

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR


A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL.

VOLUME II.

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NUMBER 2.

SEASONS OF REFRESHING.



OUR church is at the present in the midst of a gracious season of grace and salvation. Since the week of prayer, special services have been held in our lecture rooms, almost every evening. At the beginning of these meetings we were confronted by a multitude of hindrances. The weather was unfavorable, and in almost every family in the church, there was more or less sickness. The attendance was, therefore, necessarily much smaller, than it would have been under other circumstances. But in the face of these difficulties and many others, night after night a little band of anxious and earnest souls congregated at the church for prayer, in behalf of the church, and the salvation of souls. There was a deep conviction in these hearts that the church was in need of an awakening, of a baptism "with the Holy Spirit and with fire," of a deeper work of grace and a fuller consecration unto the Lord. It is possible for a church to become "like-warm," yea, to become a "dead church," though it may have a name that it lives. And then when such a state of things exists in a church, the power of God in the saving of souls and the nurture of spiritual life, will not be manifest. With a sense that Grace Church was in need of a baptism from on high, prayer was made day and night before the Lord, until the days of refreshing came. By and by the meeting began to grow in interest, and in increased attendance. Awakened souls began to inquire after the way of salvation. Solicitous friends made requests for prayer in behalf of dear ones who were un-saved; confession of sins of indifference and like-warmness was made; cheerful testimony was borne of the goodness of God. These are all gracious indications of the presence of the Lord, and a revival of grace in the hearts of God's children. And now the church rejoices in the salvation of souls, and in the manifest work of the Lord among his people. Many of our

people have felt the Holy Spirit moving upon their hearts, and have received a blessing of grace, and of divine power. The weak have been made stronger, and the timid have received courage to confess their Lord and Master in prayer and in testimony.

While we have much over which we can justly rejoice, let us remember that this work of grace and harvest time among us is not completed. The work is not yet even fairly begun. Are there not yet some "dry bones" among us that need to be revived? that have need of being quickened into newness of life? Yes there are yet many who need to be vitalized by the divine Agent and quickener of souls. Let this work of grace go on until the wayward and straying shall all be reclaimed, and every soul shall rejoice in a conscious knowledge of its salvation through Jesus Christ. Such a state of grace is productive of untold good to a church. It bears a fruitage of unity, of fellowship, of brotherly love, of hope, of charity, of more earnest and devoted consecration unto the Lord.

It is the privilege of the church to be continually in the midst of such a season of refreshing. The Church of the Apostles enjoyed such a state of grace and soul-saving continuously. "The Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved." "The word of God grew mightily and prevailed," continuously. How our hearts yearn for such a continuous revival of grace among our people. How then continuously, as now, our doors shall be thronged with worshippers. With what eagerness of heart the word of God will be heard and received. With what a willingness of spirit the Lord will evermore be confessed by his people. Blessed state of grace and of the divine life.

And now then that this season of refreshing may abide with us, and be a fountain of perpetual blessing, our toils and prayers must also be perpetual. In a very few weeks hence we shall come to our glad Easter Season. Last year we enjoyed an abundant ingathering of souls during this festive occasion. From this time forth until the Easter communion our efforts shall be persistent to accelerate the work of grace among

us. Let every soul of Grace Church be penitent before God, and turn unto him with a full and expectant heart that our sins may be blotted out, that the Lord may continue among us with saving power, and may add unto his people many souls.

REVIVALS.

In answer to the inquiry, Can a church maintain constantly a revival spirit? Joseph Cook, recently made this reply.

"A revival spirit may be constantly maintained by the churches, for that spirit consists in a desire to rescue men from the love of sin, and the quiet of it, and this is, or should be, the constant supreme mood of every Christian. Aggressive religious activity may take many appropriate forms and keep the fire on the altars of the church constantly bright. Prayer meetings are continuous, and ought always to be full of the revival spirit. There should no sermon be delivered that does not make religion a personal matter. All preachers should be in some sense evangelists, and our church members should be ready to engage in conversation on personal religion with the religiously irresolute."

In reply to the further inquiry What are the chief hindrances to the revival spirits. The same learned divine replies, "Unbelief, doctrinal indifference, worldliness, secret sins, absorption of the church in secular affairs are among the chief obstacles to revivals. Any form of preaching that does not make a broad distinction between the converted and the unconverted hinders revivals. Denominational greed, schisms and cliques in particular churches, aversion to the severe truths of religion, lax unscriptural lukewarm liberalism, constitute an atmosphere in which revivals do not easily originate."

Friends read these words with care and take heed to the counsel imparted in them, and pray for the Lord's continual presence with us.

Every family in the church should subscribe for the VISITOR. You are only paying money into your own pocket.

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25 Cents per Year.

REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers: REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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HOW MUCH OWEST THOU?

At a recent meeting of the Consistory and Board of Trustees, the deacons reported that nearly \$200 of the last two years' subscription to the church remained unpaid up to date. How these arrearages occur we are not prepared to explain. Misfortunes sometimes come, and men cannot meet their obligations. But is it not right that when a man cannot meet his whole obligation he should at least do what he can? Contributing to the Lord according to a man's ability is all the Lord asks, and it is all the church expects. But this is one of the first duties members owe to their church, and owe to their master. There are hundreds of Christian people who deny themselves not only of the foolish unecessaries of life, but even of many comforts in order that they may give unto the Lord. And this in many instances explains why some people always are able to contribute systematically for the support of the church. A young man who had been a member of the church for several years, and never contributed anything for the support of the gospel, was interrogated once by one of the elders of the church, why it was that he had no credits upon the church treasurers' records? The reply was, "I have nothing to give." The elder's further inquiry, "How many of those five cents do you smoke a day?" Reply: "Two a day." Elders conclusion. "Then you spend seventy cents per week for smoking, and have nothing for the Lord. Your profession is all smoke. You love tobacco seventy cents worth a week, and the Lord nothing." Now this is about the solution of the same problem with many others. Seventy cents a week for unecessaries, and five cents a week for the Lord, and with others still worse, nothing for the Lord. Lay aside each week, on the first days of the week, an offering for the Lord, and then on the Sabbath day bring it to the house of God.

Christians often-times become negligent of their duties, but never so without a serious loss to themselves of peace of heart. Our Lord's inquiry is always coming up in the heart, "How much owest thou?" David said, "My sins are

ever before me." So our sins of negligence are ever before us to condemn us, and to stand as hindrances to our spiritual growth and happiness. Our debts are ever before us. They trouble our hearts. They disturb our peace of soul. They are hindrances to us in our Christian life. When Zacheus was converted he made restitution. He paid his debts. Fullness of grace within the heart will enable us to know our debts, and will constrain us to give unto the Lord as we are indebted to Him. "How much owest thou?" Settle this question between yourself and the Lord. Only let the Lord stipulate the amount of your indebtedness. When we take this matter into our own hands we are prone to err, not to our advantage, but finally to our sorrow. If you cannot do more, then bring the widow's offering to the Lord, the Master will accept it, and you shall be blessed in the same.

The deacons of the church hope to have all these accounts squared in the near future. And they feel confident that at as early a date as possible each member who is in arrears will pay his full obligation. If any errors have occurred in the accounts of any, let them report to any member of the consistory, and the matter will be adjusted.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

Sabbath evening, February 16th, the young people of Grace church met in the lecture rooms of the church to organize a Young People's Society. The meeting was opened with singing and scripture reading and prayer by the pastor. The object of the meeting was then stated. The pastor acted as temporary chairman, and Eugene Mathis was chosen as temporary secretary. The Model Constitution of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was read, also the pledges of the Active and Associate Members. A list was then circulated to ascertain how many of the young people present were in favor of organizing under the Model Constitution. Seventeen signatures were secured. The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday evening to complete the organization.

Tuesday evening, February 18, the young people met again, with a number of new recruits. After religious services the society proceeded to complete its organization. An opportunity was extended to others to become charter members, when the names of eight more young people were entered upon the list, making a mem-

bership of twenty-six, twenty-two active and four associate members. The constitution was then adopted and the society christened Grace Reformed Church Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. For the convenience of the members of the society and the information of all who are interested, the constitution will be printed in a later issue of the Visitor.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President—A. K. Zartman.

Vice President—Edward Miller.

Corresponding Secretary—Philip Hyman.

Recording Secretary—Emma Neireiter.

Treasurer—Mary Wilkinson.

Also the following committees were appointed:

Lookout Committee—Katie Vordermark, Eugene Mathis, Lillie Walters, Harry Kline, Edwin Hyman.

Prayer-meeting Committee—Mrs. A. K. Zartman, Mollie Buckwalter, Edward Miller, Harry Vordermark, Birdie Saffern.

Social Committee—Maggie Haverly, Emma Neireiter, Philip Hyman, Lillie Vordermark, Freddie Gumper.

Other committees will be announced later. The society selected Tuesday evening for the regular prayer-meetings, commencing at 7:30. Tuesday evening, Feb. 26, will be the first meeting. It is hoped that at this meeting there will be a number of accessions to the society.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PRAYER MEETINGS—
DATES, TOPICS AND LEADERS.

Feb. 25.—Leader, Mrs. Zartman. Topic—"Helpers not Hinderers." Rom. xv, 1-13; 1 Cor. xiii, 9-13.

March 4.—Leader, Mollie Bookwalter. Topic—"I Gave My Life for Thee." Luke xx, 33-43.

March 11.—Leader, Katie Vordermark. Topic—"The Secret of Christian Success." Josh. 1, 8; Gen. xxxix, 2-5; Psalms 1, 1-3.

March 18.—Leader, Emma Neireiter. Topic—"The Joy of Bringing Others to Christ." Dan. 1, 3; Luke xv, 1-10.

March 25.—Leader, Eugene Mathis. Topic—"Praise Meeting, Service of Song." Rev. xix, 1-16.

The LaGrippe still prevails among some of our families. Valentine Monn's family has been severely afflicted, but are all convalescing. Also some of Jacob Rudisil's family have been quite ill, but are also better.

GRACE REFORMED CHURCH DIRECTORY.

Our Church Parlors on East Washington St.,
between Barr and Lafayette streets.

SERVICES.

Sabbath morning,	10:30
Sabbath evening,	7:30
Sunday School,	9:30
Teachers' meeting Sabbath evening,	6:30
Prayer meeting Wednesday evening,	7:30

Come, and welcome to these services.
A. K. ZARTMAN, Pastor.
Residence 96 East Washington St.

CONSISTORY.

Elders.	Deacons.
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D. W. SOUDER—Assistant Superintendent.
PHILLIP HYMAN—Secretary.
KATIE VORDERMARK—Treasurer.
FREDDIE GUMPER—Librarian.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

MRS. A. K. ZARTMAN—PRESIDENT.
MRS. F. D. PAULUS—VICE PRESIDENT.
EMMA NEIREITER—Secretary.
MRS. M. CONET—Treasurer.

BRIEF AND PERSONAL NOTES.

Renew your subscription for the
VISITOR.

The young People's Society starts out
with a "boom."

Easter comes April 9. We will have
services during Easter week.

While the fire is burning on the
altar of your heart, keep it going.

Ladies' Monthly Missionary meeting
will be held Thursday evening March
6th.

If you are not supplied with a church
almanac, the pastor has a few more
copies left.

Mother McClure and Miss Mollie
McClure, are at Grand Rapids, Mich.
Expect to return home about March 1.

After this issue, the VISITOR will be
sent regularly to subscribers. If you
want the paper send in your subscrip-
tion.

The ladies are on the "war-path
again." Look out. They are afraid their
needles and frying pans will grow
cold.

The attendance upon our Sabbath
services has been quite encouraging for
some Sabbaths past. The church par-
lors should be full every Sabbath.

Every member of the church should
have a hymnal. The church has a
supply on hand. Inquire of the pastor
or some member of the consistory.

The pastor will hold a meeting at the
Salem's Church, beginning Feb. 24.
The people of this church have been
anxiously awaiting their time for ser-
vices. They have been praying for a

harvest, and we hope their prayers may
be answered in a general out pouring of
the Holy Spirit upon this church.

The pastor will continue his course of
sermons on "Incidents in the Life of
Moses" on the Sabbath evenings during
March. Every member of the church
should attend these services.

The following accessions have been
made to the church during our meet-
ings—up to the date of this issue of the
VISITOR. Mrs. C. C. Johnson; J. W.
Eakin; Mrs. Anna Eakin; James W.
Vining; William G. Null; Mrs. Mary
J. Null; Mrs. Millie A. Vordermark;
Miss. Mary R. Wilkinson; Edward Mil-
ler; and Harry Kline. Baptism of
children. Myrtie, daughter of James
and Catherine Vining, and Samuel
Walter, son of Lorenzo and Rosa Nick-
erson. We hope to be able to report a
number of other accessions to the church
very soon.

MISSION BAND NOTES.

Every little boy and girl belonging
to Grace Reformed Sunday School
should be a member of the Band.

The regular meetings of the Band
are held the 2nd and 4th Sundays in
each month, in the afternoon at half
past 2 o'clock, unless otherwise an-
nounced.

The "question" cards given to the
members of the Band will be returned
on Sunday afternoon, February 23rd.
Search your hearts before answering the
questions.

The Mission Band will have charge
of a booth at the coming Bazaar.

The little girls are at work making
iron holders which they expect to sell
at ten cents apiece.

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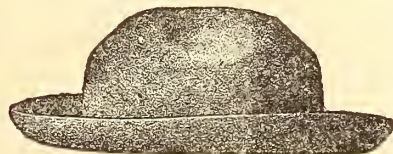
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LADIES' MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

We are entering upon a new year with many fond hopes and expectations. During the first year of our existence, we had much to learn by experience, as we look over the past, we can truly say that God has been with us. Many events of interest crowd in upon our recollections, and remind us of our successes and failures. We have not always as individuals, nor as a society, lived beneath the unclouded sky of prosperity. Some have had many hours of sadness and of deep concern, but, can we not still say that God has been gracious to us far beyond what we have deserved?

When we remember our weakness, and how the Lord has given us strength, we should be encouraged to go on in our good work. We may not have great numbers, but if our heavenly Father is a part of our organization, we are strong.

The society has suffered the loss of some earnest and devoted members by removals from the city. We trust that they may find it pleasant and profitable to labor for the Master wherever they may be, and that God may continue to bless them abundantly.

Let us benefit by past experience, and let us look forward with anxious and consecrated hearts to the work of the future. Duty calls us on. We cannot retrace our steps but we can move onward prayerfully and carefully. Much has been accomplished; much more can be accomplished. May our hearts be united, and with Jesus as our leader, we may look forward to a year of great success.

THE receipts for the Orphan's Home during the Christmas season this year were much larger than in former years. This is evidence that this institution of the church is growing in favor with the people. We are glad to learn that the congregations of our English classes are sending more of their offerings to this home than formerly. During the coming season an addition will be built to the main structure. This has come to be a necessity. There are now about sixty children at the home and their quarters are entirely too crowded. The church will certainly respond cheerfully and liberally to the growing wants of the Home. There has been considerable sickness among the children recently, but nothing serious. Papa Rettig has also been ill, but will soon be himself again.

Subscribe for the VISITOR and send it to some friend.

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