

OLD ZION'S TRUMPET

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

Volume 34 Number 1 Brickerville, PA May 2016

Strawberry Social

Saturday, June 11, 2016

3:30 - 6:30 PM

BERRY BLISS

An afternoon of berry bliss awaits you on the grounds of Old Zion Church with a lovely view of the valley to the south. There is no better occasion that features plump, ripe, red, juicy Lancaster County strawberries than the annual Strawberry Social on Saturday, June 11 from 3:30-6:30 PM, rain or shine.

On this occasion the church sort of reawakens from winter slumbers. We welcome you and your families, large and small, young and old, to enjoy a tradition on the church lawn. To make seating convenient toss a couple of lawn chairs in the car along with a tray and/or lawn blanket. Each of these suggestions allows you to better savor the social's fare: a strawberry dessert with home baked cake, a scoop of Fox Meadow Creamery vanilla ice cream, smothered with strawberries and topped with wonderful whipped cream. This plate of summer delight is offered with a cup of chilled iced tea for \$5. To complete your meal consider a cup of homemade chicken corn soup made from scratch for \$3.

walk through the 203 year old church building is something else to savor. A board member will be available to help answer questions. The 38th anniversary of this fundraiser is a reminder of its role that helps maintain the church building, grounds, and cemetery. Keep an eye out for a new addition of crafts for young and young-at-heart visitors. We look forward to seeing familiar and new faces to say hello to beginning of summer.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

September 11, 2016 @ 4 PM

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

December 10, 2016 @ 2 PM and 4:30 PM

Pennsylvania Dutch Proverb ~

“Many people worrying about adding years to their life should try adding life to their years.”

WORTHWHILE WEBSITE

Visit www.oldzionchurch.org and you're guaranteed to see something new. With special thanks to the Brossman Sweigart Foundation, volunteers were able to revamp and update this valuable communication tool.



RUSSELL PETTYJOHN

Old Zion's Treasurer from 1963 to 2013

The longest serving member of Old Zion's Board of Directors is Russell Pettyjohn. In 2013, during the anniversary celebration of the brick church building's 200th year, Russell received a commendation from State Representative Mindy Fee for his service to the church and the Warwick community. He also received recognition and thanks from the Board for his unwavering support in the past 50 years as the Board Treasurer. Russell retired as treasurer in 2013, but he continues to serve on the Board, helping with programs and special projects.

Russell grew up in Boyertown, PA, the son of a shoe factory manager. The family moved to Lititz when Russell's father accepted a position managing a shoe factory. He increased production by offering incentive pay and increased the company's profits. Russell learned his work ethic from his father and held a job from his teenage years on. He worked at Fry and Son, Inc. out of Lancaster, making church furniture and eventually built his own construction firm. He had five employees and gained a business sense for bookkeeping and dealing with governmental regulations.

Russell has always been civic minded. Along with his efforts at Old Zion, he is a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Odd Fellows, where he is on the governing board of the Odd Fellows Home. He served on the Lititz Borough Council for twelve years when Mayor Roy Claire recommended that he run for election to replace him. Russell won that fall and remained the Mayor of Lititz for 16 years. Russell helped to craft the image of Lititz as a small, vibrant town. His interest in the historic preservation of Main Street made Lititz the quaint tourist destination it is today.

In the 1950's, the Reformed Church Synod merged with other, smaller denominations and began to restructure. They looked at the White Oak Charge, specifically Old Zion (Reyer's) in Brickerville, Jerusalem in Penryn and St. Luke's in Lititz to make improvements and streamline the duplicated efforts of the organizations. Old Zion had never been modernized and by the end of World War II, there were fewer than a dozen active members. The Lancaster Synod told the congregations of St. Luke's and Jerusalem to "do something" with the faltering

church in Brickerville. So the Church Boards of St. Luke's and Jerusalem sent representatives to a meeting at the Lancaster Synod, which named a Lancaster lawyer as chairperson. Although the Board members were from three different churches, there were few conflicts due to the singular mission of the Board to maintain and improve the 1813 building. Russell volunteered for the St. Luke's Board, serving for ten years. He then volunteered for the combined Board to maintain the old building at Old Zion (Reyer's). In 1963 he became the treasurer because of his experience with running his own business. The first major project for this joint Board was to sandblast and repaint the brick exterior. Another project was replacing the upstairs windows, which were changed to a more modern format after the original sashes deteriorated. The most ambitious project was to rebuild the wineglass pulpit, removing the raised platform "improvement" of the late 19th Century. Historic preservation was the driving force behind the Board's decisions and Russell was a strong voice in the deliberations.

Lititz has been fortunate to have Russell as a citizen and public leader for over 60 years. He has brought Lititz to national attention as the "Coolest town in America" and to international attention as a sister city of Kunvald in the Czech Republic and Kandern in Germany.

Old Zion is fortunate to have Russell as well. Although the congregation has been gone for 70 years, Russell has helped to bring the church into the 21st Century with historic programs and community activities. We wish him continued good health and we look forward to his involvement in future plans. Thank you, Russell!!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Old Zion Church is available from the second weekend in April until the second weekend in October to host special occasions. Each year a number of weddings are held. The simple 19th century building lends itself to small events as well as those with over 100 guests.

Visit www.oldzionchurch.org to find rental information for weddings, tours, or memorial services. Please send inquiries to oldzionchurch@gmail.com and a board member will contact you.

HISTORY STORY CONCLUDE FROM LAST EDITION

