

# OLD ZION'S TRUMPET

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

Volume 34 Number 2      Brickerville, PA      December 2016

**Carol Sing, Saturday, December 10, 2016  
2 PM and 4:30 PM \***

## CAROL SING DEC. 10 - ATMOSPHERE

Christmas **ATMOSPHERE!** Old Zion Church, Reifsnyder Rd., Brickerville, PA will be overflowing with the Christmas season's **atmosphere** at the annual Carol Sing on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. This historic, old church will be lit entirely by both candle and kerosene light; the air will be delightfully crisp; and the sounds of beloved Christmas Carols will ring in our ears and fill our hearts.

This year, the Heritage Chorale will perform special music and will lead the congregation in singing our favorite carols. There are two opportunities to enjoy Old Zion's Carol Sing. At 2:00 pm the congregation can enjoy the music while watching beautiful winter light filter through the old glass window panes. Then at 4:30 pm the light darkens and the candlelight **atmosphere** serves to remind us of the 1813 origins of this lovely, original structure.

**This opportunity can be yours by simply sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope, along with the attached FREE ticket request slip, to board member, David Hoffman, 1263 Ash Lane, Lebanon, PA 17042 after November 14, 2016.**

The church remains in its original state from 1813, there is no heat or electricity, which helps remind us of the simple, but beautiful Christmas **atmosphere** of by-gone days. Remember to dress warmly and bring along a flashlight to guide you back to your car. In the event of bad weather, please double check the

Old Zion's website [www.oldzionchurch.org](http://www.oldzionchurch.org) . For safety reasons, ice or snow on the ground on Saturday, December 10 will result in a **cancellation**.

The opportunity to fill your heart and soul with meaningful holiday music and **atmosphere** is yours. See you December 10.



# ANNIVERSARY SERVICE SUMMARY

Old Zion Church's annual anniversary service was held on September 11. This year the congregation enjoyed board member David Hoffman's traditional reading of the scripture in both English and German; a lovely anthem sung by Ephrata's Bethany United Church of Christ's choir; organist, J.P. Welliver's hymn playing; and a meaningful sermon shared by Bethany UCC pastor, Rev. William LaSalle.

Pastor LaSalle used Biblical readings to emphasize how often refugees were the focus of ancient passages. He connected the Bible's refugee references to the founders of Old Zion Church, noting that most of these individuals came to this area seeking religious freedom here in the hills and valleys beyond Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Old Zion's cemetery has many gravestones that bear witness to this early congregation's German and Swiss German origins. To bring both the Biblical and Old Zion's history to the present day, Pastor LaSalle also discussed the plight of the world's current refugees. He noted comparable situations to those of long ago.

Each year the anniversary service is a chance to recall the history of the church founded by colonial refugees with opportunities to worship freely and peacefully with the dignity and respect due to all of God's children.



# NEW WALKWAY TAKES SHAPE

Thanks to a generous donation, Old Zion Church is having a new walkway installed around the church. Weather-permitting, installation will be completed in 2016.

Old Zion's Board debated at length about the type of walkway. It was determined that the choice of a stamped concrete surface will improve visitor safety and eliminate the need for regular maintenance. The walkway will also be widened for visitors' convenience.

The board is hopeful this much-needed improvement will be available for all to appreciate at Old Zion's Carol Sing events on December 10.



# BOARD MEMBER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Old Zion Church's volunteer board would welcome additional board members whose mission it is to maintain this church and cemetery for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Board meetings are held bi-monthly and include planning for three special, annual events: June's Strawberry Social, September's Anniversary Service, and December Carol Sing. Board members are asked to volunteer their time in planning and facilitating events and host weddings during the wedding season.

Other primary board obligations are financial management and planning for and oversight of the property.

Old Zion's board welcomes inquiries from anyone who is interested in working with others to preserve this piece of northern Lancaster County's history. Inquiries to learn more can be directed to any active board member or by emailing the board at [oldzionchurch@gmail.com](mailto:oldzionchurch@gmail.com).

## UNIQUE WEDDING VENUE

Historic Old Zion Church is the perfect choice for unique, memorable weddings. Every year the church is available for rental from the second weekend in April thru the second weekend in October. This year five happy couples celebrated their nuptials at Old Zion.

Old Zion is a special setting as it adds religious meaning to ceremonies, while permitting the participants to choose their preferred type of service and wedding attire. Some services have been quite traditional and others have been crafted especially for the couple. Wedding attire has been both formal—tuxedos and gowns, while others' preferences were more informal—boots, jeans and vests.

Wedding guests have the opportunity to enjoy Old Zion's original, historic building and the gorgeous hillside view of the Brubaker Valley countryside. Both the building and the scenery lend themselves to capturing beautiful wedding photos.

Old Zion's volunteer Board Members are always available to assist with necessary event planning, the wedding rehearsal, and the ceremony. For more information about this unique and special church visit Old Zion's website, [www.oldzionchurch.org](http://www.oldzionchurch.org).

## THE 'GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN' CHURCH



While annotating the "Hannes Eby Death and Burial Record", D. Lahr found that there was sometimes confusion between the Reformed and Presbyterian churches. A short excerpt follows in highlight, sourced from the "Hannes Eby Death and Burial Record" book available from the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.

Although the Reformed Church flourished in Pennsylvania, many people were confused about the name and unclear as to what it was "reformed from." However, many were aware of the parallel growth of the Reformed and Presbyterian churches in Europe and their comfortable relationship. John Know, who took Reformed ideas to Scotland and founded the Presbyterian Church, was a student of John Calvin, principal theologian of the Reformed Church.

Consequently, the Reformed Church was sometimes referred to as the "German Presbyterian Church." Today the Reformed movement is part of the United Church of Christ.

Looking at an early map of Lancaster County by Joshua Scott completed in 1824, Old Zion is labeled Presbyterian.



## CORRECTION: TOMBSTONE DATE

Special thanks to Martha Xakellies. She brought to our attention to a mistake in the last edition of the "Old Zion Trumpet." An article about the history of Old Zion stated the oldest tombstone in the cemetery was marked 1727. However, Martha Xakellies

transcribed each of the cemetery stones and found this date in error. Her book entitled, Grave Undertakings includes gravestone inscriptions of Old Warwick Township, Lancaster County tombstones found in Elizabeth Township today.

Within Old Zion cemetery she found 10 stones with a death date before 1800. These include the tombstone of Johannes Enck mentioned in the article. This tombstone indeed reads 1787 not 1727. The earliest stone in the cemetery reads 1771. We appreciate all of her time in transcribing each stone and her attention to errors in the Old Zion newsletter and website.



## THANK YOU

To each friend of Old Zion Church who joined us for a special event this year, the Old Zion Board shares our thanks for your support in preserving the church, grounds, and cemetery. Thank you, we look forward to seeing you in 2017.

## CEMETERY PLOTS AVAILABLE

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

An Old Zion burial plot is \$450.00. Ground openings at Old Zion are \$150.00 for cremains and \$450.00 for a standard burial.

Old Zion's Board guarantees perpetual care. Regular cemetery ground maintenance is arranged on a regular basis, and cemetery upkeep is a fixed line item at each Old Zion Board meeting.

Persons interested in discussing burial plots should send a message to [oldzionchurch@gmail.com](mailto:oldzionchurch@gmail.com).

## GREEN EDITION

If you'd like to receive the Old Zion newsletter via email rather than postal mail please send a request to [oldzionchurch@gmail.com](mailto:oldzionchurch@gmail.com).

