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# THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN ADVOCATE

"Stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

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## AMONG THE CHURCHES

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The Philadelphia Presbytery will meet in the Third Church, Nov. 9, at 5 P. M. A full attendance is urged  
Rev. R. W. Chesnut, Moderator.

Fifth Church Philadelphia

On Monday evening, September 20, Mrs. Wm. Henry brought a very interesting message to our missionary society. This paper will appear next month, as it will be of special interest to our readers. Plans were outlined for our coming missionary conference between the Third and Fifth churches. On October 19, Miss R. Miller, was our guest speaker. She brought a very interesting message on "living together," Bringing out the fact. if we would live together as christians, leting our light shine with the beautiful life of Jesus, there would be no difference in race, creed or color, this world would not be in this awful conflict. Her address was enjoyed by all present.

Yours in His service, E. Moeller.

## DUANESBURG

We have been going on here as usual. Everybody is busy with their work, whch usually includes work helpful to the war situation as well as church work.

Dr. Chesnut, has returned from a tour of the churches

in western Pennsylvania.

Rev. Parsons, visited with his parents in Nebraska, for two weeks and has returned home again.

Last Sabbath we observed Holy Communion. At this time four of the older members of the Catechetical Class joined the church, namely, Dorothy & Charlotte Knowles, Robert Fidler & Raymond Fletcher.

The Helping Hand Society has been meeting regularly as usual. In the past quarter it has met at the homes of Mrs. Ernie McDuffy, Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Chesnut, and Mrs. Raymond Mott. The membership is growing and each meeting seems more interesting. The informal discussions are stimulating.

The Bible Readers, are meeting as usual also. It is gratifying to see the interest shown by some of the youngest in their study of the Bible. They are planning a Halloween Party for the coming week.

The Church held their Fall Festival last week in the Duanesburg School. We fed over 200 persons at a Spaghetti Supper, put on a Cow Boy Show from 8 to 9 p. m. and had a nice linen sale. We netted \$170. including \$9. taken in by the Bible Readers on their sale of dish cloths. We felt that it was good for us to have worked and played together.

We miss Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Moore, who have been absent from church for several months due to the illness of Mrs. Moore. Their hearty greetings and helpful cooperation are remembered.

#### REPUBLICAN CITY, KANSAS

The Republican City Congregation has enjoyed having church services all summer. We have had the pleasure of having Gordon Taylor with us to go in and out before us and give us the true Gospel.

The weather has been in our favor and not a Sabbath day was missed the entire time. We see great possibilities in the future for Gordon. As he went quietly among us we learned to love him and wish for him a long and blessed service in the Kingdom of God.

On the 26th of August the Republican City Congregation had a picnic in our beautiful city park. All members were present and several visitors. All regretted to see the day come that

Gordon would have to preach his farewell sermon. The fact leaked out that Gordon had a birthday coming this month, so we hurriedly planned a surprise party for him. The surprise was a grand success.

The full membership met in the home of Mrs. Margaret Stevenson on the evening of the 13th to give a farewell surprise birthday greeting for Mr. Taylor, who leaves soon for Cedarville, Ohio, Seminary to continue his study for the ministry. Margy Chestnut conducted games and contests. Angel food cake and home-made ice cream were served. J. S. Chestnut of Idana, in a few well chosen words, made the presentation speech and presented Gordon with a gift of remembrance of the summer and his association with us.

Gordon responded in a manner that showed his surprise and appreciation. Mr. Taylor has occupied the Republican City pulpit the last three months and is now returning to his studies in the east.

Mrs. A. A. Shaw, Clay Center, Kansas.

#### FAIRVIEW

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John R. Dawson on August 15 in the East Liverpool City hospital. The baby has been named Clark Allen.

At their farm home in Ohio township, where fifty years ago they went to reside as bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel B. Anderson observed the golden anniversary of their wedding day on Monday, August 23. The occasion was marked by a family dinner for 35 guests and the visits of more than 100 relatives and friends during the evening. Mr. Anderson has been a life-long member of our church and an elder for many years. Mrs. Anderson being a member from the time of her marriage, and also a member of the W. M. S. The Samuel Andersons are the parents of two sons, W. Glenn Anderson, Beaver, and Earl F. Anderson at home, and six grandchildren.

During the week of August 1, a letter was received by the Session of our church from Lt. (jg) John Menoch, a chaplain at the Great Lakes Naval Station, in which he stated that Lester Dale Chaffee had appeared before him and had been examined and baptized and professed his desire to become a member of the Fairview church. On August 8 while on leave at his

home here, he appeared before the session and the congregation and was accepted as a member of our church. A small pocket testament was presented him by Rev. D. Porter Williams.

The W. M. S. met at the home of Mrs. Jane Davis on September 2, with Mrs. Helen Watson as leader.

Mrs. Laura Deringer who recently suffered a broken ankle, is recovering at her home here.

MRS. RALPH E. GRAHAM.

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### MAY THE BLUE STAR NEVER TURN TO GOLD

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By Ruth V. L. Horner

(Dedicated to Bill Werner, a member of the Fifth Reformed Presbyterian Church, who is reported "Missing in Action")

Our boys must fight for freedom again,  
As in the days of old;  
But this one thing, I pray Thee, Lord:  
May the blue star never turn to gold.

Bring the boys home to us again,  
Bring them back to the fold;  
Oh dear Lord—keep them safe, I pray—  
May the blue star never turn to gold.

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### STEADFASTNESS IN PRAYER AND SERVICE

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We are living in perilous times, in times of spiritual decline. How we need to be much in prayer. Paul says: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5: 17), and "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4: 6). Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air." It is as essential to the spiritual life as air is to the physical life. It must be a daily exercise if one would grow in faith, in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. One can not have power without it. "The effectual, fer-

vent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." "The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." In answer to the question, "Why could not we cast him out?" Jesus answered: "This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting." Samuei shows us that it is a sin not to pray—"As for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (I Sam. 12: 23). Prayer is a privilege as well as a duty. The answers to prayer in the Word and in the lives of God's children today prove His love and His power.


Steadfastness in service follows steadfastness in prayer. They go together. Conditions today cause us to pause and consider. Statistics show there is a maked increase in crime. The violators are mostly young people—both boys and girls. One reason given is that parents are working away from home and the children are neglected, run the streets, attend movies, etc. Another reason is that children and young people are making too much money. Our schools are molders of youthful character. A man of wide observation says: "Not merely the religious conditions but the moral conditions are terrible beyond expression. I could not put into print the things that have come under my observation as to the slump, not only in modesty but in moral decency, not only among our young men and boys, but our young women and girls." Crime today is not an individual matter, but it is trained and organized. There are schools that train young people in the latest methods of crime and fraud. We have legalized atheism. "The American Association for the Advancement of Atheism is duly incorporated and authorized to carry out its deadly program of assault on God, the Bible, Christ and His Church with all the sacred beliefs and institutions springing therefrom." Dr. Torrey wrote a few years ago: "As I travel from one end of the world to the other, and have opportunity to see for myself the condition of the churches, as I read the religious periodicals, as I talk with men and women of influence and power in the church, my heart would be well nigh unto despair if I did not know God, and that He answers prayer. The gross error being taught by many professedly orthodox ministers, the absence of the real, living Gospel from the preaching of many who do not preach error but who certainly are not preaching the truth in its simplicity and in the power of the Holy Spirit; the unconcern of the great mass of the membership of our churches regarding the lost at home and abroad;

the growing compromise with the world on the part of a large proportion of the membership of our churches, the neglect of real prayer and the openly-avowed disbelief in prayer on the part of not a few, the inactivity in real soul-winning work, cannot but fill many an intelligent and properly instructed Christian with a sorrow that almost breaks the heart." We recall the words of Napoleon: "What France needs is mothers." Surely America too, needs mothers. And how we need a revival of the family altar. Those convicted of sin at the preaching of Peter at Pentecost said: "What shall we do?" We are told (Acts 2: 41-47) "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common. And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

"You young people in the schools, you adults in your work, in your homes, in your churches, all of us together need to pray, to pray earnestly and fervently and constantly that God might have His way in our lives, first of all, and then that He might use us in the salvation of others and the furtherance of His cause. O, let us pray much and let us pray often, remembering that prayer changes things."

SUSAN J. CUNNINGHAM.

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## A HISTORICAL SKETCH

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### Chapter VI

While reverses have come to us by the actions of an unfaithful ministry; yet, there are other reasons why growth has been slow, and often no growth at all. When our Synod was first organized and for many years afterward, the growth of the churches was almost entirely from foreign immigration. Our Church had its origin in Scotland, and a large following from the north of Ireland. During the 18th century, many Covenanters came to the colonies, and as soon as a few had located together, and had secured a pastor, his work was largely watching for the incoming immigrants, and helping them to secure employment and a new home, and this usually brought them into the church. Indeed, this was a work that was essential to the growth of the church, and a blessing to our country. There was more attention given to these Christian immigrants, than to those who were careless, indifferent, or possibly unbelievers. Many who were faithful in their church in the British Isles, were lost to any Christian church because they were so unfortunate as to be neglected. However, as far as possible their needs were supplied with the Gospel and a small organization formed that in many cases grew to large and influential congregations. All this work was essential to the growth of all evangelical churches, and the importance of the work done for these Godly people, scattered all over this vast new country, can never be over-estimated. As the people moved farther west into the unsettled parts, the time of the church, and its energies, was spent in organizing the people into societies, and finally into congregations, and fitting them for the Master's service. These conditions prevailed until recent years. Within the past twenty-five years, pastors in most of the evangelical churches were on the watch for the ships coming in from Europe and the British Isles. So long as this influx of Christian people kept coming in from abroad, the churches grew. The unsaved were largely neglected.

A complete change has taken place within the past generation. Immigrants are few in number and especially those from Protestant lands. For this reason the churches ceased to grow, and only those that were favorably situated were able to maintain their former status.



Our ministers were formerly trained to work in the times and under the conditions to which we have referred, and as a rule, were successful in building up good congregations; but, as they grew older, many of them for various reasons failed to meet the demands of the times. They could not see the need of a change in the method of work, or they were unable to adopt the new method, or adapt themselves to the work in hand. Indeed some did not favor any change, because that seemed to them like following after the ways of the world; and too often that was the case. They failed to see that the one thing most needed now, was preaching the same old Bible truths to those outside of the church, as well as to those inside. Indeed the time had now come when the Gospel must be preached to every creature, instead of a few. In order to do this successfully, the incoming ministry must be thoroughly indoctrinated in the teaching of God's Word, and able to teach others the will of God for their salvation. They must also have a passion for winning souls, and thus build up the Kingdom of Christ on earth from the ranks of all races.

Our old run-down congregations that were once large and prosperous, can be built up, if our ministry will make the necessary sacrifice, and preach the Gospel in its purity and simplicity. "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me," is the promise of Jesus Christ Himself. This will require some sacrifice, no doubt, but what is that sacrifice, compared with the one He made for us? Many old congregations that were supposed to be beyond hope, some years ago, are now not only living, but growing; not only able to support themselves, but help others that are weak. If the ministry are not willing to sacrifice popularity, or good salaries, for the sake of saving immortal souls, and honoring Christ, it would be better for them and the world at large to resign their positions to which they have never been called by the Lord. The love of popular applause, high positions and salaries, unfits the best of men for the Gospel ministry. Many are willing to preach for small salaries but few are willing to lay down a good salary and accept a small one for the sake of Jesus Christ, whom they profess to love and obey.

Half a century ago, there was a great forward movement in Foreign Mission work, and many became so interested that they forgot entirely to do Home Mission work. Indeed, too of-

ten what was done was not considered mission work. People seemed to forget that here in America, a Christian land, there were heathen at their very doors, and many nominal Christians, who knew nothing of the character and work of Christianity and Christian service.

If the work in heathen lands is to prosper, the home source of supply must be maintained, and this can only be done by keeping all our congregations in a growing and prosperous condition.

All sorts of new plans and modern inventions have been used to draw the people to the church. We have "Go to Church Day," "Mother's Day," "Father's Day," "Easter Programs," "Union Services," "Cantatas," "Young People's Rallies," "Homecoming Day," and an almost endless list of special attractions to draw the world; but, they are not drawn as we expected they would be. Then there is the guest preacher; some noted person, with a widely advertised subject; but that does not draw as it was hoped it would. Then people wonder what is wrong. They seem to have forgotten the one thing that will draw; the Divine Magnet, the invincible drawing power, Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross. Here is the solution of our problem. "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." John 12: 32. Preach the Word. Preach the Gospel. Tell the Old, Old Story of the most wonderful Tragedy of all time. That story, so old, so sad, so often told, so often laughed at and disbelieved, still draws and fascinates sinful men, so that many in all ages have been drawn to Him and saved. That story holds the world and saves it from ruin. Where that story is used as the drawing power, the churches are living, strong, active, prosperous; it is the only power that can draw the world heavenward. Where thus drawn, people are in Christ Jesus and the churches are strong. TRY IT. We have not done our duty. I repeat it. Yes, old run-down congregations can be revived and built up. To do this the pastor must not only work hard, but exercise patience, lay his pride, fear of criticism, and every besetting sin upon the altar, a willing sacrifice. Live with his people, share their trials, sympathize with them in their afflictions and even do the most menial service when necessary, deny himself many pleasures for their sakes, following the example of his Master and the teachings of Paul.

However, the day of former things must not be despised, nor should we disparage the work of our predecessors. Among these were some of the noblest characters, and their works do follow them. We enjoy the fruits of their labors. Some of them made great sacrifices, and did great things for us, that should make us ashamed of ourselves when we compare their work with our own. Rev. Samuel Wylie, of Sparta, Ill., more than once took the steamer at Chester, Ill., and going by way of Cairo, ascended the Ohio river to Pittsburgh, and then rode on horseback across the Alleghenies to attend Synod in Philadelphia, or New York City. Some of them spent their lives in comparative poverty, far away from home and friends, to gather together a nucleus for a congregation, by forming a society from which has arisen some of our best congregations. Had they lived in a later day; were they living now; no doubt, they would be the foremost in going out into the byways to gather in those whom many of our modern ministers, when passing by would walk on the other side of the road.

The story of their lives has not been written, but doubtless is written in heaven. One of these whose memory will always help us to brave the trials of life was a minister in the Synod of our church, who taught school to support his family, and when he received his quarterly salary, when times were improving somewhat, came home and placed it on the table saying, "Here is \$2.75 this time, Mother, it is yours."

Times have changed and responsibilities have increased, but are we with all our education and advantages, equal to the task set before us?

Has the Church failed? Has the Lord failed? He is the same yesterday, today and forever; and His Church though hard pressed at times, still lives.

The true Church of Jesus Christ is immortal, and has spanned the wreck of worlds. Earthly things may come and go, nations rise and fall, each and all entering the breathless, voiceless gap of death; but, the Star of Bethlehem shines forever on, hanging ever over the cradle of time, with its immortal rays creeping in on the shores of coming worlds, teaching us that Jehovah is King of kings and Lord of lords.

The Church is not simply an organization of professed Christians, but a Divine Institution. As such it must be properly organized. In the New Testament Church, as the exact form of the organization in its government is not laid down, we find that there were several forms of government among Christian churches. There are the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Congregational forms of government. These are to the Christian Church, what the Monarchy, the Democratic Republic, and the simplest kind of Democracy are to civil government. In the Episcopal form, the authority is vested in the Bishop. In the Presbyterian form, the authority is vested in the clergy and the lay presbyters, and in the Congregational form the authority is vested in the members of the congregation.

For a fuller definition of these forms of government, consult Webster or Wooster.

While we do not adhere to a Representative form of government, because it is essential to salvation, we consider it to be the best form and believe it to be the form most nearly corresponding to that practiced by the Apostolic Church.

For this reason, among many others, we lay great responsibility upon the clergy and the lay elders, in living true to their vows taken at their ordination, and renewed as they again and again subscribe to the terms of communion.

If the church militant is to grow, sinners are to be converted from the error of their ways, and the Kingdom of our Lord and Christ established on earth, the officers of the church must be loyal and faithful unto death, leading the people in every good word and work.

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