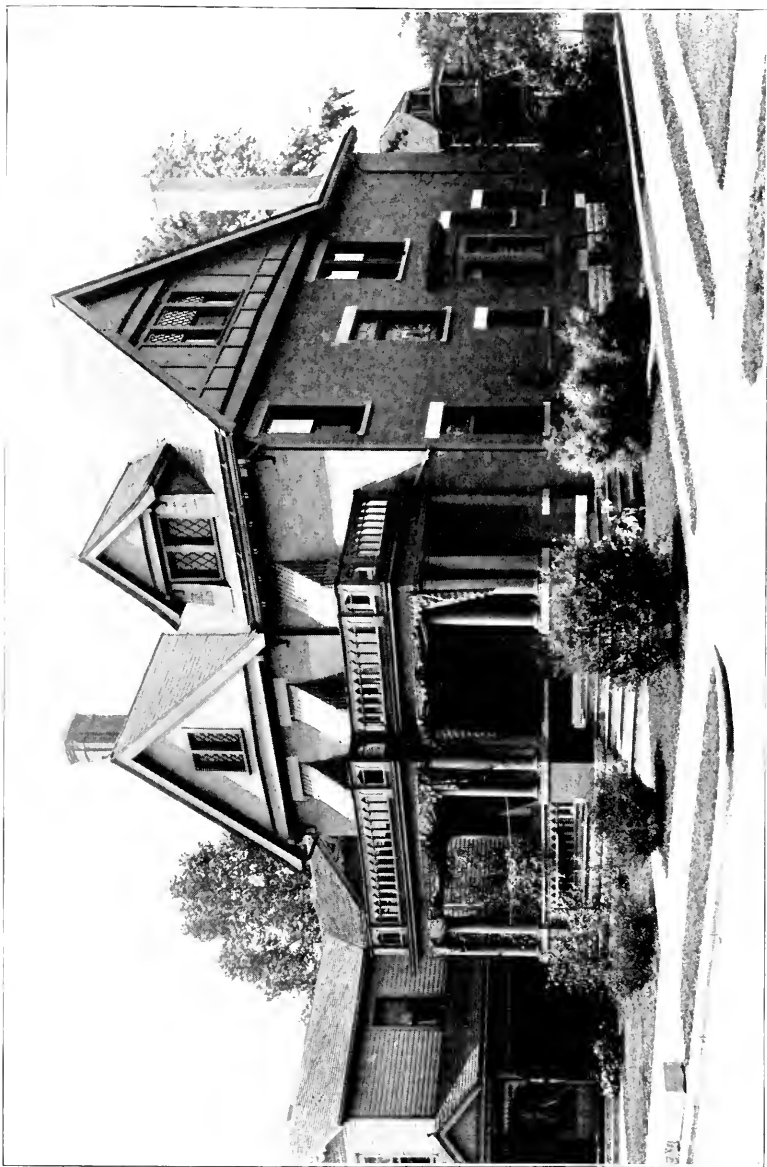
The Church roll had not been revised for several years previous to this time.

An "Every Member Canvas" of the church was held March 17, 1918, and "Go To Church Sunday" was observed the following Sabbath. Great praise must be given to the Boards of the Church for their efforts to raise the money for the work of the church and to create an increased attendance of the membership at the church services. Both of these efforts were crowned with success. Early in this church year it was with regret that we were called upon to accept the resignation of Rev. David Garrett Smith, who planned to enter the War Y. M. C. A. work. He served in England and France for one year and has just recently returned to the States. He resigned on April 5, 1918. It was our high privilege to give Mr. Smith and son Knowlton to the service of our country.

During this year death with his relentless hand took a number of earnest, faithful members who were among the regular attendants of the church and Sabbath School: Mrs. Margaret Ross, Daniel McCallay, Frank Sutphin, Mrs. John Nein, Clifford S. Todd, C. B. Johnson and W. K. Rhonemus. Mr. Johnson was one of our oldest members, a faithful, conscientious man, always actively interested in the work of the church. He had looked forward for some years to the celebration of this one hundredth anniversary and was anxious that it be a success, and was perhaps the first one to suggest that we celebrate the event. Mr. Rhonemus was a much-beloved elder and had been Clerk of the Session since January 9, 1907. He was a devoted Christian, a lover of his church and all her institutions, especially of the Sunday School of which he was the faithful Superintendent for a number of years.

C. E. Burke was nominated and elected Clerk of Session September 25, 1918.

We were without a pastor for about seven months after Mr. Smith resigned. Then, on September 25, 1918, a unanimous call was tendered Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema, of Milton, Pa. Rev. Mr. Brinkema accepted this call and began his labors here November 1st, 1918, and was installed December 18, 1918. At the installation services Rev. Harris G.



The First Presbyterian Church Manse, 608 Yankee Road. Purchased in 1913.

Rice presided, Rev. Rolland E. Crist preached the sermon, Rev. Wendell Foster delivered the charge to the pastor and Rev. William J. Thistle the charge to the people. Miss Louise Todhunter sang two solos and led the congregational singing. Miss Margaret Gebhart presided at the organ. The services were very interesting and helpful.

The influenza epidemic during the fall and winter of 1918-19 very greatly interfered with all kinds of church work. During this time, however, plans were made for renewed efforts when the services could be resumed. At a joint meeting of the elders and deacons the pastor presented some plans for the future work of the church. After a general discussion of these plans action was taken which has resulted in the organization of the Westminster Men's Club which is to have supervision over all the men's work of the church. Plans were also made at this time to carry out the program of the "New Era Movement." We are glad to be able to say that our efforts along this line so far have been successful.

At the close of the church year, March 31, 1919, the number of members on the active church roll was reported to be 538, the Sabbath School enrollment to be 326 and the total church expenditures for the year to have been \$13,461.75.

Since Mr. Brinkema became our pastor, November 1, 1918, sixty members have been added to the church roll.

Early in the year 1919 plans were begun to celebrate the centennial of our Church. A committee was appointed by the Boards of the Church to have general charge of the celebration. The work done by this committee and other committees appointed by it will be given more in detail in other parts of this book.

A few years previous to this time and before the Presbyterian Brotherhood Association had grown into the Middletown Brotherhood Association, several of the men and women of our church purchased the large lot at the northwest corner of Fourth and Main Streets. At the time of the purchase it was planned to build on this lot a Brotherhood Building, or a Parish House, where many of the church activities could be carried on. However, as the city has grown so rapidly and a Y. M. C. A. has been organized and is doing

for the whole city a great deal of the work that it was originally planned should be done in the proposed Brotherhood Building, the owners of this lot abandoned their plan to build and decided to sell the lot. This was done in the summer of 1919 and the proceeds of the sale were most generously given to the Church. Consequently we were able to pay the debt which had resulted from the heavy loss in the flood of 1913 and from the purchase of the new manse, and we will celebrate our Centennial with our Church entirely free from debt.

During the World War forty-seven of our men and boys were enrolled in the service of our country. We were more fortunate than most churches and communities, as all but one came back to us. Raymond Alvin Pinkerton was called upon to make the supreme sacrifice. He died in France in July, 1918, as a result of wounds received in battle in Soissons. Nine of our younger boys were enrolled in the Students' Auxiliary Training Corps and were ready for the call had it been necessary. The members of our Church share with the other citizens of Middletown a most gratifying war record in all the activities of those trying times.

The close of the first century of its history finds our Church in all its various branches well organized and with bright prospects for a most successful future. Our heritage is a noble one. May we not fail it.

We have endeavored in this story to show the growth of our church during the years that have passed. There are many things that we would like to say but they cannot be said. A book would not hold the mere mention of the deeds of sacrifice and love that have been done and are still being done in this church in the service of the Master. Time, effort and money have been given freely to the church and its different organizations. Some have taken a special interest in the Sunday School work, others in the Christian Endeavor Society, others in making the church and Sunday School rooms pleasing in appearance, comfortable and inviting. Time and space forbid further enumeration. That the words that have been written will increase our love for our church and our devotion to His cause and will encourage us to go forward to meet the new responsibilities that will arise, is the prayer of the writer.

THE SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHURCH.

The following account of the organization and work of the Woman's Missionary Society was prepared by Mrs. Carrie Thomas Woodward, President of the Society.

“AND on the Sabbath day we went forth without the gate by a river side, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spake unto the women that were come together.

“And a certain woman, named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, one that worshipped God, heard us whose heart the Lord opened to give heed unto the things that were spoken by Paul.”

This meeting of Paul with the women of Philippi by the river side occurred almost two thousand years ago, and yet in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-nine the desire to spread the Gospel was deep in the hearts of the women of the Presbyterian Church of Middletown. The command of Christ, “Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every living creature,” had not been heard in vain, and had influenced our women to take an active stand for missions.

Previous to 1879 the church had been developing its own organization, yet missionary offerings had been collected by the women, the contributions passing through the channels of the church into its missionary work. About this time a new pastor, Rev. Thomas H. Hench, was called to the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Hench, being interested in missionary work, spoke to Mrs. Charles Margerum and drew her attention to the fact that she was interested in the missionary cause. Mrs. Margerum was somewhat surprised, as it was a latent interest of which she was not aware; and let it be said here, Mrs. Hench showed wisdom, as Mrs. Margerum has proved to be a worker along this line from then until the present time.

Mrs. Hench drew together Mrs. Charles Margerum, Mrs. William Reed, Mrs. John Hill, Mrs. Montgomery Patton, Mrs. Irene Dickey and Miss Jennie Marston, and the first Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church of Middletown was organized by these women. Mrs. Hench was the

first President. The meetings of this new society were held in the evenings four times a year and called Missionary Teas.

Almost all of the original members of that first organization have passed on before, and a record of the early church work done for missions is not extant in this world. Let us hope that a work humbly begun in His name has been far more reaching in its results than we can realize and that the words "Well done, good and faithful servant" may be spoken to those early organizers of our Missionary Society.

It is to be regretted that there are not early records to assist the historian in giving definite detail of the missionary work. It would be interesting could the work done under each pastorate be recorded, but there being no data from which to draw, we have depended on the memory of some of the women of the church.

In eighteen hundred and eighty-two, while Mrs. Hench was still President, our society, although but three years old, had grown to such strength that the Dayton Presbyterial was entertained by it at the annual meeting held in Middletown.

About eighteen hundred and eighty-five Miss Jennie Marston became President and served in that capacity until her marriage to Mr. W. C. Beale, of Westerville. She was an excellent worker, doing a great deal for the missionary cause and working actively up to the very day of her marriage.

Dr. S. F. Hershey was at this time pastor of the church. After Miss Jennie Marston's marriage Mrs. Charles Margerum, being Vice President, succeeded to the presidency.

About this time Rev. J. S. Simonton was called to the pastorate and he advised a change in all the organizations of the church. The Missionary Society, the Ladies' Aid Society and other societies were made merely departments, each department having its own chairman, while over all the departments was a General President, Secretary and Treasurer. The societies thus merged did not prove to be a success, and between the time that Mr. Simonton left and Rev. G. W. McCampbell took up his pastorate the societies of the church resumed their former plan of organization.

The numbers attending the Missionary Society at this time were very small, and after the arrival of Mr. McCampbell two of our ladies, Mrs. Charles Margerum, President, and Mrs. Morris Renick, Secretary-Treasurer, having the interest of the society at heart, and feeling greatly discouraged over the lack of interest shown, carried their burden to the new pastor. Mr. McCampbell suggested that they adopt the envelope system, thus securing both members and means to support the cause. He also advised monthly instead of quarterly meetings.

Mrs. Margerum and Mrs. Renick stood at the top of the high flight of stone steps that led into the old church and as the ladies entered Sunday morning they were handed envelopes for the Missionary Society. All our ladies accepted them, thus establishing their membership in the Missionary Society.

Miss Letitia McCampbell, daughter of our pastor, having been accepted by the Foreign Missionary Board of New York, was making her home here with her father until departure for her work in the foreign fields. The interest in our society had increased with our membership and more frequent meetings. Miss McCampbell's arrival added a new interest, and since she was soon starting to assume her missionary work in Teheran, Persia, it was suggested that the Missionary Society furnish her wardrobe. Money was solicited, material purchased, and the time was set for sewing, at which gathered old and young in large numbers. This was the beginning of the annual sewing days which still continue. Mrs. Thornton was President at this time.

During Dr. Scott's ministry, Mrs. Scott being deeply interested in missionary work, our society prospered and large numbers attended the meetings.

Mrs. Thornton at this time was honored by being appointed District President. Her daughter, Nellie, was appointed Secretary of Literature of the Dayton Presbyterial. In 1909 Miss Thornton resigned from this position and a tribute was paid to her fine work by the Dayton Presbyterial. Both Mrs. Thornton and Nellie were workers faithfully helping spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

About this time we began holding the meetings in the

homes. Mrs. Geo. Jacoby was President. An editor was appointed who prepared a budget of news for each meeting. An increased interest and attendance were noticeable, so much so that both Dayton and Hamilton sent a delegation to investigate the cause of such marked interest that they might profit by our experience. At the Troy Presbyterial meeting in 1908 our society was mentioned as ranking second in increased membership.

During the ten years that Mr. and Mrs. Shields were with us they were actively interested in the work and the progress of the society, and it was through the efforts of Mr. Shields that the church helped support Mr. Street, a missionary in China, and later Mr. J. D. Flemming, a missionary in India. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shields attended the society, both being well qualified to help advance the interest in the meetings.

Alfred Moore, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Marston, through the influence of Mr. Shields, entered Wooster College. He became interested in missionary work and for a short time went into the West as a Home Missionary. After his graduation in 1911 he went to India as an Evangelistic Missionary. While he did not take up this work in the Middletown Church, but under our Presbyterian Board, we feel a personal interest in him and have remembered him in some of our missionary work.

On May 30, 1910, it is recorded that a committee was appointed to write a letter of appreciation of Mrs. Shields from our society to the ladies of the Hillsboro Church with which Mr. and Mrs. Shields were then identified.

In the closing year of Mr. Shields' pastorate we were apportioned as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| General Home Fund | \$25.00 |
| Cortland, Ky. | 5.00 |
| Puria and Papago Indians | 25.00 |
| Sitka Equipment | 2.00 |
| Foreigners in United States | 19.00 |
| Laura Sunderland School | 50.00 |
| General Freedmen | 2.00 |
| Mrs. Carr (colored) | 15.00 |
| Danville Industrial Teacher | 1.00 |
| Freedmen Special | 15.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| General Foreign | 17.00 |
| Mrs. Carleton | 30.00 |
| Lahore Station | 10.00 |
| Lodiana | 10.00 |
| Contingent Tax | 5.00 |

Rev. David Garrett Smith and his wife became identified with our church in 1910 and Mrs. Smith at once took her place in the Missionary Society as an earnest, efficient worker.

In 1913 the great flood swept down over the Miami Valley doing damage to our church and manse and leaving death and destruction in its wake. It was after the church was repaired and the manse had been converted into the Westminster House that the Missionary meetings were held in the parlors of the Westminster House in place of the homes.

Mrs. Smith often added to the interest of the meeting by lending her soprano voice in a devotional solo. Although coming from the East, she soon so closely identified herself with the interests of this locality that she had conferred on her the great honor of being appointed President of the Dayton Presbyterial, where she was held in such high esteem that others hesitated to accept the appointment after her resignation, made necessary by Mr. Smith's war work with the Y. M. C. A. Mrs. Smith's efficient work in our local society and as President of the Dayton Presbyterial proved that she was equal to a business position during the war, when efficient women were so much needed, and such a position was offered to her at the Presbyterian Headquarters, New York City, which place she faithfully filled until Mr. Smith's return some months after the armistice.

In the fall of 1915 at the Executive Meeting of the Dayton Presbyterial, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick was appointed Synodical Promoter of the School of Missions of Wooster, Ohio.

Mrs. Homer Long, of this Society, has for the last two years been Secretary of Educational Work in the Dayton Presbyterial and has filled this office with much credit.

In the year 1918 and 1919, the first year of Mr. Brinkema's pastorate and Mrs. Brinkema's identification with the Missionary Society, the terrible scourge of influenza swept the country. Schools and churches were closed and the Missionary Society felt the depressing influence.

The missionary circles in different parts of the town, which were introduced into the working program of the Missionary Society by Mrs. David Garrett Smith and Mrs. Homer Long, proved helpful, and this year, 1919, Mrs. D. D. Lefferson, our competent and faithful treasurer, who has filled this office for fifteen years, was assisted by the circles in collecting our apportionment, which had been increased by the war, the urgent need of our Missionaries and the greater work to be undertaken here in our own country, known as the New Era Movement and the Golden Jubilee.

The work of our society has followed the lines laid down by our Missionary Board to a great extent, the society feeling that it is quite important to meet its obligations in every way. We have sometimes added to that work when interest or sympathy drew us toward some special object.

We have shown some civic as well as charitable interest in sewing for the needy of our town and the children in the Home at Hamilton.

Boxes and barrels have been sent long distances and these gifts were often the means of establishing an interest between people who were not acquainted but were friends in the household of faith.

The following report of the Treasurer, accepted in January, 1919, shows a marked increase over that of 1910:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Amount of money received for year: | |
| By envelopes | \$263.00 |
| Mite boxes | 105.00 |
| Special campaign | 119.00 |
| Total amount received | 487.00 |
| Dispersed as follows: | |
| Paid to Board of Home Missions..... | 275.00 |
| Home War Special | 42.00 |
| Paid to Board for Foreign Missions.. | 111.00 |
| War Emergency | 34.00 |
| Total for Missions | 462.00 |
| Contingent Tax | 7.00 |
| Thank offering | 10.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| Grand Total | 479.00 |
| Balance in Treasury | \$ 8.00 |

We had 102 contributing members, 17 more than last year. We also gave to Rev. Alfred Moore, \$10.00.

The gifts to the Lord's work seem small indeed, especially when we compare them with money spent lavishly in other directions. But since faith as a mustard seed may grow to huge proportions, so may seed humbly sown for Our Father in heaven be increased by His loving care until the seed becomes a sheaf, and the words to His faithful followers, down through the one hundred years and even unto the end of time, may be, "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many."

Mrs. H. H. Goldman and Mrs. E. W. Gunckel prepared the following account of the organization and work of The Woman's Society of the Church. Mrs. Goldman is President and Mrs. Gunckel is Secretary of this Society at the present time.

THE first records we have of any organization among the women of the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown date back in the annals of the Church when the church building was located on South Broadway about where the Lutheran parsonage now stands. It was then the aim of The Woman's Society, as it is now, to devise ways and means for promoting the mission activities of the Church, to attend the poor, to provide for any social entertainment to be held and to help in the upkeep of the church, Sunday School and manse, whenever duty made the call. In those early days it was, to be sure, only a small band of women who met together to perform these many duties, but they were always found faithful to the work before them.

In 1875, while the late Rev. Joseph W. Clokey was the pastor, the society as then existing was reorganized and was named "The Ladies' Guild." The organization was known by this name until during the pastorate of Rev. George M. McCampbell, when a motion was carried to the effect "that the society change the name to a more dignified one," and from that time it has been known as "The Woman's Society."

Through all the years the ladies of this society have

worked diligently, in summer and in winter, giving fairs, art loans, festivals, dinners, socials and various forms of entertainments in order to make money to carry on the important work before them and to maintain a social atmosphere in the Church. Several ladies have made liberal donations to the society and have in this way aided very materially. As each year came around the demands were greater. The ladies of the church from an early date have been in charge of the interior decorations of the church and the Sunday School rooms and have provided all linen, silver and china and have equipped the kitchen with all furnishings and necessary articles. The Woman's Society now has the above matters of business to look after, not only in the church itself, but also in the Westminster House, which was formerly the manse, and in the new manse on Yankee Road. After the flood of 1913 it became necessary to refurnish the church and manse and the burdens were heavy for a time. The late war also made great demands, but the ladies were never found wanting, and during these trying times the society did much work for the Red Cross as well as kept up its usual work for the Middletown Hospital, the County Children's Home and for the sick and needy in our own town.

It seems only fitting that we should mention that Mrs. Charles S. Barnitz was the first President of The Woman's Society after it was regularly organized and that she held that office for many years. From some records kept by Mrs. Barnitz, together with the minutes of the society, it is possible to make up almost a complete list of the ladies who have served as President of the Society since 1860. Following is the list of names of those who have been honored by being given the privilege of serving in this capacity since that date:

Mrs. David Mumma, Mrs. Mary Furman, Mrs. Peter Butler, Mrs. Stephan Brown, Mrs. J. B. Morton, Mrs. Joseph Hilt, Mrs. Eliza Wampler, Mrs. Thos. Wilson, Mrs. Mary Hilt, Mrs. Alonzo Brown, Mrs. David Heaton, Mrs. Geo. Jacoby, Sr., Mrs. Thomas A. Hench, Mrs. Thos. Wilson, Mrs. Chas. B. Oglesby, Mrs. Geo. C. Jacoby, Mrs. E. L. McCallay, Mrs. J. M. Iseminger, Mrs. W. H. Todhunter, Mrs. May Renick, Mrs. Myrtle Stahl, Mrs. J. L. Roney, Mrs. C. E. Margerum, Mrs. R. L. McCoy, Mrs. O. F. Kendle, Mrs. Chas.

Shartle, Mrs. Albert Pardonner, Mrs. F. W. Becker, Mrs. H. H. Goldman.

Mr. R. C. Phillips, who has been closely connected with the work of the men of the Church for several years, prepared the following paper on the Men's Organizations of the Church.

There are no records showing men's separate organizations in the church prior to 1905, but it is a matter of history that there has always been a Men's Bible Class in the Sunday School. Many of the older members will recall Dr. J. L. Thornton's class, taught by him for many years preceding 1905. He was a very able, scholarly gentleman and knew the Bible thoroughly.

During the winter of 1905 the Men's Bible Class was re-organized with a very devoted and efficient corps of officers that soon built the class up to an attendance of between forty and fifty members regularly attending.

Bi-monthly meetings of a social character were held, but the main reason for the success of the class at that time was the splendid spiritual teaching of the leader of the class, Prof. Geo. G. Stahl—who knew his Bible and loved it, and who had a strong desire at all times to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ among men. For three years Prof. Stahl taught the class up until the time he left his position as Principal of the Middletown High School to go to the Chicago University, where, after a service of one year, he passed on to the Higher Life. His memory remains with the members of the class as a delightful reminder of what one man can accomplish by consecration and what all may do by co-operation.

Among the members who always were in attendance was Samuel Davis Long, a dear old man of near eighty years, who never missed a meeting, who became so infirm that he neither saw nor heard much of what was going on, but whose regular attendance and presence alone was an inspiration.

The Men's Class grew in numbers until some definite plan of men's work in the Church outside of the Bible Class attendance was called into action by the organization of the

Presbyterian Brotherhood on January 24, 1907, following the National Convention at Indianapolis. At a meeting held in the dining rooms of the Church on that date, with sixty charter members present, Mr. R. C. Phillips was elected President. Following very soon after the Junior Brotherhood was organized with R. C. Todd as leader.

These two organizations grew until in 1909 the united membership was about two hundred and fifty, and the demand came for something more definite in the way of boys' work, and, through the generosity of some of the men in the class, the lower floor of the old Y. M. C. A. building, at Second and Broadway, was secured and a very successful year's work was inaugurated. It was a pretentious thing for a single church to attempt, but success crowned our efforts.

The Junior Brotherhood had as its President at this time Homer Edson, now of Washington, D. C. Other boys prominent in the work at this time were Harry Elwood, Wm. Hoover, Paul Ford, Paul Banker, Percival Johnson and about all the boys of the Sunday School between the ages of twelve and eighteen years.

During the year 1911 the boys published a very creditable monthly magazine, "The Fellow."

The Presbyterian Brotherhood about this time began to attract the attention of the other Protestant churches of Middletown, and in 1912 we turned over to the churches of Middletown the fruit of our five years of denominational work and opened the doors of the association to all the men and youth of our city of the Protestant faith, and the Presbyterian Brotherhood Association became the Brotherhood Association of Middletown.

The purpose of the organization was at all times to be as helpful and as useful as possible to men and the youth of our city and all matters pertaining to the proper upbuilding, moral, social and educational, of the city.

The motto of the old organization was as follows: "I expect to pass through this life but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness that I can show or any good thing that I can do, let me do it now. Let me not neglect it or defer it for I shall not pass this way again."

In February, 1917, the Brotherhood Association was

merged in the present Y. M. C. A., with the first President of the old Presbyterian Brotherhood Association as Chairman of the Board.

The men of our church may always look back on the years intervening between 1907 and 1912 as very profitable, fruitful years.

During the spring of 1919 The Westminster Club, a separate men's organization in our Church, was effected, with the co-operation of the present pastor, Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema. Calvin W. Verity was chosen President, John T. Williamson, Secretary, and Paul D. Silveus, Treasurer. The Westminster Club hopes to continue and extend the works of the old Presbyterian Brotherhood, and cordially invites every man in the Church to become a member of this organization and do his part in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the men of Middletown.

The following brief account of the Sunday School is submitted by the History Committee.

The Sunday School has very properly been called the "Church in action." It is the source from which comes the inspiration for much of our Church work and the recruiting field for "Soldiers of the Cross." Since this is true we regret that we cannot give a connected history of our Sunday School from its foundation to the present day, showing its growth and naming those who in years gone by have labored and sacrificed for its welfare. The records kept by the Sunday School in the past consist only of the attendance, collection and like statistical information. Although these numbers are interesting, yet they do not indicate the real work of the Sunday School, for figures are, after all, so meaningless, especially when applied to spiritual work. There has been given in the story of our Church those facts concerning the Sunday School of which note was made in the records of the Session and of the Congregational meetings. In the Church Organization has been printed the present officers and teachers of the various departments and classes of the Sunday School.

However, it seems fitting that something more be said of those men and women who labored so zealously and consci-

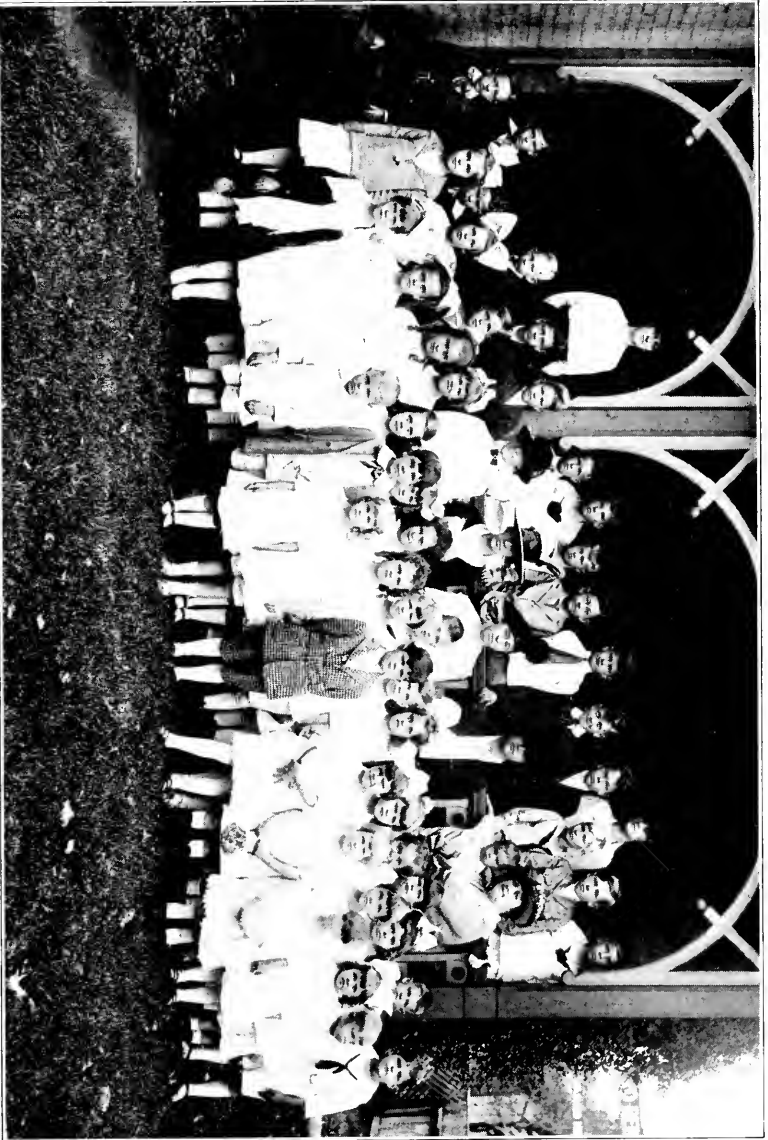
entiously in our Sunday School in past years, even if we must rely on memory alone and cannot name all who deserve recognition.

Among the Superintendents of the School of an earlier day were Horace P. Clough, Alexander Hill, Sr., and James Hill, all of whom were men of firm religious convictions and whose lives had a permanent influence on the boys and girls of their day. Their efforts in behalf of the School were very successful. At a later date Mr. Murray Schenck was for several years the Superintendent. He put into the work the vigor of his young manhood and succeeded in building up the School. Mr. Schenck is now living at Artesia, New Mexico. In his work in our School some of his able assistants were Miss Jennie Marston, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. J. K. Thomas, Musical Director, and Mrs. Irene Dickey, Organist. In a Church Bulletin, published at that time, 1887, mention is made of the death of Miss Nellie Gardner, and it was said of her that in the eleven years during which she had been a teacher in the Sunday School, she had never remained away from the School without providing a teacher for her class or sending a note explaining her absence, and that when one of her class was absent for two successive Sundays she never failed to visit that member to find out the reason for the absence and to endeavor to get him back into the class.

At a somewhat later date Mr. W. K. Rhonemus was elected Superintendent. He loved the work and the School and took a special interest in the Primary and Intermediate Departments. He spent much time and effort in the work and when he felt that he should give up the Superintendency he continued to attend and to assist in many ways until failing health compelled him to desist.

Mr. R. C. Phillips, the present Superintendent, is untiring in his efforts not only to maintain the high standard gained by the School, but also to advance it in every way. The School is well organized and we have every reason to be encouraged and to go forward hopefully.

Mention should be made of two Sabbath Schools organized by members of this School and Pastors of our Church. About 1870 our Pastor and some members from our School



A part of the Primary Department of our Sunday School. Taken October 5, 1919.

conducted a School at Jacksonburg for quite a while and until it was able to support itself. The School met in the afternoon and was followed by preaching by the Pastor of our Church. Somewhat later a School was organized at Poasttown. Here, as at Jacksonburg, the Pastor held preaching service after the Sunday School.

The following account of the work of the young people in our Church was prepared by Miss Margaret Johnson, one of our members who is active in the work of the young people of our Church and city.

Active work among the young people of the First Presbyterian Church was one of the outgrowths of a revival which occurred during the ministry of Mr. Clokey. A letter written by him to the congregation at the time of his departure contains this passage: "Can we ever forget in the spring of '77 that beautiful sight of children from the ages of 7 to 14 crowding the study for special prayer? Out of this same awakening came our Young People's Association. This association has indeed been a phenomenon. Ninety-seven of our youth and children have signed its constitution. Its meetings have been continued for more than a year and a half with an attendance seldom below 50 and often rising to 70 or 80."

An accurate history of the work is not possible as there are no available records. This account has been gleaned from some Church Bulletins of 1885 to 1887, published under Dr. Hershey's ministry, and from the recollections of some of our church members. The Y. F. M., Young Folks' Meeting, as it is spoken of in these old monthly bulletins, was held at 6:30 on Sunday evening. The names of the two leaders for the month and the topics and references were published each month in the bulletin just below the sermon topics. The Y. F. M. was not the only organization among the youth of the church. Soon after her arrival here Mrs. Hershey formed a mission band for girls which was quite active for a number of years. We find the name of the President of this band of "Willing Workers" always printed in the Official Register. In the bulletin for October, 1885, is this notice: "The Pauline Band, composed of about a dozen young

men, has been formed for exercise in prayer and religious conversation. It meets every other Sabbath after Sunday School in the study. It is hoped much good may be done by this Band this winter."

It may have been that the enthusiasm for Y. F. M. had been growing somewhat less with the passing of the years. At any rate, in November, 1886, a Young Folks' Union was organized. Its constitution together with the following editorial appears in the bulletin for that month: "A Young Folks' Union of this Church has been formed. The Pauline Band has been merged into it. It is simply the young folks of the Church organized for religious improvement and church work. It started out with fifteen members, which is promising. The idea is that every young Christian should be actively engaged in some kind of work looking to the advancement of the interests of the church."

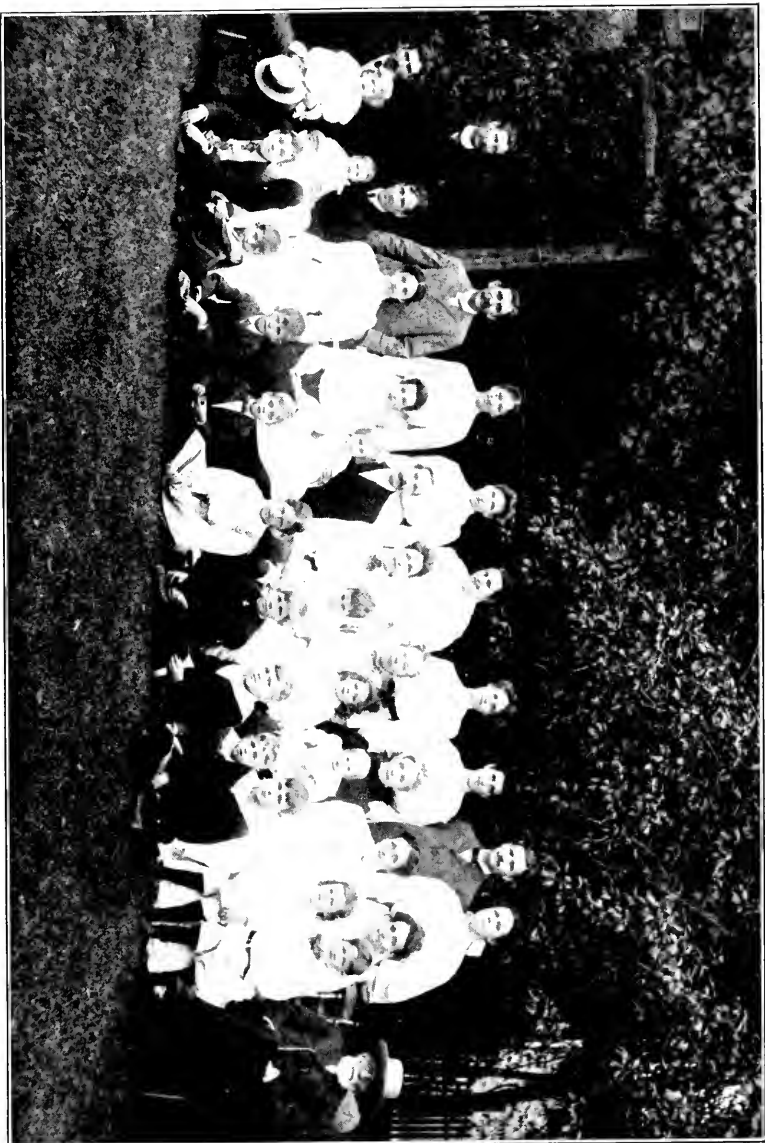
This organization grew in activity and numbers. It had frequent visitors from young people of the other churches in the town. They considered it a treat to be present at the inspirational meetings. A scholarship for an Alaskan boy was begun and the Union contributed \$30.00 annually for his support. The money was raised largely from the weekly pledges of the members. It was from the members of this Union that the Society of Christian Endeavor was formed in 1891 under Mr. McCampbell's influence. About 25 young people took the pledge which was the same as the present day Christian Endeavor pledge.

During the first years of its life the Christian Endeavor was a notable factor in the life of the Church. Its Sunday evening meetings were interesting and well attended. Those who did not care to sign the pledge were made very welcome and the attendance grew. The monthly socials at the homes of the members were very much enjoyed. The missionary spirit developed in various ways. The Society continued the support of the native Alaskan boy at the Sitka Mission, which was begun by the Y. F. U. In the churches of neighboring towns and villages societies were organized through the influence of delegates sent from our church. The fraternal spirit was fostered by local conventions. Memorable were the occasions on which large bus loads drove to Mon-

roe, Springboro, Franklin and Trenton to attend such gatherings. In 1892 a delegate was sent to the National convention in New York City. Later delegates were sent to state conventions, always with enthusiastic results, for the Christian Endeavor was at its height through the whole country during those years. One of the delegates to a state convention at Springfield tells of the interest and enthusiasm which sent thirteen coaches of young folks from the state convention to attend in a body the national convention at Cleveland immediately following.

A Junior C. E. was organized in the winter of 1893 and existed for several years. It died for lack of leadership. It may have been for this same cause that the Senior C. E. lost its spirit. The early members assumed other places in the life of the church and many of the young people moved away from town. Perhaps the younger generation failed to assume the responsibility which descended to them and no doubt the most thrilling part of the work had already been accomplished with the organization of other Endeavor Societies. During the past twenty years the Society has had many periods of flourishing growth and an equal number of depressions. The Young People's work is at this time in a transitional period. It is hoped the New Era Movement will be attended by a new development and an awakening to the end that the young people may again assume their proper place in the activities of the Church.

There have been other phases of young people's work since 1900 which should be mentioned. The Y. M. C. A. in Middletown had its foundation in the Presbyterian Brotherhood, an active and earnest organization of the men and boys of our church. There was a wide awake Mission Band for young High School girls during 1908 and 1909 under the direction of Mrs. W. H. Johnson. Just after the Lyon meetings in 1912, which were followed in our church by Mr. Mitchell's choir work, there was a girls' choir which later was organized into the Busy Bees by Mrs. D. G. Smith. It was the last active mission work in our church for children.



This photograph was taken at a reunion of the founders of our Christian Endeavor Society and their families.

THE CENTENNIAL AND HOME COMING CELEBRATION.

Many of the members of our Church had been looking forward for several years to the time when the Centennial Anniversary would be celebrated. No definite steps of preparation for this event were taken, however, until April 23, 1919, at which time the Session appointed a Committee consisting of H. S. Wise, Chairman, C. E. Margerum, G. N. Clapp, R. C. Phillips, Mrs. Anna Barnitz, Mrs. Kate A. Oglesby and Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, "to have charge of planning and carrying out a program in celebration of and commemorating the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of our Church." At a meeting of the committee held soon afterward, the week of October 19th to 26th, inclusive, 1919, was selected as the date for the celebration. About the same time the following sub-committees were appointed: Committee to design, purchase and erect upon the walls of the Church a bronze tablet bearing the names of the pastors who have served in our Church from its organization and the dates of the pastorates, C. E. Margerum, Chairman, G. N. Clapp and W. H. Johnson; Committee to establish in the church an endowment fund for Missions, R. C. Phillips, Chairman, R. C. Vanderveer and F. O. Diver; Committee to prepare and have printed a History of the Church, C. E. Burke, Chairman, Miss Josephine LaTourrette and Bennett Chapple.

Many meetings were held by these various committees and with the co-operation of the Pastor and the members of the church the work moved along smoothly and when the time for the celebration arrived a program had been prepared which was to prove interesting and inspiring. Prof. J. Raymond Hemminger, of Carlisle, Pa., was secured to have charge of the music for the week. A large chorus practiced so faithfully for several days before the opening of the celebration that the chorus selections, solos, duets and quartets added much to the success of the program. Miss Lulu McClellan presided at the piano with Mrs. Margaret Gebhart Clapp and Miss Thelma Murphy at the organ.

On Sunday morning, October 19, the first services of the

Centennial were held. The sermon was preached by Dr. W. O. Thompson, D. D., LL. D., President of Ohio State University, who eighteen years before at the dedication of the present church building had preached the dedicatory sermon. The topic of the sermon was, "A Century of Christian Progress." Dr. Thompson reviewed the great achievements of the past century in all lines of human endeavor tending to elevate mankind. His message was one of optimism for the future of the world and especially of our own America. "The supremacy of righteousness will be recognized and the welfare of all will be definitely defined." At this service Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema presided, Rev. W. Hamill Shields, D. D., read the Scripture lesson, and Rev. David Garrett Smith offered the prayer. The service was an inspiration to the large congregation in attendance.

At the evening service on this day Mr. Harry S. Wise, Chairman of the Centennial Committee, presided. After a song service lasting one-half hour, Rev. W. Hamill Shields, D. D., a former pastor of this Church, preached on the subject, "Elijah under the Juniper Tree—Spiritual Reaction." Dr. Shields brought a message of encouragement, yet one of warning. He pleaded for an awakening of and a new realization of the individual responsibility of the church member.

On Monday evening the services were in charge of The Woman's Society of the Church. Mrs. H. H. Goldman, President of the Society, presided. Rev. J. King Gibson, D. D., who has been a member of the Dayton Presbytery for forty years, and Stated Clerk for twenty-one years, brought to us greetings from the Dayton Presbytery. Rev. S. Hall Young, D. D., delivered an illustrated lecture on Alaska. This message proved most interesting and emphasized one great department of church work, Home Missions.

The services on Tuesday evening were in charge of the Westminster Men's Club. Mr. Calvin W. Verity, President of the Club, presided. The congregation of the Oakland Presbyterian Church attended this service in a body and a salutation for that Church was given by its pastor, Rev. Wendel F. Foster. Rev. C. W. Sullivan, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Middletown, brought greetings

from the churches of the city. A pleasing feature of this service was a quartette sung by Prof. Hemminger, two former pastors, Mr. Shields and Mr. Smith, and the present pastor, Mr. Brinkema. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. C. F. Wishart, D. D., President of Wooster College. Dr. Wishart pleaded for a rededication of the spirit of self-sacrifice. He said that in peace we must find the moral equivalent of war. "Are we going to carry the sacrificial ideals of war over into the constructive ideals of peace, and are we going to carry on the wonderful ideals of the war?" the speaker asked. All present were urged to make every effort to do his part in meeting the duties and obligations lately given to the Church and to the Nation.

A dinner was served by the women of the Church to the Congregation and visiting friends on Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock. After a social half hour services were held in the auditorium of the Church. The program of the evening was in charge of the Woman's Missionary Society. Mrs. E. C. Woodward, President of this Society, presided. Quite a number of the Congregation of the Blue Ball Presbyterian Church attended this service and greetings were brought by them through Rev. James E. Harris, their pastor. Homer Edson, who a few years ago accomplished so much good work with the boys in Middletown, and who had lately returned from war work with the Red Cross, reviewed briefly the home mission work that had been done in Middletown and spoke of the work yet to be done. The address of the evening was delivered by Rev. Scott F. Hershey, Ph.D., LL. D., a former pastor of this Church. Dr. Hershey took as his subject, "The Outlook and the Forelook." He spoke of the great responsibility that our country has been called upon to face. "It is as if God has thrown open the door to the United States and said, 'Go ye into all the world and teach,'" said the speaker. "We have our heritage and we must and will live up to our responsibilities in it."

During the service of this evening the electric lights went off and could not be turned on again for several minutes. Candles used on the dinner tables a short time before were brought into the auditorium and we were given a vivid

illustration of how the Churches were lighted one hundred years ago.

Thursday night was known as "Sunday School Night." The services on this occasion were presided over by Mr. R. C. Phillips, Superintendent of the Sunday School. A delegation from the "New Jersey" church, of Carlisle, was present and a short address was made by Rev. John L. Robinson, pastor of that Church. The elders from the "New Jersey" Church presided at the organization of our Church One Hundred years ago. The speaker of the evening was Rev. George N. Luccock, D. D., pastor of the College Church, Wooster, Ohio. Dr. Luccock spoke on the subject, "The Church at School." He dwelt upon four things required to make a school—teachers, learners, ideals and the home. "All the equipment in the world cannot make a good school. Only the personality of the teacher can do that." The speaker declared that various influences are working to disrupt the home; that, in fact, the only institution that does not disrupt the home is the Christian Church.

The address on Friday evening was delivered by Rev. Joseph A. Vance, D. D., LL. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Vance took as his subject, "The Call of the Church to the Youth." The speaker emphasized the part the younger generation will take in the rebuilding of the nations. He said that it has been the ambition of each department of the church to maintain its own existence, but now we are realizing that all departments must be united in order to progress. "Christians are coming to have a greater appreciation of what it means to be a Christian and the passion for Christ and humanity is becoming stronger in the life of the Christian," said Dr. Vance. This service was in charge of the young people of the Church. Miss Margaret Johnson, who has been active for the last few years in promoting the welfare of the young people of our church and city, presided at this meeting. Two features of the service were a solo by Mr. Hemminger, "I Know He Cares," and a whistling solo by Miss Lulu McClellan.

Sunday was the closing day of the Centennial celebration. At the morning service Rev. David Garrett Smith, a former

pastor, preached the sermon on the subject, "The Generations and the Perfecting of Life." Mr. Smith told of the heritage of the Church through its long generations of service and emphasized how the perfecting of life was connected both with the past and the future. He said that we do not live to ourselves, but that "through the ages one incessant purpose runs," and that the call is stronger today than ever before for the individual Christian to do his full part in bringing about the "one divine event toward which the whole creation moves." Mr. G. N. Clapp, an elder in this Church since 1892, presided at the morning service.

Rev. John B. Ferguson, pastor of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Indiana, preached in the evening. Mr. Ferguson was a former member of our Church and a teacher in the local High School and was warmly welcomed on his return for this occasion. He took as the subject for his sermon, "The Heart of the Church." He made a strong plea for the worship of God in spirit and in truth. Mr. Carl F. Williamson, an elder in our Church, presided at this service. A feature of the program for the evening was a piano solo by Miss Lulu McClellan, an arrangement of "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us."

Within the week on different occasions the Endowment Fund Committee made reports as to the plans it had formulated. On Sunday the following announcement was read:

"The Hundredth Anniversary of our Church calls to our minds the many years of blessing God has bestowed upon us, and it seems fitting at this time that some permanent foundation should be constructed that would in a way reflect our thanks.

"Since the basis of our present day Christian life is service, unselfish service, we feel that we should lay aside the thought of doing something as a church for ourselves, something that might in a way be a memorial to this Centennial Anniversary and perhaps add to our own comfort and pleasure, and should support some project or movement that means service to others not so fortunate as we.

"It has been proposed that we create at this time the First Presbyterian Church Missionary Endowment Fund for Home and Foreign Missions, and that this fund be established now, by contributions from our membership. The

joy of giving while living is much more satisfactory than waiting till life's end and then giving. Some prefer the latter, however, and if you do, we urgently request you to provide in a will some substantial remembrance for this fund. The money is to be carefully invested by the proper church authorities and the interest on the investment to go toward the support solely of Home and Foreign Missions. You will thus help to create and institute a fund that will be a lasting memorial to yourself and to your beloved Church.

“This action has the approval of the General Assembly and many churches are becoming interested along the same lines.

“Our Church has no debt and we should have no difficulty in starting at this time a substantial endowment fund that will in a few years support in a substantial way the cause of Missions, Home and Foreign.”

It was stated that subscription cards would soon be sent to all members of the Congregation and a liberal response was requested. Prospects are most promising that this plan will be very successful and that our church will soon have a large missionary endowment fund as a “Centennial Memorial.”

The Memorial Tablet Committee reported that the tablet containing the names of all the ministers who had served in the Church since its organization had been purchased but delivery had been delayed and the tablet could not be erected during Centennial week as had been hoped.

The History Committee announced that the history was practically completed and would be ready for the printer as soon as a brief account of the Centennial Week program could be prepared, and that it was hoped that “The Story of a Hundred Years” would be ready for distribution in about three weeks.

Centennial Week was all that had been expected and even more. It was a week of real enjoyment and blessing, not only for members of our own church, but also for many others who regularly attended the services. The attendance at all the meetings was good. The music was inspiring and all the messages helpful and encouraging. Because of the activities of this Great Week, we are looking ahead with greater hope and courage.

MEMORABILIA.

Under this heading are given several items of interest in our Church life which for different reasons have not been woven into other parts of our Story.

On July 26, 1900, the Dicks Creek-Blue Ball Presbyterian Church Centennial celebration was held. At that service Rev. Charles E. Walker, Ph. D., Hartwell, Ohio, delivered a very interesting address on the history of that church. In that address the statement was made that up to that time about thirty-five members had been dismissed from that Church to the Middletown Presbyterian Church. For this reason and in view of the fact that the early history of the Dicks Creek Church is also the history of our Church it was decided to reprint the following paragraphs from Mr. Walker's address.

“Presbyterianism came into Ohio with the first settlers.

A majority in that party of twenty-six men who landed near what is now the foot of Sycamore Street, Cincinnati, December 28, 1788, were Presbyterians. Almost immediately they took steps to secure a meeting place for worship. Town lots were donated and in due time a house of worship was erected—the first Presbyterian Church in Ohio. These lots are still owned and occupied by the First Presbyterian Church of Cincinnati. This is the Mother Church of the Dicks Creek-Blue Ball Church, and no one had more to do with its organization and maintenance than the two men who first served this pioneer church as pastors.

Because of trouble with the Indians, the settlers on the river did not venture very far into the interior. They kept as close to Fort Washington as possible. When going to the fields to work, or even to church to worship, it was necessary to carry their guns for protection.

In 1794 Gen. Wayne, who had been appointed to the command of the army, succeeded in doing what Gen. St. Clair had failed to accomplish. He gained a complete victory over the Indians, destroyed their power and compelled them to cede to the United States all claims to territory lying east of the Great Miami River.

The danger from the Indians now being almost entirely

removed, the tide of immigration set in with great activity. Abandoned settlements were reclaimed and many new ones were made on the fertile plains of the Miamis and the streams feeding these rivers.

This beautiful Dicks Creek Valley was soon sighted and chosen. In 1795 a man named Dick, or Dicks, entered the section of land in Warren County known as Section 33. This gentleman gave his name to the stream that runs through this section, though he himself never lived in this neighborhood.

During the years immediately following a number of families came from Dauphin and Washington Counties in Pennsylvania and settled in the neighborhood of Dicks Creek. Others came from Kentucky, by way of Fort Washington, and still others, like Thomas Hunter and his young bride, came directly from the "Old Country."

Some of these families were from the old Hanover Presbyterian Church in Pennsylvania, and when they came into the "Far West" they did not forget their allegiance to God and the church.

These hardy pioneers were God-fearing men, and while they labored to subdue the forests they planned for the worship and service of God.

At this early date there were few houses in this neighborhood. Choppers' cabins, however, were giving way to log houses. Some of the foot-paths or "trails" were being widened and dignified with the name "road." The travel was almost wholly on foot or horseback. Preachers rode from ten to fifty miles to fill their appointments, and from fifty to one hundred miles to attend Presbytery, and across the mountains to Philadelphia to attend the meetings of the General Assembly. Those were the days of magnificent distances, and the people thought nothing of riding, or even walking, from five to ten miles to attend preaching services. They carried their dinners with them and stayed all day.

In 1803 Joseph Parks built the first brick house in Warren County. It stood near where the house on Joseph W. Culbertson's farm now stands, and was destroyed by fire in 1876. In this house, and in the large log barn near by, which is still standing, Dicks Creek Church found a home until

the erection of the first church edifice. Robert Parks, a son of Joseph Parks, lived on the farm now owned and occupied by James Eberhart. In 1810 these gentlemen, father and son, donated an acre of ground lying on Dicks Creek, about one mile east of the present village of Blue Ball, for a burying-place. Another acre joining was leased for a church site. Thus the burying-place became literally the church-yard. Another acre on the west side of the road was leased by Capt. Wm. Humphrey, to be used for hitching purposes. In our day this location seems an inconvenient one, and some may have wondered why it was chosen as a suitable place for a house of worship. It must be remembered that there was then no village where Blue Ball now stands. It was ten years later when a tavern and the few houses at the new cross-roads was called Guilford. Springs of living water frequently determined the location of a house in those days. When people came long distances to church and remained all day, it was the part of wisdom to have their churches near to a never-failing spring of water if possible. The good spring at this point, together with the good-will and generosity of the Parks family, determined the site of the church. Here, in 1810, our first building was erected."

OUR Church very early in its history began to give to missions. On July 21, 1822, a special missionary collection amounted to \$5.41½. This amount seems small but when we compare it with the items of expense even for a date twenty years later as given elsewhere herein, we see that it would enable some mission church to hold several services.

IN a "Trustees' Record" which has been preserved we find that the pledges made in 1828 "for the purpose of erecting a Presbyterian Meetinghouse on a lot of ground on the lower or south end of the town of Middletown, purchased from Daniel Doty for that purpose, between Main and Broad streets," amounted to \$868.37½. There were forty-nine contributors. Several persons pledged fifty dollars, this amount being the largest sum subscribed. One subscription of fifty dollars was "to be paid for in work." There was one pledge for seven dollars and twelve and one half cents.

Among the list of subscribers are found several names which from that day have been prominent in Middletown history and progress: Lefferson, Dubois, Barcalow, Caldwell, Dickey, Wycoff, Banker and Doty.

WHEN the first church building was nearly completed, in 1833, "it was agreed upon that the pews be sold upon draft for the purpose of paying the expense of erecting them, and that John M. Barnett, Peter Vanderveer and Moses W. Karr be a committee to draw a draft of the pews and number them." This was done and the sale made at once. William Bates called the sale. Two hundred and sixteen dollars was realized from this sale and twenty pews were sold. The highest price paid for a pew was twenty-five dollars and the lowest was three dollars.

AT a meeting of the Congregation of the Church, February 16, 1833, "it was agreed upon to enter into a contract with David L. Murry and James A. Walker for the erection of the pews in the Presbyterian Church and that an article of agreement be entered into immediately for the faithful performance of the same." This article of agreement has been preserved and is considered of sufficient interest and historical value to justify its reproduction herein. A fac-simile of a part of this contract is shown on another page. The contract in full follows:

Articles of agreement made, concluded upon and entered into on the twenty-sixth day of February one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three, between David L. Murry and James A. Walker, of the town of Middletown, County of Butler, and State of Ohio, of the one part, and the trustees of the Presbyterian Meetinghouse in Middletown, Butler County, of the other part, in the words following, that is to say: The said David L. Murry and James A. Walker, for and in consideration of the promises, provisions and conditions hereinafter contained and stipulated to be done and performed on the part and behalf of the said trustees aforesaid, have and do hereby for themselves, their heirs, executors, and administrators jointly and severally covenant and grant unto and with the said trustees of the Presbyterian Meetinghouse that the said David L. Murry

and James A. Walker shall find and provide all manner of suitable materials and build and erect, or cause to be erected, a good and sufficient set of pews and box seats in the Presbyterian Meetinghouse in Middletown, in manner and form hereinafter specified and within the time herein limited, that is to say, the whole work is to be completed on or before the first day of June next ensuing this date. There is to be eighteen pews in front of the pulpit occupying the center of the house. Each pew is to be eight feet six inches in length, two feet six inches in width, three feet one inch in height. A partition is to be made between the center block of pews. Each pew is to have a door to open into the aisles running on each side of said block of pews. The doors are to be made with paneled work, also the front next the pulpit to be paneled work and the rear side next the front door to be paneled. The seats, heel board and back part of said pews are to be of the best of yellow poplar. The caps, book shelf end of the pews, doors, moldings around the doors and anything else than the seats, heel board and back part of the pews are to be of white pine of a good quality. In the pews of this block fronting and next to the pulpit one foot of the front part of the pew is to be made and hung on hinges to let down for the purpose of forming a table to accommodate in time of communion. On each side of the pulpit there is to be four pews of eight feet in length and as wide as the space will admit, to be of the same kind of materials and made in the same manner of the other pews except that they join the wall at the back end. On the north side of the house there is to be five box pews between the side door and stairway to the gallery, each to be five feet and about five inches long at the side next the wall and extending five feet from the wall, seats and back of the box pews of poplar as in the other pews, the balance comprising the front to be of suitable white pine, the front of the boxes to be paneled work of the best approved kind. On the south side of the house there is to be six box pews between the side door and east end of the house extending five feet from the wall to be of the same kind of materials and the same kind of work of the other box pews, the doors to be set in the center of the front of the box pews and finished off

A public agreement made, concluded, signed and entered
 into on the twenty eighth day of February One thousand eight
 hundred and thirty three between David L. Murray and
 James S. Coulter _____ of the town of Middlebury
 county of Rutland and state of Ohio of the one part and the
 Trustees of the Presbyterian Meetinghouse in Middlebury
 Rutland County of the other part in the words following, that
 to wit: The said David L. Murray and James S. Coulter
 _____ for and in consideration of the premises
 "to wit: a certain conditional agreement" contained and stipulated
 to be done and performed on the part and behalf of the said Trustees
 in said State and do hereby for themselves their heirs, executors,
 administrators, jointly and severally, covenant and agree
 unto and with the said Trustees of the Presbyterian Meetinghouse
 that the said David L. Murray and James S. Coulter
 shall give and provide all manner of suitable material
 and built and such or cause to be erected a pew and seats
 of Pews and Benches in the Presbyterian Meetinghouse
 Middlebury in manner and form herein after expressed
 within the time herein limited that is to say, he who was
 to be completed once before the first day of June next ensuing
 date, There to be Eighteen pews in front of the Subject room
 the center of the house each pew to be eight feet six inches
 length two feet six inches width in front and

Fac-simile of the first page of the contract to erect the pews in our first Church Building.

round the doors of the whole of the pews as the trustees shall approve, the doors to be hung on good substantial hinges made for that purpose and approved by the trustees. The doors of the box pews are also to be panned work. There is to be a loose bench made to sit in front of the center block of pews and one in the center space. The wall pews on each side of the pulpit, Nos. 30 and 37, are to be raised eight inches higher from the floor than the other pews. And the said trustees of the said Presbyterian Meetinghouse in Middletown do covenant and grant unto and with the said David L. Murry and James A. Walker that they will pay or cause to be paid to the said David L. Murry, his heirs or assigns for finding the materials and erecting said pews in the manner hereinbefore specified the sum of fifty dollars about the 10th day of March next ensuing this date for the purpose of furnishing the materials with, and fifty dollars on the first day of May provided the work shall be progressing to the satisfaction of the trustees, and forty-three dollars on the first day of June if the work shall be completed according to contract and the balance which is forty-three dollars in two months from the time the work is entirely completed and accepted by the trustees. The words (in two months) are interlined before signing.

In testimony whereof the said David L. Murry and James Walker, of the first part, and Arthur Lefferson, William Bates and George Yager trustees of said Presbyterian Meetinghouse in behalf of the congregation of Presbyterians of the other part, do hereby agree to bind themselves, their heirs executors or administrators, in the penal sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, lawful money, for the true and faithful performance of said articles of agreement, whereof we have hereunto interchangeably set our hands and seals at Middletown the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged in the presence of us,

MOSES W. KARR,

JOHN M. BARNETT, clerk for the trustees.

DAVID L. MURRY

JAMES A. WALKER,

ARTHUR LEFFERSON (Seal)

WILLIAM BATES

GEORGE YAGER

THESE has come into the hands of the Committee a small book marked as follows: "Middletown, 1841. Receipts and expenditures of The Presbyterian Church." Following are some of the items of expense noted: Candles, 50 cents; wood, 87½ cents; splitting and cutting wood, 62½ cents; oil pot, 18¾ cents; two brooms, 37½ cents; wicking for lamp, 6¼ cents; "sexton's salary from August 1st. up to the 20th. of December", \$9.00; candles for school house meeting, 12½ cents; pair of lamp snuffers, 45 cents; "cash paid to preacher", \$1.00. It would seem from this record that one of the collections taken amounted to 25 cents and another to \$2.06¼.

THE Church has always had its problems some of which are "always new but ever old."

We find the following record in the minutes of the Congregational Meeting held April 2, 1883: "Some of our people are too much absorbed in business for their spiritual good and growth in grace." Was it ever thus?

In the minutes of the meeting held on April 1, 1890, the following is recorded: "Perhaps the greatest clog at this time to Christian consecration and growth is what has been fitly termed the dancing craze. And we fear that some of our people have been beguiled by its supposed seductive charms into a forgetfulness or neglect of the vows voluntarily assumed by them when they covenanted to be the Lord's and to labor for the growth and upbuilding of His Kingdom in the world, but we have reason to hope and believe that this form of worldliness has reached its acme and that the sober second thought of those engaged in it will prevail."

Mrs. Anna L. Barnitz, who bears the distinction not only of being one of the oldest members of our congregation at this time, but also of being one of the most regular in attendance at the services of our Church, and who for many years has been actively interested in the work of the Church, at the request of the Committee prepared the following reminiscences which we are much pleased to be able to present.

THE writer has been a member of The First Presbyterian Church since 1853. She was baptized in that year by Rev. John B. Morton, who was then nearing the end of his

long pastorate in this Church. The Church, which was the first Presbyterian Church building to be erected in Middletown, at that time was situated near where the present Lutheran Church stands, on South Broadway, near the junction with Vanderveer Street. This building was a small brick structure with but a single story and was erected in 1833. Later, in 1846, a bell was purchased and a cupola added to the building. This bell was afterward moved to the church erected in 1854 at Main and Fourth Streets and still later moved to the Oakland Church where it is now in use.

In 1853 the church owned a large tract of land surrounding the church edifice and extending from Broad Street to Yankee Road and almost to Fifth Street. All this tract was sold to the Lutheran Church Association and the greater part of it has long since been divided up into building lots and sold. Had this tract been held until the present time and sold, the Church could have had a large endowment fund for some worthy cause.

When the writer was quite young Mr. Morton was married, the wedding taking place in the house that is now my home but at that time the home of Dr. Peter Vanderveer, whose daughter Mr. Morton married. The ceremony took place in the northwest room and was witnessed by a goodly number of the Presbyterian congregation of that day.

After the death of Dr. Vanderveer, this house, now known as number 505 South Broad street, became the Presbyterian manse and served for this purpose until in 1864 when it came into the hands of the writer's family. It is one of the oldest homes of Middletown and is said to be of pure colonial design patterned after some of the houses in the town of Salem, Massachusetts. This house has known many a gay and many a sad scene. When I was a small girl, the son of Dr. Peter Vanderveer, Ferdinand, later in the civil war to become the great General Vanderveer who led the 35th. Ohio Infantry all through the rebellion, came home from his campaign in Mexico. How well I remember that day. At that time there was not a house between our home and the canal. Each afternoon the passenger packet from Cincinnati arrived about four o'clock. As the packet ap-

proached the town the buglers on board would sound a fanfare and the whole town would turn out to the docks to see the boat come in and meet the passengers. This day the bugles played very sadly. Ferd Vanderveer was on board and with him a comrade dead. The cortege formed at the wharves and slowly wound its way to this hill. The young man was buried out near West Elkton.

The next time Ferdinand Vanderveer came home he was a General promoted on the field for gallantry in action.

During the Reverend Mr. Morton's pastorate the minister's salary was very meagre. Four hundred dollars was all that he was paid. Of course four hundred dollars in 1850 was a great deal more money than it is in 1919, but still had it not been for the donation parties given in the parsonage to which the members of the church brought an abundance of supplies such as wagon loads of wood, apples and potatoes sufficient to last the whole winter, and groceries to stock the pantry, the pastor would have found it difficult with his salary to make both ends meet.

Our new church, erected in 1854, was then the finest in the city. It was a two story building and could accommodate in its audience room about five hundred people. In 1866 a pipe organ was purchased and set up. At that time the choir gave two concerts and Professor Gale, of Christ Church, Cincinnati, played the organ. An admittance fee of twenty-five cents was charged and the auditorium was crowded for both programs.

For several years after the church was erected on the Main Street site, the house now used by Dr. T. E. Reed as an office was the Presbyterian manse. Our church once owned this property but sold it.

In connection with the pastorate of the Reverend Mr. Russell, I have a vivid recollection of his marriage to Miss Wilson. Mr. Russell invited Dr. Barnitz and myself to go to Cincinnati to witness the ceremony. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian church was sitting in the First Church of Cincinnati, and at the close of one session, at five o'clock in the afternoon, there was a double wedding ceremony. The Reverend Joshua L. Russell and Miss Wilson, and Moses Wilson, brother of the bride, and a Miss Thorpe

were married. The great edifice was packed with witnesses and the ceremony itself was most impressive. As the newly wedded couples passed down the aisle, some one loosed a dove which hovered over the bridal party as a delightful symbol until it reached the vestry door. Mrs. Russell still is living at Lansdowne, Pa., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Edward Symonds, and Judge Moses Wilson is a prominent barrister and now resides in Mt. Auburn, Cincinnati.

During the writer's membership in the First Presbyterian Church thirteen ministers have presided over the pastorate of the First Church. The Reverend Mr. Morton, who was the pastor when I united with the Church, is buried in Middletown. With his first and second wives, he lies buried in Middletown cemetery. The other ministers all left Middletown for other fields before their death.

For eighteen years it was the writer's precious privilege to teach the primary class in the Sunday School. At that time it was the custom to hold an annual picnic on our lawn. The children and all the mothers were invited.

Another part of the Church work in which the writer has taken a special interest and which she has enjoyed so much is the work of the Woman's Society. It would not be possible to give the names of the many fine co-workers in this Society. Good officers have always been in charge and the Society has always kept a bank account. Reports of the work have been read at annual congregational meetings and the balance sheet has always showed the balance on the proper side.

That our church may continue to grow in power and influence and good deeds and more and more be blessed of God is the prayer of the writer.

Butler County Ohio
Middletown April 14th 1819

According to previous appointment publickly
given the congregation of Middletown met for
the purpose of being organised, and choosing
their officers. Ezekeel Ball was cal^d to the Chair
and Moses W Starr Clerk.

The following officers were elected

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------|
| Ezekeel Ball Esq | } | Trustees |
| Archibald Campbell | | |
| Moses W Starr | } | Treasurer |
| Ezekeel Ball | | |
| Archibald Campbell | } | Clerk |
| Moses W Starr | | |

Middletown July 29th 1820

According to previous appointment
publickly given the congregation of Middletown
met for the purpose of organising a Church
For which purpose the aid of the Rev^d Mancoy
Manfort and the Elders of New Jersey church
was requested - after sermon by Mr Manfort
he with the Elders from New Jersey present (i.e)
Zebulon Baird Tunis D. Vandevier Henderick

Fac-simile of the First Page of the First Minute Book of the Session of our Church. This book is today in a well preserved condition.

Mr. Charles E. Margerum, a member of the Board of Deacons since 1887, who has kept in close touch with all the Church activities since that time, at the request of the Committee prepared the following account of the building of our present Church home.

IN a review of the history of the Church for the last three decades the one outstanding event that has left its impression on my memory is that of the erection of our present church building, not only because of the fact that this was done but also because of the conditions existing at that time, the persons who were identified with the undertaking and the spirit actuating them, and the generous support that carried the work to completion.

The majority of the older members then active in church work have since passed to their reward, but many who took a part in the work are still with us and can remember with what indomitable courage every obstacle was overcome by the noble men and women who gave to it their generous cooperation and support. We are prone to look upon this building with its appointments and furnishings as commonplace or as a matter of sequence or sometimes with criticism, forgetful of the sacrifices made and without knowledge to whom we are indebted for that which we now enjoy in this beautiful temple.

To have a proper conception of the magnitude of the accomplishment we should not judge by present day standards of "frenzied finance" for it was carried out under very different conditions.

Let us, then, as we erect the tablet in the Church to the memory of the Pastors during the century, also cherish the memory of those to whom we are indebted for the building which enshrines it.

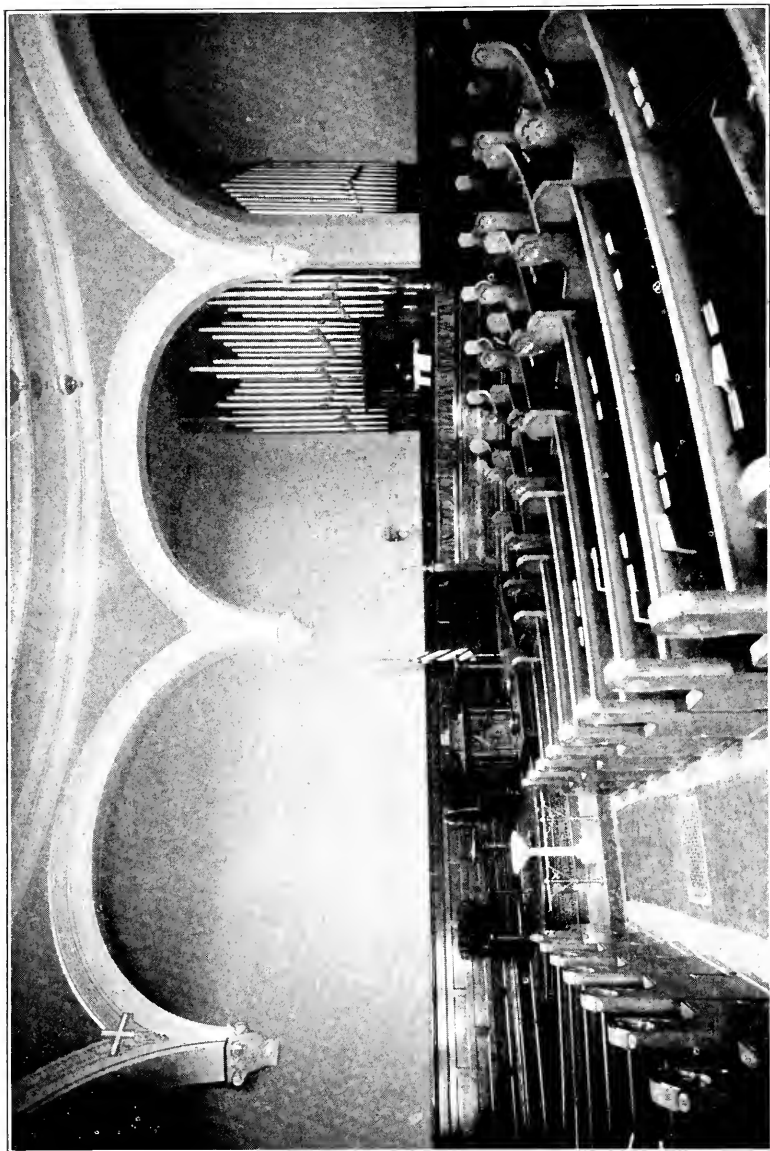
For a long time prior to 1891 there was manifest a growing desire and fond hope to have a larger building better suited to accommodate the increasing activities of the church and Sabbath School. At the regular congregational meeting of the Church, Saturday afternoon, April 4th. of that year, a committee of fifteen was appointed from the congregation to be called the Presbyterian Church Building

Committee whose duty it was to select a site for the new Church, to increase the subscription list that had already been started, to select plans and specifications, and to secure a proper building for church services during the erection of the new church edifice. The committee of fifteen as appointed was:

Theo. Marston, Wm. Caldwell, P. P. LaTourrette, J. B. Hartley, C. S. Barnitz, J. K. Thomas, C. B. Johnson, C. B. Oglesby, Murray Schenck, H. P. Leibee, E. L. McCallay, Dr. Samuel McClellan, Geo. Jacoby, J. M. Iseminger, Chas. E. Margerum.

On the evening of the same day, April 4, 1891, the committee of fifteen met and organized by the election of P. P. LaTourrette Permanent President and E. L. McCallay Permanent Secretary, and adopted as a rule of order that eight members should constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A Finance Committee was elected consisting of C. B. Oglesby, Wm. Caldwell, Theo. Marston and J. B. Hartley. C. B. Johnson was chosen Treasurer and a Sub-Committee of three consisting of C. B. Johnson, Joseph Iseminger and Chas. E. Margerum was selected whose duty it was to invite plans and submit same to the general committee, and to have full charge of superintending the construction of the proposed new building. This committee of fifteen also selected the first and third Friday evenings of each month at 7:30 for regular meetings and resolved to build the new Church of stone. Thus was launched the greatest movement of that character that the Church has ever undertaken and one which was to call for the earnest and united effort of the whole membership and a work that was to try to the fullest extent the financial ability of the Church.

Differing views upon the question of location immediately prompted resolutions to build on the old site followed by resolutions to secure a new site and options were secured on other locations but it remained an open question until at a meeting on November 24, 1891, at which time Wm. Caldwell and C. B. Oglesby were appointed a committee to select plans and specifications and it was decided to build on the old site. May 25, 1892, bids were presented for the building as follows: Wm. Caldwell, \$30,675.00; Chas. E. Margerum,



Interior view of the auditorium of our present church.

\$33,727.00; Jacoby & Denny, \$34,859.00. The bid of Wm. Caldwell being the lowest was accepted and a contract was closed with him to build the church.

An estimate including the items not in Mr. Caldwell's contract was submitted consisting of heating, plumbing, stone carving, frescoing, art glass, pulpit furniture, pews, carpets, architect's services and other items amounting in all to \$9,325.00, making the estimated total cost of the building \$40,000.00.

A committee of two was appointed to tear down and take care of all material of the old church except that part that would be needed for building a new church in Oakland. At this meeting the resignation of C. B. Johnson was accepted and on motion Theo. Marston was unanimously elected Treasurer of the Building Committee.

The removal of the old and building of the new church progressed. Providing funds to satisfy the claims of the contractor now engaged our attention.

At a called meeting January 17, 1895, the new Church building was received from the contractor as complete according to agreement, and a vote of thanks was extended for faithful performance of the contract. The cost of the building had exceeded the amount first estimated and the total cost was reported by the committee to be \$45,000.00, leaving a balance of about \$18,000.00 unprovided for.

Various plans were suggested to meet this deficit but all to no purpose until a call was issued "To the Individual Members" for a meeting February 13, 1895, from which I take the following:

"We have been worshipping for eighteen months past in the Lecture or Sabbath School Department. The main audience room is now completed, but our new church can not be dedicated and occupied with the existing debt unprovided for. . . . Something must be done by which our creditors can obtain their dues. . . . Your committee has thought best to make one final and united effort to pay the debt and be done with it at once and forever. We know our indebtedness is considerably larger than we anticipated it would be when our church was finished. We could not foresee the depression of the times that has occurred since we

commenced to build. Yet we believe there is enough wealth, combined with enough love for God and His church, existing among the members of the Presbyterian Church in Middletown, with some additional aid we hope to obtain from others than members, to lift the debt which now hangs over us like a pall. But it will take a united effort. The gift of the wealthy, the middle class, the poor and even down to the widow's mite, will all be required to lift the \$18,000.00 debt. . . . Come out to the meeting. . . . It is for the members and congregation that will be there assembled to say whether the debt now resting upon the church shall be paid, the church dedicated and we continue to worship in our new and beautiful audience room. The subscriptions to clear the church building from debt, as shall be made upon that evening, will be conditioned that the whole amount of indebtedness is raised, then the whole of the subscription must be paid."

This meeting was under the management of Dr. W. O. Thompson, Oxford, Ohio, but failed to raise the amount desired. Another meeting was called for February 27th, at which greater success was obtained as the debt was reduced to \$5,000.00 which was afterward provided for.

An attempt to recall the activities of the church in those bygone days would go far amiss if it did not include the prominent mention of the fine spirit of cheerful and efficient participation by the women, a characteristic then as now that we delight to honor and respect, but while this is a dependable quality at all times I now am recalling fond recollections of the building of the church only and not of anything added since of which there are many evidences that the women of our church today worthily maintain the same spirit as then exemplified.

The Ladies' Aid Society, or what is now known as the Woman's Society, was composed of every woman in the church, and while giving more than \$500.00 in cash to the Building Committee, it also gave \$700.00 for furniture, carpeted the entire building, except the Ladies' parlor, at an expense of \$1,200.00, and furnished all the hangings in the church. The Sabbath School classes of Mrs. A. T. Wilson, Miss Lou Hartley, Mrs. Irene Dickey, Miss Jennie Blair, and



The Official Boards of the Church (1905).

Top Row—W. H. Johnson, W. K. Rhonemus.
Middle Row—A. L. Foster, J. L. Blair, Rev. W. H. Shields, Joseph Shafor, G. N. Clapp.
Bottom Row—William Caldwell, C. S. Barnitz, J. K. Thomas, P. P. LaTourrette, Theodore Marston.

others gave through this society. The Sabbath School classes were all organized in a system to raise money and to work for the building of the new church and succeeded in raising a considerable amount. The King's Daughters Society, which was then affiliated with the Church, gave the baptismal font.

The assistance of the women of the Church was invaluable in the selection of the pews and decorations and in many other details.

On Monday evening of Centennial Week, Rev. J. King Gibson, D. D., brought to our Church greetings from the Presbytery of Dayton. Dr. Gibson has been a member of this Presbytery for forty years and its Stated Clerk for twenty-one years. He has preached in our Church on many occasions and so his greetings came from friend to friend as well as from Presbytery to Church. Dr. Gibson spoke as follows.

THE history of the Presbyterian Church is one of deep interest. Including its various branches it is the largest Protestant body in the world as the alliance of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system includes twenty-five million members.

This would be nothing to our credit if something more could not be said. But more can be said in all fairness. Our Church has borne a distinguished part in the history of the Christian religion. It has toiled for the betterment of mankind. In works of philanthropy, in popular education, in the ends of Civil Government, as well as in things distinctly religious, it has had a conspicuous part. So competent an authority as George Bancroft has traced our greatness as a nation, in no small part to the principles of the English Puritans, the Scotch Covenanters, the French Huguenots, the Dutch Calvinists and the Presbyterians of Ulster.

Francis Mackemie builded better than he knew when he planted the Presbyterian Church on the eastern shore of Maryland. No more truly Catholic body is found on the face of the earth. It has no doctrinal test for those who would enjoy its privileges other than a credible faith in the common Savior of the world. It receives without re-ex-

amination or rebaptism, those who are members in good standing in other Christian churches and its catechisms containing its doctrinal basis are so broad and generous that in some instances other communions have used them for the instruction of their children. We would not boast, but the rather, on bended knee, confess our shortcomings. But, after all, is there not good reason to thank God that such a history is our heritage?

But the efficient fellowship of our form of government is the basis of my errand tonight. We are a representative body in character, from the Session, through the Presbytery and Synod, to the General Assembly. The Presbytery covering this region organized this particular church one hundred years ago, and from then until now has watched over it with religious care. We have heard with unfeigned interest of this anniversary week and our Presbytery has gladly sent a representative to convey its greetings of affection. Your joy is our joy. It is not in place that I should speak at length. I am but a messenger. I bring you greetings from the venerable Presbytery of Dayton covering hereabout seven counties, embracing fifty-four ministers, forty-four churches, and twelve thousand communicants. We are glad to number in this body the First Church of Middletown with its fine history and bright hopes. We are not ignorant of your labors of faith and patience and love, and, as Paul for the Philippians, we "thank God at every remembrance of you." And with our congratulations we bring the prayer that the fellowships and accomplishments of the past may be surpassed in the days to come; that your devotion to missions at home and abroad may increase; that your place in the hearts of the people among whom you are planted may be deepened and strengthened; and that your force for righteousness may gather a sacred momentum as the years go by. And so we bid you "God-speed."

That it may be preserved for future reference and comparisons more than for any other reason, the budget of our Church for the year ending March 31, 1920, is here given. This budget includes only items of expenses and benevolences that are paid directly through the Church treasury, and docs

not include the budgets of The Woman's Society, The Missionary Society, The Westminster Men's Club, The Sunday School and The Christian Endeavor Society.

CURRENT EXPENSES.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Pastor's Salary | \$3,000.00 |
| Pulpit Supply | 100.00 |
| Financial Secretary | 150.00 |
| Janitor & Extra Labor | 1,000.00 |
| Music | 1,000.00 |
| Relief Fund | 100.00 |
| General Assembly | 75.00 |
| Telephone & Light | 300.00 |
| Fuel and Water | 350.00 |
| General Improvements & Repairs. | 500.00 |
| Printing & Supplies | 250.00 |
| Contributors Envelopes | 60.00 |
| Taxes & Insurance | 750.00 |
| Loan & Interest | 2,000.00 |
| New Era Magazine | 135.00 |
| Session Fund | 200.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 100.00 |

Total Current Expenses\$10,070.00

BENEVOLENCES.

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Home Missions | \$ 721.00 |
| Foreign Missions | 721.00 |
| General Education | 200.00 |
| Publication & S. S. Work | 100.00 |
| Relief & Sustentation | 101.00 |
| Church Erection | 100.00 |
| Freedmen | 100.00 |
| Temperance | 100.00 |
| Evangelism | 10.00 |
| Men's Work | 10.00 |

Total Benevolences\$ 2,163.00

Grand Total\$12,233.00

It seemed appropriate to the Committee that "Middletown's War Record" be included herein. The Churches of Middletown very actively supported all the various campaigns and aided very much in making them so successful. The Middletown Chamber of Commerce furnished the following information.

| Movement | Quota. | Result. |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| 1st Liberty Loan | \$350,000.00 | \$1,067,800.00 |
| 2nd Liberty Loan | 454,000.00 | 1,182,250.00 |
| 3d Liberty Loan | 418,500.00 | 981,300.00 |
| 4th Liberty Loan | 955,950.00 | 1,424,150.00 |
| 5th Victory Loan | 833,450.00 | 1,112,850.00 |
| 1st Red Cross War Fund | 20,000.00 | 113,630.70 |
| 2nd Red Cross War Fund..... | 40,000.00 | 129,638.00 |
| *1st Red Cross Membership | 3,200 | 11,484 |
| 2nd Red Cross Membership, exclusive of 3,509 Juniors | | 7,286 |
| Salvation Army 1918 | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Soldiers' Library 1918 | 1,000.00 | 1,320.00 |
| War Savings Stamps 1918 | 450,000.00 | 536,520.00 |
| Y. M. C. A. Red Triangle War Fund | 25,000.00 | 33,989.44 |
| U. W. W. Fund, including Armenian and Syrian Relief.... | 48,000.00 | 83,684.60 |
| *Honor Chapter of the Lake Division (Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky). | | |

95.6% of all housewives signed Food Conservancy Pledge.

1236 Boys in Service.

PASTORS AND SUPPLIES OF THE FIRST PRESBY-
TERIAN CHURCH, MIDDLETOWN, OHIO.

1819—1919.

Francis Monfort, 1819-24.
Samuel B. Smith, 1828-32.
John Hudson, 1832-33.
Alexander Guy, 1833-35.
John S. Belleville, 1837-39.
Moses Russell, 1839-40.
John B. Morton, 1840-47.
Simon M. Templeton, 1847-53.
John B. Morton, 1853-65.
Gideon I. Taylor, 1865-67.
Joshua L. Russell, 1867-72.
Joseph W. Clokey, 1873-78.
Thomas W. Hench, 1878-83.
Henry B. Elliott, 1883-84.
Scott F. Hershey, 1884-87.
James M. Simonton, 1888-90.
George M. McCampbell, 1890-95.
Thomas S. Scott, 1896-1900.
W. Hamill Shields, 1900-1910.
David Garrett Smith, 1910-18.
Bernard J. Brinkema, 1918-

RESPONSES FROM PASTORS.

Our present pastor and our former pastors who are living were asked to send a few words of greeting or some reminiscences for our story. The response was most cordial and we are glad to present these messages.

From Rev. Thomas H. Hench, Carthage, Missouri.

The kind invitation to your approaching Church Centennial Anniversary is very much appreciated. I fear it will be impossible for me to be present personally, but I rejoice with you in the joy of the occasion.

I fear it would be more an occasion of sadness to me in missing the old friends of my day so long ago and with all things so changed from the days of yore.

My pastorate of some five years was not especially eventful in any way except for its perfect harmony and general good feeling. This was all the more remarkable because in the days of the previous pastorate there had been some division and bitterness of feeling caused by the rising Temperance agitation and crusade which was spreading over the land, beginning in Ohio, the storm center, and starting a campaign which in the forty-one years progress was destined to ultimate, as we see today, in the final temperance victory and the triumph of National Prohibition and in the National Constitutional Amendment making it the permanent policy of this great country and government.

But the people of the Church in the beginning of my pastorate, good naturedly, kindly, and in the true spirit of Christian unity and fellowship, suddenly concluded to drop all differences, and from that time on I never knew a more harmonious congregation.

Universal good feeling prevailed and I had a very quiet, peaceable and altogether delightful pastorate and I revert to it with a great deal of pleasure.

From Middletown I went to Connersville, Ind., where I remained for twelve years and did, I might say, the best and greatest work of my life and the most successful.

I wish all of you a most pleasant and helpful time at your celebration.

From Rev. Scott F. Hershey, Angola, Indiana.

I recall with all the force of a pleasant memory of the far away days my short ministry in the Middletown Church.

There were some wonderfully fine people in those days as now. Some of them, as always, were trying to serve the Lord by guarding the Church confessions rather more than serving the world in the spirit of the Christ. Some of them were among the very choice ones I have ever known. Some with whom I had years of happy fellowship were not even members of the Church. Possibly they were more Christian than they thought.

I remember with most comfort the large number of young people who connected with the Church shortly after I began my temporary ministry. In the days since I have met, here and there, in different parts of the land, quite a few of them. The most worth while comment I can make on this is that those most Christian were the most happily situated in life.

As I think back over the people I have known in Middletown, Washington, Boston, Wooster, New Castle, the most lingering thought I have is, that the life that serves best and loves most is the life of largest vision, richest comfort and brightest hope. So, "Let me live in my home by the side of the road, Where the race of men go by, And be a friend to man."

From Rev. W. Hamill Shields, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

In the long fight for righteousness the Church leads the way and it is a joy to a Pastor to note that passing years do not lessen the zeal of his co-workers of other days.

In a ministry of nearly ten years—September, 1900, to April, 1910—I was permitted to see The First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, Ohio, grow in power and influence, getting ready for the increasing demands of an expanding community life. The years saw a steady substantial growth in numbers and influence.

As a young Pastor, surrounded by a most loyal Session of devoted men of age and experience, I was encouraged in every way. For a number of years a heavy debt, heavy for those days, rested upon the Church after the completion of

the present building. With the loyal support of the Session and Board of Deacons a Ten Thousand Dollar debt was raised with the effort of but a few days and the handsome edifice was dedicated with reverence and thanksgiving after an inspiring dedicatory sermon by Rev. W. O. Thompson, D. D., President of Miami University, now President of the Ohio State University.

Another outstanding event in this ministry was the organization of a Presbyterian Brotherhood and, a little later, a Junior Brotherhood. These organizations have played a notable part in the development and spiritual life of the Church.

During these years the missionary zeal of the Church was developed by a most loyal band of women working through the Missionary Society. The women were helped and encouraged by the new interest manifested by the men and a delightful atmosphere of spiritual earnestness was created. The passing of the years has sanctified and deepened the bonds of former years.

Middletown, with its growing power and population, will appeal to the Presbyterian Church to carry on the work with ever increasing usefulness. As Pastor and Friend of former years, I bid you "Go Forward, Always Forward, helped and inspired by holy memories and friendships from the past and beckoned by the glory-light of a golden future."

From Rev. David Garrett Smith, Middletown, Ohio.

Mr. Smith closed his ministry in Middletown so recently that he can not indulge in reminiscences. He mentions as a few of the most interesting features of his work here the great Lyon evangelistic meetings which included most of the Protestant churches of the city and resulted in a considerable revival of religious interest, as well as large accessions to the churches; the transfer of the Presbyterian Brotherhood to the city—placing it on an interdenominational basis, so that all the churches could contribute proportionate support, and have equal privileges—the name being changed to the Middletown Brotherhood; the destructive flood of 1913, demoralizing all the interests of the city, and causing a financial loss to the First Church of about \$5,000.

One of the compensations of the flood was the new civic pride awakened in the work of restoration and reconstruction. It was also the occasion of the conversion of the Presbyterian manse into a parish house, and the purchase of the beautiful new manse on Yankee Road at a cost of \$13,000. About this time the Oakland Church which had been out of use for several years was put in repair at considerable expense, reopened for services, and a pastor was called to take charge of the work. The entire property was soon turned over to the congregation free of debt.

Mr. Smith's greatest satisfaction in review of his work in Middletown is the steady growth that the church maintained and the broadening scope of its work, so that under most favorable auspices it now enters upon a new and most promising era of Christian service.

Added to this are the ever enriching memories of faithful co-laborers and loyal friends, not a few, who are the most prized fruitage of his ministry.

From Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema, present pastor.

To All the Members of My Household of Faith.

Less than one year ago I came to be the Minister of Jesus Christ to the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio, and to be your pastor. The days of my pastorate have been few, but they have been days of ever expanding joy. The vision of the possibilities has brightened the horizon of what is, without a doubt, our share in ushering in the greatest age in the Kingdom of God. The path that lies before us may be unmarked, as was the path of our pioneer fathers, but we have the same promises and a greater experience. The stars that guided them are with us still, and are only paling before the dawning light. Soon midnight shall be as the noon-day sun. We stand on an unbeaten path, yet One has gone before, and, though the path is marked with His blood, His foot-prints are traveling toward the dawning. He is our greater experience, tested and tried anew in the heart ache of the Twentieth Century's travail. We are comrades of all who have gone before; we lean on our fathers, mothers, saints and ministers who once stood in our place; we appreciate what they have done; we shall register our

appreciation, not in words, but in deeds of devotion to the institution that they held dear.

The Story of A Hundred Years has been told. We cannot alter it and would not if we could. The story of the second hundred years is unwritten and it is our blessed privilege to make the future. The Church of God marches on. The First Presbyterian Church of Middletown shall move with it. "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it." Our Lord and Master is possessing the land. We will step forward with Him.

Sincerely, your pastor,

BERNARD J. BRINKEMA.

Rev. Joseph W. Clokey sent the History Committee some facts relating to his ministry in our Church and stated that he had many pleasant remembrances of his pastorate here which he would be very glad to give us. This was prevented by his death which occurred a few days later, early Sunday morning, August 17, 1919, at his home in Oxford, Ohio. Many of our members were looking forward with pleasure to see and hear Mr. Clokey during our Centennial. We do not want to miss having a message from him and so we are submitting here a letter written to the Church by Mr. Clokey at the close of his ministry, July 3, 1878.

For the members of my congregation and for their historical archives, I have prepared the following sketch of my ministerial labors in the church of Middletown. It is submitted humbly and with the hope that future readers may deem my labors not altogether vain.

As I look back over the years intervening between my installation and my release, my mind recalls a multitude of scenes and incidents that have awakened and always will awaken in my heart thankfulness to the kind Father who directed my footsteps to Middletown as my home. As I look back my mind also recalls a multitude of scenes and incidents of a different character, which for more than four years have kept my heart under a burden of anxiety and have often caused me to ask the question, "Why did the Lord send me here?" Our congregation has passed through the severest trial in all its history. It is not proper for me

to sit in judgment as to who have been responsible for that trial. It is proper for us all to humiliate ourselves before God and pray him that the dark shadows of the past may not be prolonged into the future. I am, in making my review, exceedingly grateful to the Kind Providence that has kept His grace in our hearts and preserved us from absolute coldness and death in the midst of our dissensions. We have not been a dead church. To a stranger looking in on our work we have given every evidence of thrift. The attendance both on the services of the Sabbath and at prayer meeting has continued unbroken to the end, our Wednesday evening gatherings averaging no less than 100 the year round, and often running up to 140 and 150 persons. During my ministry here our congregation has been blessed of Heaven with two gracious outpourings of the Holy Spirit, the one occurring at the beginning of the year 1875 and continuing for nearly two months, the other in the spring of 1877 and continuing over one month. The first of these awakenings was remarkable for its results among our adults, and the second for its results among our children. Can we ever forget in the spring of '77 that beautiful sight of the children from seven years to fourteen crowding the study for special prayer? Out of this same awakening came our Young People's Association. This Association has been indeed a phenomenon. Ninety-seven of our youth and children have signed its constitution. Its meetings have now continued for nearly one year and a half, the attendance seldom falling below fifty, and often running up to 70 and 80. The splendid socials of the Young People, the facility they have displayed in doing all kinds of church work and especially the advance they have made in all the exercises of public worship have caused many particularly among parents to consider the last as the best of the five years of the pastorate just closed.

The statistics of my pastorate make the following exhibit. Two hundred and twenty-seven have been admitted to membership in the church. Of these, one hundred and fifty-six (156) have been admitted on profession of their faith in Christ; and of these latter sixty-four (64) have been baptized. Among those admitted on profession, I find

at the time of reception 53 married persons, 26 of these being the couplets of 13 families, who came as couplets into the church. In looking over the list of all these 227 new additions, I have asked myself the question, "Where are they? And how do they now appear in their relation to the Church?" I hope I will be excused for expressing myself as most highly gratified as I begin at No. 261 in your church roll and pass along over the names to No. 487. Here is according to my best judgment the result of the review. Thirty-five have been dismissed upon certificate to other churches; fourteen of them have died, and I trust are in Heaven; eleven are absent without certificate. This leaves one hundred and sixty-seven (167) on the ground to be accounted for. Of these, I regard not more than ten (10) as being now lost to the church, and not all of them are so living that they would disgrace the church if they were still in regular membership. Looking over the entire roll of our present membership, and leaving out those, who have lost membership by long neglect, I find among the balance more than fifty persons who, though they are not lost to the church, yet are now and have been for months in very irregular attendance on the ordinances of divine worship. I have called these the unreliaables. It is with something of pride that I can say that not more than fifteen of this number come in the list of those who have come into the church within the last five years. Deducting the lost and the unreliaables, you have at this moment as the result of our common toil during this last pastorate, a clear gain of more than 140 good substantial members of the church, persons who may be found with great regularity at their posts of duty. Surely we have reason to praise the Lord for His goodness to us. The church of Middletown has now all the elements needed for future success, and if the members preserve the peace and secure the utmost fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ, this success will be assured by the grace of the Holy Spirit. As your retiring pastor, I wish you the most abundant harvest under the new shepherd the Lord may send you. Compose your differences, confess each his own sins to the Lord, humble yourselves at the mercy seat and Heaven will grant you its benediction.



Some Members of the Official Boards (1919).

Front Row—D. D. Lefferson, G. N. Clapp, O. F. Kendle.
Second Row—C. E. Margerum, W. H. Johnson, J. L. Blair, Z. W. Ranck, William McLean, R. C. Vanderveer, W. H. Minton, C. E. Burke, J. C. Phillips, C. F. Williamson, E. G. Barkley, Dr. J. C. Stratton.
Third Row—H. S. Wise, Rev. B. J. Brinkema, W. S. LaTourrette, E. C. Woodward, R. C. Phillips.

OUR HONOR ROLL.

THE WORLD WAR.

*Raymond Alvin Pinkerton.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Rev. David Garrett Smith | Norval E. Diver |
| James Bryan | Paul J. Banker |
| Thomas C. Woodward | James Saunders |
| Southard P. Mayer | Ray Hahs |
| John S. Roney | John O. Dearth |
| Clyde Hackney | Chauncey McCoy |
| Edwin Mills | Thomas K. Calder |
| Tom Schraffenberger | Frank L. Pinkerton |
| Victor Collord | Edward G. Lamme |
| William Ross Crane | Ronald Griest |
| R. Colfax Phillips | Percival Johnson |
| George Cline | Harley A. Bate |
| Knowlton H. Smith | Paul E. Buss |
| Earl K. Mantz | Leroy Newlin |
| Stanley Gibbs | M. Standish Phillips |
| Paul M. Foster | Robert A. Solborg |
| Paul A. Diver | Graydon Schenck |
| Harold Shugg | Earl Beatty |
| Mark Denny | Adam E. Bridge |
| Herbert C. Boykin | Harold Albert Roney |
| George Edmund Denny | Robert B. Edson |
| Calvin W. Verity | Dr. W. T. Shipe |
| Charles Wells Shartle | Moxie George |

The following were enrolled in The Students' Auxiliary Training Corps:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Glenn Hoover | Harry Newlin |
| Charles Shyrock | Sam McAdow |
| Ohmer Steward | Milton Blair |
| Charles Schaerges | Charles Johnson |
| Jacob Jackson Blair | |

Raymond Alvin Pinkerton, Co. G, 6th. Marines, was wounded in Soissons, July 19, 1918, and died soon afterward, the exact date not being known.

The following is from a letter sent by General John J. Pershing to Mr. Pinkerton's parents:

"He bravely laid down his life for the cause of his country. His name will ever remain fresh in the hearts of his friends and comrades. The record of his honorable service will be preserved in the archives of the American Expeditionary Forces."

THE CHURCH ORGANIZATION.

Rev. Bernard J. Brinkema, Pastor.

THE SESSION.

G. N. Clapp, J. W. Shafor, J. L. Blair, William McLean, R. C. Vanderveer, C. F. Williamson, R. C. Phillips, E. G. Barkley, D. F. Gerber, M. D., C. E. Burke, Clerk.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS.

C. E. Margerum, Chairman; W. H. Johnson, O. F. Kendle, D. D. Lefferson, W. S. LaTourrette, J. C. Stratton, M. D., J. C. Phillips, W. H. Bevenger, E. C. Woodward, H. S. Wise, F. O. Diver, W. H. Minton, Secretary.

TRUSTEES.

W. O. Barnitz, Z. W. Ranck, M. A. Thomas, G. M. Verity, Howard A. Wilson.

F. O. Diver, Church Treasurer; W. H. Minton, Financial Secretary.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

R. C. Phillips, Superintendent; H. S. Wise, R. C. Vanderveer, William McLean, Assistant Superintendents; Mrs. C. E. Burke, Superintendent of Junior Department; Mrs. W. H. Johnson, Temperance Superintendent; Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Superintendent of Home Department; Norval Diver, Secretary; Edmond L. Phillips, Assistant Secretary; P. D. Silveus, Treasurer.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Carl Williamson, Superintendent; Mrs. A. P. Huffman, Assistant Superintendent; Miss Roberta Leasure, Secretary; Mrs. R. C. Phillips and Mrs. H. S. Wise, Cradle Roll Superintendents; Mrs. D. W. Lloyd, Helen Barkley, Dorothy Margerum and Margaret Thompson, Teachers; Edna Blair, Leader of Music.

ORGANIZED CLASSES.

The Friendly Helpers' Class—Mrs. A. L. Foster, President; Mrs. C. A. Pardonner, First Vice-President; Mrs. Alice VanSickle, Second Vice-President; Mrs. B. E. Leeds, Secretary; Mrs. J. M. Iseminger, Treasurer; Wade E. Miller, Teacher.

Miss LaTourrette's Class—President, Mrs. R. J. Todd; Secretary, Mrs. William McLean; Treasurer, Mrs. Grace Beatel; Teacher, Miss Josephine LoTourrette.

The Westminster Men's Class—President, J. T. Williamson; Secretary, J. S. Todd; Treasurer, F. O. Diver; Teacher, G. E. Roudebush.

Teachers of Classes Not Organized—R. C. Vanderveer, Mrs. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Mrs. W. H. Johnson, C. W. Shartle, H. E. Brooks, Mrs. C. W. Shartle, Mrs. R. H. Long, Mrs. G. M. Verity, L. J. Gossard, Elizabeth Schenck, E. R. Kontner, Mrs. E. C. Woodward, Miss Mary Corson.

OTHER CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Edmond L. Phillips, President; Thelma Murphy, Vice-President; Elizabeth Schenck, Secretary; Karl Pauly, Treasurer; Edna Mantz, Chairman Prayer Meeting Committee; Dick Greathouse, Chairman Lookout Committee; Helen Boyd, Chairman Social Committee.

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

President, Mrs. E. C. Woodward; First Vice-President, Mrs. C. E. Burke; Second Vice-President, Mrs. D. M. Gebhart; Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. T. Storer; Treasurer, Mrs. D. D. Lefferson; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. A. Wilson; Secretary of Literature, Mrs. R. C. Vanderveer.

THE WOMAN'S SOCIETY.

President, Mrs. H. H. Goldman; First Vice-President, Mrs. C. B. Oglesby; Second Vice-President, Mrs. A. L. Foster; Secretary, Mrs. E. W. Gunckel; Treasurer, Mrs. E. L. McCallay.

THE WESTMINSTER MEN'S CLUB.

President, Calvin W. Verity; Vice-President, C. E. Burke; Secretary, W. H. Minton; Treasurer, Paul D. Silveus.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF PASTORS.

FRANCIS MONFORT.—Born, York County, Pa., Dec. 15, 1782. Descendant of the Huguenots. Moved to Warren County, Ohio, 1799. Studied for the ministry under the supervision of his Pastor for two years. Licensed to preach, July 31, 1807. Then preached in Kentucky and Tennessee and later at Dick's Creek, Carlisle, Seven Mile, Hamilton, Middletown, Ohio, and Mt. Carmel and Greensburg, Ind. Pastor of the First Church at Middletown, 1819-24. Was a strong and fervent preacher. Spent 48 years in the ministry. Mr. Monfort was a great student and began the study of Hebrew when he was 61 years of age and kept it up until his death, June 18, 1855. He had four sons all of whom were Presbyterian ministers.

SAMUEL BUCHANAN SMITH.—Born, Gettysburg, Pa., March 22, 1806. Graduated Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., 1824, at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1826-28; supplied First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, Ohio, 1828-32; ordained an evangelist by the Presbytery of Oxford, Oct. 4, 1832. He was the stated supply of the following churches: Venice, Ohio, Mt. Carmel, Ind., Camden, Ohio, St. Charles, Mo., and a missionary in the State of Illinois from 1854 to 1865. Died in Gettysburg, Pa., May 23, 1846.

JOHN P. HUDSON.—Served the following churches in West Lexington, Ky., Presbytery: Beard Creek, Woodford and Winchester; the following in Miami Presbytery: Franklin and Middletown, in 1824-32. Later he served in the New Jersey Church of Carlisle, Ohio, and then moved to Keota, Iowa.

ALEXANDER GUY.—Supplied the First Presbyterian Church, Middletown 1833-35. Also Pastor of the following Churches: Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Carmel, Bethel, Cheviot and Reading.

JOHN S. BELLEVILLE.—Served in Washington and Miamisburg, 1829-30; Missionary appointment to Dayton and Union Congregations and other vacant churches in Montgomery Co., Ohio. Pastor Washington, Miami Presbytery, 1831-40, Middletown First Presbyterian, 1837-39.

JOHN BALLARD MORTON.—Born in New York City, August 3, 1815. Graduated University of New York, 1835, and Princeton Seminary, 1838. Supplied church at Portsmouth, Va., in 1839, Middletown, O., 1840-43. Ordained by the Presbytery of Miami, April 25, 1843. Pastor at Franklin, O., and again Pastor at Middletown, O., after which he supplied the following churches: Monroe and Dick's Creek, Second Presbyterian, Springfield, Venice, Highland, Kansas, and First Church, St. Charles, Mo., where he died, March 31, 1882.

SAMUEL McCLAIN TEMPLETON.—Born at West Alexander, Pa., December 11, 1816. Graduated Washington College, Pa., 1836, and studied theology at Western Seminary, Allegheny. Ordained by the Presbytery of Coshocton. Pastor of the following churches: Middletown First Presbyterian, 1847-53, and Delavan, Ill. He died May 13, 1867.

JOSHUA LACY RUSSELL.—Born, Clifton, Ohio, September 29, 1845. Graduated Wittenberg College, 1864, and Princeton Seminary, 1867. Ordained by Presbytery of Miami, August 17, 1867. Pastor of the following churches: First Presbyterian, Middletown, 1867-72; Park Church, Dayton; Spring Garden Church, Philadelphia; Second Church, Altoona, Pa.; First Church, Los Angeles, Cal. Resided in Germantown, Pa., and Princeton, N. J. Again Pastor at Darby, Pa., and Cowin, Pa., where he died November 22, 1906.

JOSEPH WADDELL CLOKEY.—Born in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1839. Graduated Wittenberg College in 1860 and Xenia Theological Seminary in 1864. Ordained in 1864 by the United Presbyterian Presbytery of Xenia. Pastor of the following churches: U. P. Church, Stubbenville, U. P. Church, Richmond, Indiana, First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, Ohio, 1873-78, New Albany, Indiana, Troy, Ohio, and retired to Oxford, Ohio, where he died August 17, 1919.

THOMAS HACKETT HENCH.—Born at Centre, Pa., April 5, 1840. Graduate of Princeton University, 1861. He was a teacher in Harvard University, 1861-62; attended Princeton Theological Seminary, 1863-66, graduating in 1866. He was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry by the Presbytery of Iowa City, December 20, 1871. Supplied several churches in Illinois before he was ordained and after ordination was pastor of the following churches: Walcot, Iowa, 1871-75; Rock Island, Ill., 1875-78; Middletown, Ohio, 1878-83; Connerville, Ind., 1884-96. He was stated supply at Georgetown, Ohio, 1896-1904, and from 1904, with his residence at Georgetown, Ohio, he supplied four churches: Cedron, Feesburg, Felicity and Higginsport. In 1916 he left Georgetown, Ohio, and went as Stated Supply to Wentworth, Mo. He is now honorably retired from the active service and lives in Carthage, Mo. Mr. Hench received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hanover College in 1893.

SCOTT F. HERSHEY.—Educated in the institutions of the Reformed Church. Ordained, May, 1876, by the Synod of Indiana of the Reformed Church. Served the following churches: Reformed Church of Rochester, Ind., Reformed Church of Lancaster, Ohio, First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio, Sixth Presbyterian Church of Washington, D. C., First Presbyterian Church, Boston, Mass., Wooster, Ohio, Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Church of New Castle, Pa. Now associated with the International Sunday School Educational Work. He resides at present at Angola, Indiana.

JAMES MATTHEW SIMONTON.—Born in Alexandria, Pa. Graduate of Wooster University, 1876, and Union Theological Seminary in 1879. Ordained by the Presbytery of Long Island, 1879. Pastor of the following churches: First Congregational Church, Orient, N. Y., Grove Church, Danville, Pa., First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, Ohio, 1888-90, Third Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, O. Resided at Ross, Ohio, in ill health, and at Jamesport, N. Y., and New York City, where he died in 1915.

GEORGE MERIWITHER McCAMPBELL.—Born Jeffersonville, Indiana, September 9, 1841. Graduated, Hanover College, 1862. Served in the U. S. Army, 1862-63; Princeton Seminary graduate, 1866. Ordained by the Presbytery of Potomac, September 13, 1866. Pastor of the following churches: First Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Va., Brick Church Chapel, N. Y., Maysville, Ky., Spring St. Church, N. Y. City, Reformed Church, Brooklyn, L. I., Presbyterian Church, Salem, L. I., and Stapleton, L. I., and Milleville, Pa. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, 1891-95. Pastor Emeritus, Milleville, Pa. He died December 15, 1918, in New York City, as result of an automobile accident.

THOMAS SMITH SCOTT.—Born in Enon Vall, Pa. Graduated Adelbert College, Western Reserve University, 1874, Union Seminary, 1877. Ordained, September, 1877, by Presbytery of Mahoning. Pastor of the following churches: East Cleveland, Ohio, Westminster, Rockford, Ill., Second Presbyterian, Knoxville, Tenn., Vincennes, Ind., First Presbyterian, Middletown, 1896-1900, New Albany, Ind., and Maringo, Ill., where he died March 5, 1914.

WILLIAM HAMILL SHIELDS.—Born Daretown, N. J., January 30, 1870. Graduated Wooster University 1892, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1895. Ordained by the Presbytery of Detroit, December 13, 1895. Pastor of the Calvary Church, Detroit, Michigan, 1895-1900, First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, 1900-10, Hillsboro, Ohio, 1910-17, and since that time pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

DAVID GARRETT SMITH.—Born Harrington, N. J. Graduated Hamilton College, 1889. Graduated in class of 1892 at Union Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Presbytery of New York, 1892. He was pastor of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa., for 18 years and was then called to the First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio, in 1910, and resigned the pastorate in 1918 to engage in Y. M. C. A. oversea war work. Returned to this country in June, 1919, and is now residing at Westminster Park, Thousand Islands, New York.

BERNARD J. BRINKEMA.—Born Webster City, Iowa, March 29, 1879. Graduated Hastings College 1904 and Princeton Seminary 1907. Ordained by Presbytery of New Castle, June 27, 1907. Pastor of the Rock and Zion Presbyterian Churches, North East Maryland, 1907-14, editor of the Peninsula Presbyterian, 1913-14. Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Milton, Pa., 1914-18. Called to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian Church, Middletown, O., September 25, 1918.

THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

OCTOBER 1, 1919.

The Church Roll contains the names of the active members. Members who are habitually absent from the communion table and non-attendants who continue to sustain no active relation to the Church are, by act of the Session, carried on the Reserve Roll and are so reported to the Presbytery.

A

Adair, Raymond G.
Allspaw, Mrs. Hazel Montgomery
Arbuckle, Wesley M.
Ash, Mrs. Rose L.
Ash, James L.
Augspurger, B. K.
Augspurger, Mrs. Margaret E.
Augspurger, Esther Margaret
Augspurger, Barbara Irene

B

Badger, Rose
Bailey, Mrs. Alice A.
Bailey, Martha E.
Banker, Paul Jacob
Banker, Kathleen
Banker, Mary Elizabeth
Banker, Emma J.
Banker, Lida P.
Banker, Carrie
Banker, Dorothy Virginia
Banker, Fred E.
Banker, Mrs. Lucille M.
Barkley, E. G.
Barkley, Helen Laren
Barkley, Mrs. Laura M. B.
Barnett, Catherine
Barnitz, Mrs. Anna L.
Barnitz, Ella K.
Barnitz, William O.
Barnitz, Mrs. Mabel
Barrackman, Jesse H.
Barrackman, Pearl
Barton, Dr. Chas. G.
Barton, Mrs. Norina
Bate, Harley A.
Beachler, Mrs. Kathryn Lorenz
Beachler, Robert H.
Bell, Howard
Bell, Mrs. Ada Snyder
Bennett, Harold F.
Bevenger, Mrs. Rebecca
Bevenger, Iva M.
Bevenger, Mary Elizabeth
Bevenger, William H.
Bevenger, Mrs. Mary J.
Bevis, R. E.
Bevis, Mrs. Ruth M.
Blackford, Ralph E.
Blackford, Mrs. Nellie Blair
Blackie, Alexander

Blair, John C.
Blair, Mrs. Katherine
Blair, John L.
Blair, Mrs. Bertha R.
Blair, John Milton
Blair, Vincent Paul
Blair, Mrs. Edna Zellers
Blair, James
Blair, Mrs. Augusta
Blair, Jacob Jackson
Blair, Isabelle Edna
Blair, Jos. E.
Blair, Mrs. Olive
Booth, Edwin C.
Boyd, John W.
Boyd, Mrs. Cora H.
Boyd, Helen Hilt
Boykin, Herbert C.
Breeding, Josephine
Brinkema, Mrs. Margaret M.
Brinkema, Robert J.
Brooks, Howard E.
Brooks, Mrs. Helen Marjorie
Brosius, Dr. F. W.
Brosius, Mrs. Winifred Evans
Bryan, James E.
Buffington, Mrs. Dora
Burke, C. E.
Burke, Mrs. Blanche R.
Bureky, Mrs. M. E.
Buss, Paul E.
Butler, Mrs. Anna

C

Calder, Arthur Thompson
Calder, William
Calder, James
Calder, Mrs. Kathryn
Calder, Thomas K.
Calder, Bertha Elizabeth S. K.
Carnahan, Mrs. Frances P. M.
Carr, Edwin D.
Carr, Mrs. Helen M.
Carr, Mildred Eloise
Cassidy, Mrs. Anna B.
Chamberlain, Wallace I.
Chamberlain, Mrs. Ada Weiser
Chapple, Bennett
Chapple, Mrs. Charlotte
Chapple, De Witte
Chapple, Bennett S.
Charls, George H.

Charls, Mrs. Alice M.
 Charls, Elizabeth
 Chestnut, Mrs. Blanch
 Clapp, G. N.
 Clapp, Mrs. Marie M.
 Clapp, Elmer
 Clapp, Mrs. Margaret Gebhart
 Clark, Carl C.
 Clark, Mrs. Alice Climer
 Clark, Mrs. Ruth Grant
 Collord, Mrs. Martha H.
 Comestock, Mrs. Harriet E.
 Compton, Mrs. Verna
 Corson, Luella
 Corson, Mary
 Cox, Mary Alice
 Crane, William Ross
 Crane, Mrs. Mary Holloway
 Crider, Mrs. Armilda
 Crider, Mrs. Dorcas
 Crider, Mrs. Edith
 Curliss, Mrs. Emma

D

Daley, Charles Edward
 Daley, Mrs. Myrtle
 Davis, Herbert Allen
 Dearth, Mrs. Mary
 Dearth, John Oliver
 Dell, Mrs. Ethel
 Denny, Mrs. Augusta
 Denny, George Edmond
 Denny, Wampler
 Denny, Mrs. Jessie B.
 Diver, Frank O.
 Diver, Mrs. Emma K. Yearion
 Diver, Norval Edward
 Diver, Paul Albert
 Diver, Franklyn Arnold
 Diver, Donald A.
 Diver, Jacob
 Downey, Charles M.
 Downey, Mrs. Lillie M.
 Downey, Mrs. Julia
 Downey, Julia
 Drayer, Edward L.
 Drayer, Mrs. Olive G.
 DuChemin, Wm. Glenn

E

Eck, Cornelius G.
 Eck, Mrs. Ida May
 Eck, Mary E.
 Edson, Charles E.
 Edson, Robert B.
 Edwards, J. A.
 Eggleston, Lafayette
 Eggleston, Mrs. Carrie B.
 Eggleston, Amy B.
 Eggleston, Dora F.
 Elliott, Wm. Patton

Elliott, Chas. Templeton
 Ely, Mrs. Barbara Ann
 Erk, Orel E.
 Erk, Mrs. Mary Hinkle
 Evans, Mrs. Corinne Woodmansee
 Evans, Mary B.

F

Fisher, Adam
 Folks, Selby C.
 Folks, Mrs. Lola Worth
 Ford, Mrs. Amanda
 Ford, Paul Raymond
 Forkner, Alvin Marvin
 Foster, Mrs. Myrtie A.
 Foster, Paul M.
 Fuhr, William John
 Fuhr, Jacob Stanley
 Fuhr, Emma Leota
 Fulmer, Mrs. Emma
 Fulmer, Russell
 Fulmer, Mrs. Nellie Margaret

G

Gebhart, Mrs. Mary
 Gebhart, David M.
 Gebhart, Willard
 Gebhart, Mrs. Phona
 Gebhart, Mrs. Clara L.
 Geran, Jennie K.
 Gerber, Dr. David F.
 Goldman, Mrs. Nettie B.
 Goldsmith, Mrs. Mary Boyd
 Gossard, Leslie James
 Gossard, Mrs. Lorma
 Graham, Mrs. Laura
 Grant, Mrs. Jessie Russell
 Grant, Louise Russell
 Greathouse, Mrs. Kate
 Greathouse, Chas. Richard
 Greathouse, Fred B.
 Greathouse, Raymond Vail
 Griest, Ronald
 Griffith, Floyd
 Gruver, Emiline
 Gunckel, Ernest W.
 Gunckel, Mrs. Clara
 Gunckel, Genevieve T.

H

Harkrader, Isabelle Dorothy
 Harkrader, Mrs. Wilhelmina
 Hartley, Harriet A.
 Hartley, Rachel Tibbals
 Hatfield, Mrs. Elizabeth C.
 Hedding, Wesley B.
 Heffner, Mrs. Jeannette
 Heffner, Joseph G.
 Heffner, Mrs. Matilda Dorothy
 Henderson, Raymond A.
 Henderson, Ruth A.

Hester, Lucy May
Hicks, T. C.
Hicks, Mrs. Nancy A.
Hilt, Luella
Holstein, S. R.
Holstein, Mrs. Florence Priest
Hook, Mrs. Leah V.
Hoover, Mrs. Louise A.
Hoover, Glenn
Hoover, William

I

Iseminger, Joseph M.
Iseminger, Mrs. Laura C.

J

Jackson, Lucille
Jacoby, Mrs. Carrie K.
Jacoby, Mrs. Mary E.
Jacoby, Ethel
Jasbring, Elizabeth Jane
Jasbring, Benjamin Ellis
Johnson, William H.
Johnson, Mrs. Ida Mabel
Johnson, Edna Margaret
Johnson, Percival F.
Johnson, Charles F.
Jones, Harold Haley

K

Kappeller, Frances
Kaser, Mrs. Mary C.
Keller, Anthony
Keller, Mrs. Florence Jasbring
Kendle, Oliver F.
Kendle, Mrs. Mary L.
Keppler, Earl
Keppler, Alexander
Keppler, Mrs. Nancy Jane
Keppler, Mary Elizabeth
Kimball, Fannie S.
Kimball, Laura E.
Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Elizabeth M.
Kraft, Mrs. Chas. L.
Kramer, Mrs. Bessie
Krauss, Leonard Eugene

L

Lamme, Edward G.
Lamme, Herbert Leroy
La Tourette, William S.
La Tourette, Mrs. Myrtle P.
La Tourette, Josephine Glenna
La Tourette, Josephine
Lawrence, Mrs. Grace R.
Laycock, Nannie
Leasure, I. N.
Leasure, Mrs. Alice O.
Leasure, William Newton
Leasure, Roberta
Leasure, Charles C.
Lefferson, Dubois D.

Lefferson, Mrs. Margaret E.
Lefferson, Mary E.
Leibee, Henry P.
Leibee, Mrs. Marion Frances
Linkins, Helen Margaret
Lloyd, Donald W.
Lloyd, Mrs. Emily
Lloyd, Norman R.
Lloyd, Donald William
Long, Robert Homer
Long, Mrs. Grace B.
Long Mrs. Lavina S.
Long, Mrs. Hazel Swink
Lukens, Mrs. Ora M.
Lukens, Robert M.
Lukey, Mrs. Jane

M

McAdams, John B.
McAdams, Mrs. Jennie D.
McAdow, R. Ocsar
McAdow, Mrs. Carrie
McAdow, Edna M.
McAdow, John Samuel
McArthur, William
McCallay, Mrs. Mary E.
McCallay, Mrs. Henrietta
McCoy, Chauncey E.
McCoy, Mrs. Elizabeth Crane
McCoy, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth
McCray, Mrs. Marietta
McCray, Beulah
McLean, Alexander
McLean, Mrs. Mary
McLean, Emma Louise
McLean, William
McLean, Mrs. Lulu
McLean, Douglas Clark
Mantz, Earl K.
Mantz, Edna M.
Margerum, Charles E.
Margerum, Mrs. Julia W.
Margerum, Dorothy Elizabeth
Marston, Mrs. Theodore
Martz, Mrs. Thusnelda H.
Marts, Clara S.
Matson, Green W.
Mayer, Southard P.
Medaris, Mrs. Ella R.
Mendler, Mrs. Pauline
Menger, Phillip
Miller, Horace O.
Miller, Mrs. Ada B.
Miller, John Arthur
Miller, Wade
Miller, Mrs. Dora
Miller, Mrs. Myrtle Franier
Millner, Mrs. Helen Sargent
Mills, Edmond S.
Minnick, Frank J.
Minnick, Mrs. Hattie

Minton, W. H.
Minton, Mrs. Nellie R.
Minton, Margaret Adelaide
Minton, Sarah Elizabeth
Mitchell, Mrs. Jennie M.
Mitchell, Diltz
Mitchell, Edwin
Mitchell, Mary E.
Mitchell, Thomas H.
Moon, Emil T.
Moon, Vernon
Morris, Frank Ellis
Morris, Mrs. Edith V.
Murphy, Mrs. Elizabeth
Murphy, Eleanor Henrietta
Murphy, Thelma Elizabeth

N

Nein, Edward H.
Nein, Mrs. Elizabeth M.
Nein, John F.
Nein, Velma Beatrice
Nein, Louis T.
Nein, Mrs. Ethel S.
Nein, Lyman Randolph
Nein, Gordon Russel
Nein, Floyd Henry
Newhall, Wm. Townsend
Newhall, Mrs. Winn Jean
Newlin, Leroy

O

Oglesby, Mrs. Kate A.
Oglesby, W. Dickey
Oglesby, Ralph C.
Olinger, Berton E.
Olinger, Mrs. Jessie Eggleston
Owsley, Mrs. Sarah

P

Pardonner, Mrs. Mary E.
Parker, Mrs. Helen Porter
Paullin, Mrs. Carrie Elizabeth
Paullin, Raymond Summit
Pauly, Frank B.
Perry, Arlington C.
Perry, Mrs. Bessie J.
Philbin, Mrs. Harriet Woodward
Phillips, Rufus C.
Phillips, Mrs. Frances L.
Phillips, Dorothy Frances
Phillips, George Verity
Phillips, M. Standish
Phillips, Flavivus Joseph
Phillips, Mrs. Rhea
Phillips, Edmund L.
Phillips, John Cramer
Phillips, Mrs. Eugenia Margaret
Phillips, Leland Arthur
Phillips, John Cramer, Jr.
Pinkerton, R. W.

Pinkerton, Mrs. Margaret
Pinkerton, Lela Alice
Pinkerton, Frank Leslie
Porter, Mrs. Clara A.
Porter, Harry K.
Porter, Mrs. Elsie Emma

R

Ranck, Zeiber W.
Ranck, Mrs. Zora B.
Reed, Mrs. Elizabeth
Reed, Mrs. Emma B.
Reed, George B.
Reed, Thomas David
Reed, Sophronia
Robbins, Mrs. Ruth
Robbins, Sara Elizabeth
Robbins, Sabin
Robbins, Douglas R.
Robbins, Mrs. Pauline Phillips
Roller, John L.
Roller, Mrs. Anna
Roney, James L.
Roney, Mrs. Jessie
Roney, John S.
Roney, William Harold
Roney, Mrs. Sarah R.
Ronsheim, Mrs. Anna P.
Ross, John R.
Rucker, Mrs. Hazel Bunnel

S

Schaeffer, Mrs. Mary
Schaerges, Charles Edward
Schenck, Mrs. Elizabeth L.
Schenck, Charles Graydon
Schenck, Emma Elizabeth
Schirtzinger, Mrs. A. Bessie
Scott, John Percy
Scott, Mrs. Blanche Glendine
Scott, Gordon Winfield
Seagraves, John F.
Sebald, Mrs. Lillian Drayer
Selby, Martha Ester
Shafor, Lee
Shafor, Joseph W.
Shafor, Lucille
Shafor, Nellie
Shartle, Charles W.
Shartle, Mrs. Lucy C.
Shartle, Ina Louise
Shartle, Welthea J.
Shartle, John Adam
Shartle, Charles Wells, Jr.
Shaw, Reed A.
Sheets, Dr. Arthur C.
Shipe, Dr. W. T.
Shipe, Mrs. Ella H.
Shirey, Roy
Shirey, Mrs. Daisey T.
Shough, E. Tyler

Shough, Mrs. Mabel Wade
 Shugg, Harold
 Signom, Wesley Lockard
 Signom, Chas. O.
 Signom, Mrs. Florence E.
 Silveus, Paul D.
 Silveus, Mrs. Mabel
 Simpson, Bertha A.
 Sizemore, Roy Esten
 Small, Mrs. Mary J.
 Small, Irene Mary
 Small, Mildred Elizabeth
 Smith, Dr. Eva C.
 Smith, Mrs. Blanche
 Smith, Fae Elizabeth
 Snyder, Kate S.
 Solborg, Mrs. Virginia V.
 Solborg, Robert A.
 Souers, Mrs. Mabel Minnick
 Speck, David C.
 Sprowl, Clarence Irvin
 Sprowl, Mrs. Ruth
 Stahl, Mrs. Myrtle H.
 Steed, Arthur
 Steed, Mrs. Helen V.
 Stevens, E. J.
 Stevens, Mrs. Ella R.
 Storer, Dr. E. T.
 Storer, Mrs. Catherine
 Stratton, Dr. John C.
 Stratton, Mrs. Anna C.
 Strodbeck, Mrs. Carrie Long
 Stultz, Norman Robert
 Sutphen, Mrs. Hattie
 Swink, Mrs. Jennie

T

Tanzey, Audrey E.
 Thomas, Mrs. Harriet E.
 Thomas, Marcus A.
 Thompson, Mrs. Florence
 Thompson, Florence E.
 Thompson, Margaret E.
 Thompson, Emma B.
 Thornton, Louise Cornelia
 Tilton, Mrs. Mary Emley
 Tobitt, Mrs. Alice Hazel
 Todd, James S.
 Todd, Mrs. Sarah E.
 Todd, R. J.
 Todd, Mrs. Alma K.
 Todhunter, Luella
 Trowbridge, Mrs. Ruby Maud
 Tyson, Mrs. Anna R.
 Tytus, Mrs. Marjorie Denny

V

Vanderveer, Robert C.
 Vanderveer, Mrs. M. Elma
 Vanderveer, Robert W.
 Vanderveer, Esther M.
 Vanderveer, Dorothy L.
 Van Gorder, Roland L.

Van Gorder, John J.
 Van Gorder, Mrs. Minnie B.
 Van Sickle, Mrs. Alice
 Van Sickle, Fred H.
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 Vigor, Mrs. Mabel G.
 Voorhis, Joseph C.
 Voorhis, Mrs. Viola May

W

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 Weir, Mrs. Jane
 Wentz, Charles
 Wentz, Mrs. Lona May
 Wentz, John Edward
 Wentz, Karl Raymond
 Wertz, Mrs. Carrie E.
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 Williams, Nellie
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 Wilson, Howard A.
 Wilson, Alvin Shields
 Wilson, George Arthur
 Wilson, Howard A., Jr.
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 Wilson, Chauncey
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 Woodmansee, Mrs. Hattie
 Woodmansee, Martha
 Woodward, Edwin C.
 Woodward, Mrs. Carrie
 Woodward, Thomas C.
 Wooley, Mrs. Fanny
 Wright, Martha Ellen

Y

Yearion, James M.
 Yearion, Mrs. Barbara E.

Z

Zellers, Mrs. Sadie E.

We, the members of the Official Boards of
 The First Presbyterian Church of Middletown, Ohio,
 appreciating the efforts and sacrifices of the good
 men and women of our Church who have gone on before,
 and realizing more fully in the light of this day what
 they have done for the Church in which we worship and
 for the community in which we live, do pledge to this,
 our Church, a fuller devotion and a more earnest service
 with the prayer that its glory may not be dimmed and
 that it ever may move, in His name, onward and upward,
 and become more and more a light that cannot be hid.

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
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