

OLD ZION'S TRUMPET

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

Volume 36 Number 2 Brickerville, PA December 2018

Christmas Carol Sing

Saturday, December 8, 2018

2 PM and 4:30 PM

HOPE OF A CAROL SING

Christmas season celebrations are filled with HOPE. Old Zion's Carol Sing offers this promise of HOPE through both singing and hearing beautiful holiday carols on **Saturday, December 8**. There are two services at **2:00 PM and 4:30 PM**. Free tickets required. Candles and the gorgeous kerosene chandelier will light the church and the music of the season will fill the building.

Old Zion will host the acapella male quartet, "Break from Blue Collar". They will perform and lead caroling for both services. Last year snow on the day of the event led to the cancellation of the 2017 Carol Sing. Members of "Break from Blue Collar" graciously agreed to return in 2018. The well-recognized group includes: tenor - Zach Bailey, lead - Ben Hallowell, baritone - Tyler Hart, and bass - Shaun Ressler.

Old Zion's original and authentic candle lit atmosphere illuminates the HOPE that generations ago of our forefathers had in 1813 when they celebrated Christmas. The Carol Sing allows us today to get a brief sense and chance to relive this long ago experience. 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 to your car.

Complete the enclosed free ticket request form. Then send the form with a self-addressed stamped envelope **after November 15** to:

David Hoffman
1263 Ash Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042



Old Zion Church and grounds are not equipped to handle winter weather. **For safety reasons, ice or snow on the ground on Saturday, December 8 will result in a cancellation of the event. Please check Old Zion's website for information, www.oldzionchurch.org.**

Old Zion Church Board volunteers are HOPEFUL you'll be able to join us to experience this tradition and the Christmas promise of HOPE.

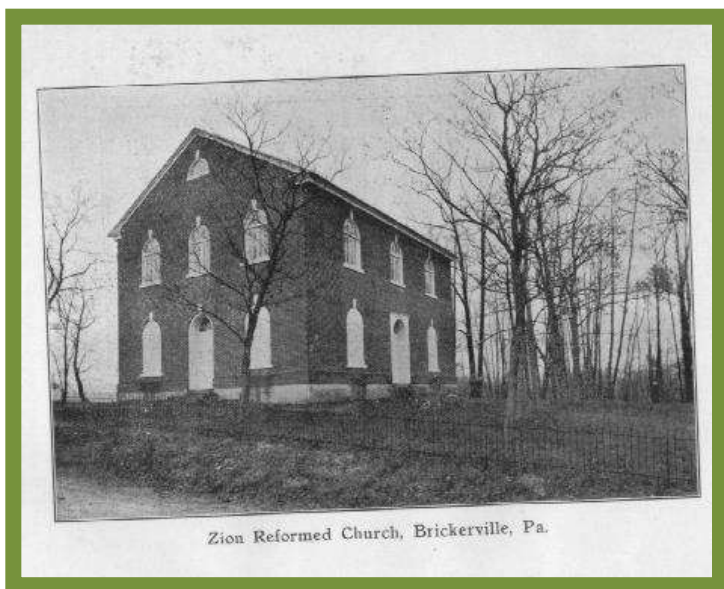
HISTORY IN DEED

Recently, the Old Zion Board received some historic deed information that relates to the church. A local resident shared an historic deed to Reverend Tobias's home on Front Street in Lititz. Rev. Tobias was a popular mid-19th century pastor who inspired the congregation's largest growth in history with over 200 members. Rev. Tobias was a circuit rider pastor visiting congregations that included Old Zion Church, Bethany UCC in Ephrata, and Jerusalem UCC in Penryn. It is interesting that he made his home in Lititz and then visited with congregations in the surrounding communities.

Another land deed was shared with the board of Old Zion in the past month. A Reifsnnyder Road neighbor

talked with a board member about the historic deed he has for the land around Old Zion Church. The earliest deed was recorded as two parcels of land sold to Sebastian Royer in 1733. Mr. Royer sold 2-3 acres to the "Calvinist congregation" (Old Zion) in 1743. Later in 1759, his heirs sold the remaining original 192 acres of land he owned to John and Jacob Brubaker for 704 English pounds sterling. This information is recorded in a patent book in Philadelphia.

Historically, deeds represent evidence of transfer of property. Considering the significance of the role of these deeds; we can appreciate the legacy they leave behind.



75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Old Zion Church held its 75th Anniversary Service on September 9, 2018. The Anniversary Service first began as a Homecoming Service during the Second World War and continues to be held each year as the church year begins in September. Though the church is without an active congregation, this annual service commemorates the true meaning of the building and celebrates the history of the German Reformed congregants who met for two hundred years upon Zion hill.

The Anniversary Service included elements of an 1800's German Reformed Church service. Bible readings were shared in English and German similar to the Pennsylvania Dutch spoken in the church at that time. 19th Century hymns were accompanied by

the pump organ in the church, played by organist, JP Welliver, choir director at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Penryn.

Rev. William LaSalle, retired UCC pastor and an Old Zion Board member provided a message entitled, "The Anxious Bench". He spoke about the controversial practice of using the "Anxious Bench" 200 years ago. This type of bench was placed in front of the church to call forward individuals who were worried about the state of their souls. Some pastors in the German Reformed church opposed this way of calling out individuals. It was one example of controversies within the church. He traced some past religious controversies and illustrated that different points of view continue today. Rev. LaSalle concluded his message reminding us that today's Christians can make a difference by practicing civility and respect.



The service was introduced with history of a colonial era iron stove at Old Zion. Richard Martin, a descendent of a charcoal burner at Mt. Hope Furnace and currently volunteering as a tour guide at Cornwall Iron Furnace, spoke with enthusiasm and shared his interest in the by gone era of Iron Furnace Plantations. The iron stove he spoke about is located on the church's west stairway landing. He noted that the stove is similar to what could have been found on the first floor of the church during the 1800's.

SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL

The 40th Annual Strawberry Social hosted sunny and warm weather, a clear view of the Brubaker Valley, delicious chicken corn soup, and delectable strawberry desserts. On Saturday, June 9 all of these ingredients added up to a most successful and enjoyable experience. No one would have guessed thunderstorms were forecasted.



Attendance was very steady throughout the day and was a record for recent times. Everyone appreciated the summer day, the environment, and the fantastic traditions of summer food.



The Strawberry Social also provided a wonderful opportunity to socialize with others on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon. Observed reunions were numerous, as families and friends greeted each other

warmly. One Old Zion Board member even discovered that she was sitting near former neighbors that she hadn't seen in over 40 years.

Great food, the pleasant setting, and chance to reunite with others will happen again next year. Now is the time to **mark June 8, 2019 on your calendar** for the 41st Strawberry Social.



Celebrating Dorothy Markert Cushman pictured above. Dot is 104 years old. She and late her husband Russ Markert served on the Old Zion Board for many years. The current board members are delighted she joined in the Strawberry Social again this year and gave the chicken corn soup her famous stir.

2019 CALENDAR

APRIL 25 – Easter Dawn Service
JUNE 8 – Strawberry Social @ 3:30 – 6:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 8 – Anniversary Service @ 4 PM
DECEMBER 14 – Carol Sing @ 2 PM and 4:30 PM

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



BOARD PROJECTS TO PRESERVE THE CHURCH & GROUNDS

Old Zion Church's Board of Directors is continually addressing needs of the 1813 church building, grounds, and cemetery to preserve and maintain this incredible piece of history while bringing it to life for the current and future generations.

Some projects will be evident to visitors and others will be done seamlessly that people who visit may not notice.

Current projects include repair to floor joists and exterior paint to update handrails at stairs. In 2019, look for repairs and maintenance of the cast iron fence that outlines the west side of the church. Two informational signs will be added to explain the history of church and cemetery.

Plans are also beginning to update the landscape immediately surrounding the church building. While bulbs were planted in 2017, you may see more native species planted to border the church.

Cemetery preservation is on-going. To date in 2018 volunteers from the board focused on the historic section of the cemetery to clean stones using methods illustrated at the church's 2013 cemetery workshop taught by nationally recognized cemetery preservationist, Jonathan Appell. www.gravestoneconservation.com

The volunteer board is grateful for your support of annual events and is pleased to have the privilege to continue the work and dedication of the original group of volunteers who met first in the late 1950's.



CEMETERY PLOTS

Old Zion Church's cemetery, which has been in existence since prior to the Revolutionary War, is not just a resting place for our predecessors. Contemporary burials continue to take place on this peaceful hillside location.

An Old Zion burial plot is available for \$450. Ground openings at Old Zion are \$150 for cremains and \$450 for a standard burial.

Old Zion Church's Board of Directors provides perpetual care. Cemetery ground maintenance is ongoing. If you're interested in more information regarding burial plots please email oldzionchurch@gmail.com.

If you have an interest in learning more about the historic section of the cemetery please visit www.oldzionchurch.org. In 1985 a transcription was done by Martha Xakellis. This document is available on the website.



REMINDER

Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your Carol Sing ticket request and mail to:
Dave Hoffman
1263 Ash Lane
Lebanon, PA 17042

