

OLD ZION'S TRUMPET

...Blow ye the trumpet in Zion...

Volume 35 Number 2 Brickerville, PA December 2017

Christmas Carol Sing

Saturday, December 9, 2017

2 PM and 4:30 PM

TAKE A BREAK

The Christmas season is almost here, take a break from the hustle and bustle; it's time to mark Old Zion's Carol Sing on the calendar, **Saturday, December 9th**. There are two services, **2:00 PM and 4:30 PM**. Free tickets required. Candles and the gorgeous kerosene chandelier will light the church; lovely greenery decorations will be hung, and the music of the season will fill the building.

The unique, modern barbershop quartet, "Break from Blue Collar" will provide musical entertainment and will lead singing the beloved holiday carols. "Break from Blue Collar" is a new, local group whose members are: tenor - Zach Bailey, lead - Ben Hallowell, baritone – Tyler Hart, and bass – Shaun Ressler. They've begun to develop a following and were awarded the Best Novice Quartet at the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Central Division Barbershop Contest.

There is no electricity in the building. It is important to dress warmly and to bring a flashlight to read the song sheets and to guide you along the pathways.

Complete free ticket request form, see last page. Send form with a self-addressed stamped envelope **after November 15** to:
David Hoffman
1263 Ash Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

'Tis the time to celebrate the reason for the season! In the event of inclement weather, please check the Old Zion's website www.oldzionchurch.org.



For safety reasons, ice or snow on the ground on Saturday, December 9 will result in a cancellation.

CELEBRATING HISTORY

September 10, 2017 was a gorgeous, late summer day. The sun was shining; a mild breeze was gently blowing; and Lancaster County's humidity was low. It was the perfect atmosphere for Old Zion's annual anniversary service.

The afternoon's sermon was given by Pastor Dennis Ernest, a Mennonite minister, who serves as a chaplain for Mennonite Homes. As a member of the Heritage Chorale, Pastor Ernst has sung with the group at Old Zion on a number of occasions. His message focused on the history and traditions of Christianity and of those that have taken place in this church for more than 200 years.

Special guests at this event were former Old Zion Board members, Fred Buch, and Gene Shaw, the carpenter who reproduced the wine glass pulpit many years ago. They provided the congregation with fascinating, first-hand information and some

background about the history of the pulpit, chandelier, and organ.

Organist, JP Welliver's beautiful renditions of Pachebal's "Canon in D" and Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" on the antique pump organ enhanced this very special, afternoon celebration.



Pictured above: (left to right) Gene Shaw, Dave Hoffman, Fred Buch, Robin Kegerise

CHANDELIER STORY

Visitors and friends of Old Zion are frequently awed by Old Zion's large, crystal chandelier. Its beauty is especially resplendent when it is lit for the church's annual Christmas Carol Sing.

At Old Zion's September 2017 Anniversary Service, former Board member, Fred Buch, presented a bit of the chandelier's history. It was donated to the church by another congregation that had gotten electricity. The chandelier was hung in the center of the church's ceiling by a rope and remained there until approximately 1992 when it was struck by lightning and fell to the floor.

It landed next to the organ (Which set on the 1st floor during the time a platform altar was in place circa 1920.) and cracked the side of this instrument. (The organ was subsequently repaired and moved to the gallery level, its original location.) The chandelier's rope was burned, but fortunately, the spilled kerosene did not ignite and burn the church.

Board member emeritus, Russ Pettyjohn, found a man who agreed to restore this fixture and match the chandelier's mirrors, prisms, and globes with those

that remained intact. After five years passed, the board asked for this individual to finish this work in time for that year's Anniversary Service. This was accomplished just in time, as this man died 2 weeks after the chandelier was re-hung.

At that time the Board decided to set the chandelier back from immediate view and secured it to the ceiling with a wire winch. It remains in that location today.

Every year dedicated board volunteers clean the globes and prisms, trim the wicks, and light the chandelier once a year. Because of their efforts, Old Zion's chandelier shines brightly during the annual December Carol Sing where it reminds us of simpler times and symbolically helps to represent the beauty and light of the Christmas season.



2018 CALENDAR

MARCH 25 – Easter Dawn Service

JUNE 9 – Strawberry Social @ 3:30 – 6:30 PM

SEPTEMBER 9 – Anniversary Service @ 4 PM

DECEMBER 8 – Carol Sing @ 2 PM and 4:30 PM

WEDDING SEASON – Second Weekend in April thru the Second Weekend in October



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Continued from Spring 2017 Newsletter

Architectural – Historical Report on Old Zion Reformed Church – Brickerville, by John J. Snyder Jr.

A photo of Old Zion Church from 1929, shows an obvious lack of trees and shrubs around the building. This was intentional in order to keep a clear view of the structure and its symmetrical design.

John Snyder, agreed that no encumbrance should obstruct the appearance and height of the building especially when viewed from any distance.

There are two eyewitness accounts of a wineglass pulpit that existed at Old Zion Church before an 1890 remodeling of a platform pulpit. The first account is found in History of Lancaster County, by Franklin Ellis and Emanuel Evans in 1883. The authors noted a “candlestick” pulpit with a sounding board above. The second account is from Reverend Daniel C. Tobias in the 1881 History of the Bethany UCC Charge. He describes a wooden building erected in 1748 that was replaced in 1813 by a substantial brick structure with galleries on three sides and wineglass pulpit with a sounding board above situated on the fourth wall.

A photograph taken around 1900, of the interior of the 1832 White Oak (Jerusalem) Church in Penryn, PA, made a certain Mrs. Callie Nestleroth of Elm, PA (long deceased) recall an enclosed raised platform most likely intended as seating for persons such as elders and deacons near the wineglass pulpit. There is physical evidence of such a platform at Old Zion, as well as a wineglass pulpit. Boards and fragments of these structures were found beneath the chancel area platform of 1890, as well as in two cupboards beneath the stairways. These remnants were not all incorporated into the 1890 remodeling. Also, evidence of a wineglass pulpit was visible on the plaster wall that showed outlines of the pulpit and stairs leading up to it.

John Snyder also found evidence of ornamental roundels within the perimeter of the galleries. He noticed round marks on the plaster that were possible

sites of such motifs common in the Federal period. Their possible intent was to visibly accentuate the symmetry of the interior design.

John Snyder’s research and papers are an extremely valuable resource that not only enable former board members but also the current board to better preserve this unique and beautiful Old Zion Church.



BOARD PROJECTS

In 2017, each board member contributed to many projects. The following list includes a few highlights.

- 4 new board members joined the volunteer group to preserve Old Zion Church and grounds.
- New Rental Agreements were developed. See www.oldzionchurch.org for more information.
- History research was cataloged and archived.
- All gravestones in the original section of cemetery were cleaned.
- New landscaping was planted and maintained.
- 6 Weddings were held during the wedding season.
- Building maintenance fixed issues in the roof and upstairs windows.

FEW FUN FACTS

Magistrate Conrad Weiser, Native American peacemaker and Lutheran signed the deed for Old Zion Church, transfer the property from Sabastian Reyer and his wife in 1747.

Early offerings collected at Old Zion from 1748 through the early 1800's included pounds, shillings, and pence using the traditional glingelsocks.

The first schooling at Old Zion wasn't made up of Sunday school but rather a Choral School.

WEDDING SEASON

Old Zion Church wedding season takes place from the second weekend in April through the second weekend in October. Visit www.oldzionchurch.org for full wedding agreement information. Inquiries contact oldzionchurch@gmail.com.



CAROL SING REMINDER

(Maximum of 6 tickets) All tickets are **FREE!**
Request for tickets must be mailed, along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to:

David Hoffman
1263 Ash Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

And postmarked no earlier than November 15.

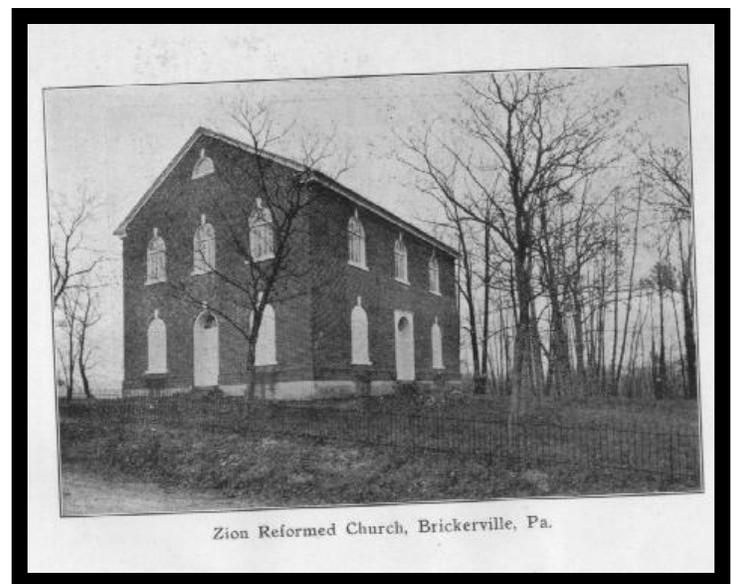
MANY THANKS

The Old Zion Board appreciates all the support offered at fundraisers and events this year. It's wonderful to visit with familiar faces and meet new friends of Old Zion visiting for the first time.

DID YOU KNOW?

Why pork and sauerkraut is a favorite PA Dutch way to celebrate the New Year?

Don Yoder shared that "If you ask why pork and not turkey is dished up for New Year's, the answer may be a symbolic one. The pig roots forward and the turkey scratches backwards."



Above, an undated black and white photograph of Old Zion.

Expecting to prepare for a crowd over the holidays how about hosting a "Schnitzing party"?

The process of coring and quartering an apple to make apple butter was called snitting. The snits or chunks of apple would then be placed in the kettle. Cutting and slicing bushels of apples could take quite a while. The PA Dutch turned this gathering of work time into a "Schnitzing party"; a chance to socialize and make the repetitive work fun. As folks gather this year with friends and family whether to bake cookies, sing carols, or fellowship try adding a new 'historical' twist on that get together. Don't forget to slice up an apple or two.

2017 Old Zion Christmas Carol Sing

Ticket Request (maximum of 6 tickets)

Name-

Phone_____

2:00 PM _____ # tickets requested

OR

4:30 PM _____ # tickets requested

If there are no longer tickets available for the
time chosen, ___YES, I would like tickets for other
time.