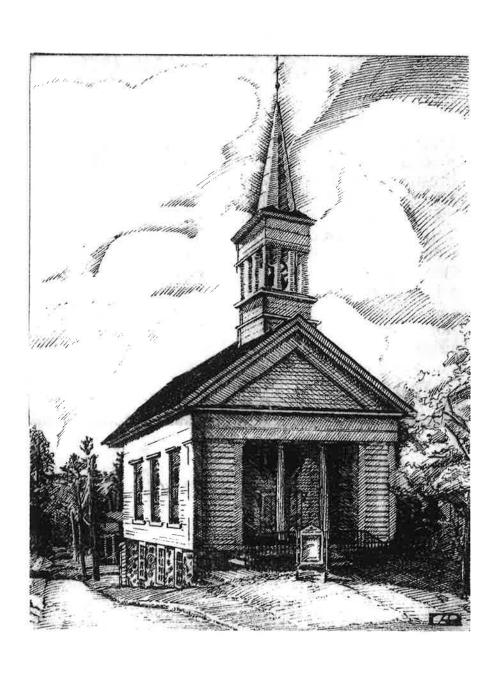
Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Centennial Year — 1955



PRESS RELEASE

Otisville Church Names Centennial Committee

OTISVILLE — Sub-committees were named at a meeting of the centennial committee of the First Presbyterian Church, last week at the home of Glenn Patterson, chairman of the committee for the 100th anniversary celebration, the centennial will be observed the week of Sept. 11. Committee chairmen chosen included the Rev. L. B. Smith, program speakers; Mrs. Shirley Sausville and Mrs. Harriet Francisco, preparation of church journal and advertising; Archie House, honor roll; Mrs. Laura Patterson, invitations; Mrs. Elizabeth Shand and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holley, collection and display of church historical objects; Mrs. Myra Newkirk, history; Mrs. Carrie Writer and Mrs. Florence Walker, Sept. 14 dinner committee; William Walker, seating; and Mrs. Edna Crandall, publicity.

(Unknown source - possibly the Middletown Times-Herald)

The Centennial was celebrated over two Sundays in September 1955 (Sunday bulletins begin on p.13)

Otisville - Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Church Pastors 1855 - 1955

Rev. Moses H Wilder

Rev. William W. Page *

Rev. William R. S. Betts

Mr. F. W. Farries *

Rev. F. W. Farries **

Rev. Robert Craig

Rev. J. Service

Rev. Sylvanus R. Queen

Rev. Robert J. Diven

Rev. F. E. Taylor *

Rev. Jacob Klaasse

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Luther B. Plumer

Rev. J. Lewis Evans *

Rev. Grant Sension *

Rev. Edward Musselman

Rev. Henry G. Stammer

Rev. John S. Laing

Rev. Merrill R. Nelson

Rev. Victor Alfsen

Rev. Merrill R. Nelson

Rev. David R. Kennedy

Rev. Lary B. Small

March 13, 1858 - May 2, 1859

May 1859

December 1862 – April 1865

May 1865- April 1868

May 19, 1868 - Feb. 1, 1871

May 1, 1871 - March 31, 1884

Oct. 15, 1884 – March 1892

September 1, 1892 – July 1, 1895

September 19, 1896- July 25, 1898

October 1898 – September 1903

September 1904 – May 1906

November 17, 1907 - April 30, 1914

August 1, 1914 – September 16, 1917

May 8, 1918 – December 1, 1919

December 1919 - May 1920

November 1, 1920 - March 16, 1923

July 1, 1920 - November 30, 1924

December 1, 1924 - May 31, 1941

October 30, 1941 – Jue21, 1942

October 4, 1942 – August 15, 1943

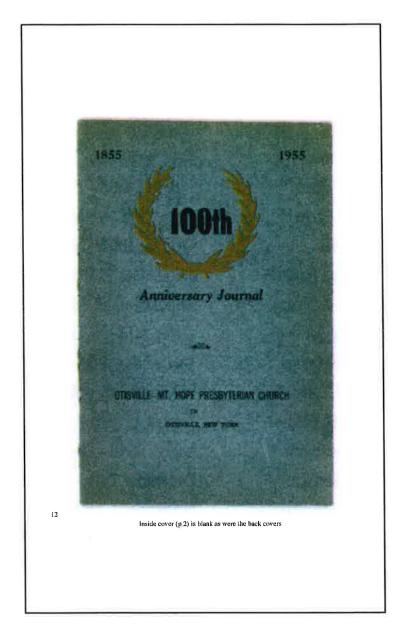
January 16, 1944 - October 7, 1945

February 12, 1947 - March 3, 1951

November 1, 1953 - May 31, 1957

^{*}stated supply

^{**}ordained & installed 5.19.1868



Cover of the Centennial Booklet

GREFTINGS

This Historical Booklet has been prepared to commemorate the One Hundredth Analysessay of the lounding of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Preshyterian Church, formerly known as the First Preshyterian Church of Otisville, New York, it has a two-fold purpose:

First, as a souvenir to those who are already familiar with the colorful history of the church. Secondly, as a source of information to those who have been affiliated with the church for some time but have never had an exportunity to find out more about it.

Much of the success of this journal is due to the friently co-operation of business and professional people who have taken advertising space, and to Friendly Boosters. You can help their and the church by showing your appreciation.

Space does not permit us to mention individually all those who have had a hand in the preparation of the Journal. However, we particularly want to thank Mrs. Shirley Sausville, and Mrs. Harries Francisco, Co-chairmen of the Journal Committee, for their matiring efforts to make the journal a success.

LARY BAKER SMALL.

100th Anniversary Journal 1955 Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church

A history of the Church's first 100 years

by Myra Newkirk

At a point where Otisville now stands, a village was commenced at an early date, which for many years was known as Deerpark Four Corners. It was the chief place of business for the surrounding region. A Presbyterian Church was erected at about the center of Plains Cemetery in 1791. This church flourished until 1822 when the population of the settlement was drawn to Mt. Hope by the construction of a turnpike there.

The village of Mt. Hope at this time became the second largest town in this region, and the people there who had once been connected with the Deerpark Four Corners Presbyterian Church came together and started a new society. A portion of the members of the old church could not agree to the change and withdrew from the congregation.

A new church was erected in Mt. Hope in 1833. The Deerpark Church was allowed to go out of existence and the building went to decay. What remained of this old church was torn down, and the timbers were used to construct a barn on the farm of Joseph Mitchell.

In 1845 the New York and Erie Railroad was extended to the village of Otisville, which for a time became its terminus. The consequent growth of the village rendered it desirable that provision should be made for the spiritual wants of the people. Measures were taken to establish here, again, the stated ministrations of the Gospel.

An Otisville society connected with the New Jersey Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and a place of worship was erected in 1848. Several of the families once connected with the Deerpark Church (but separated from it because of its removal to Mt. Hope) united with the Methodist Church. But in the summer of 1854 some of these people who had left the Presbyterian Church began again to turn their attention to the church of their fathers.

These seven heroic women and one brave man met together and on the 8th day of April 1855 formed the First Presbyterian Church of Otisville:

Mrs. Pamela Cook, wife of Avery Cook
Mrs. Sara Ann Dodge, wife of A. S. Dodge
Mrs. Keseah Dunning, wife of B. W. Dunning
Mrs. Sophie Gerow, wife of William Gerow
Mrs. Frances Loomis, wife of Ephriam Loomis
Mrs. Esther McBride, wife of James McBride
Mrs. Charlotte Beyea, • wife of Daniel Beyea
and B. W. Dunning

Thus was fulfilled the Prophecy of Isaiah, fourth chapter, first verse, which says, "Seven women shall take hold of one man."

This group interested others in the enterprise and a building was started where the church now stands. Land for the structure was donated by Ephriam Loomis. A high hill had to be taken down, and the building was completed in 1856. The first preacher in the new church was Rev. T. D. Wood. The first pastor to be installed was the Rev. William Betts in 1862.

At about this time, previous to the building of the first schoolhouse, the District School, as it was called, was held in the basement of the Presbyterian Church for three years. Among the students who attended there were Joel Northrup, Joe Fields, John Fields, John Carwithin, and Horton Easton.

The Rev. Betts served the church until 1865. He was followed by the Revs. Farries, Craig, Service, Queen, Diven, Taylor, and Klasse.

In 1899 the project of the union with the Mt. Hope Church was begun. At that time it was voted that Otisville pay two-thirds of the pastor's salary and Mt. Hope one-third and each receive his services in the proportion. At that time the minister's salary was \$600.

In 1905 the finances of the church were very low. Two woman (Grace Boyd and Lulu Northup) were given authority to canvas the congregation for funds to meet the financial needs of the church. Their efforts were successful. In 1907 the Rev. John S. Laing became the pastor and it was soon decided to carry on without the financial aid of the Mt. Hope Church.

By 1910 there was a membership of 111 and a Sunday School that numbered 112. In 1914 the Christian Endeavor Society had 70 members.

In the year 1914 Rev. Mr. Laing asked to be released from his labors in Otisville. After that came a succession of supplies and pastors among whom were Revs. Luther Plumer, Lewis Evans, and Grant Sension. In 1920 Rev. Edward Musselman took up the task. He remained three years. Then in 1924, Rev. Mr. Laing returned as pastor and continued to serve for seventeen years. In 1924 a kitchen was added to the church and since then has been well furnished with modern equipment and conveniences.

In 1932 the First Presbyterian Church of Mt. Hope consolidated with the First Presbyterian Church of Otisville. Since then it is known as the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church. The old edifice at Mt. Hope was sold to the Otisville Grange in 1934. In 1941 Rev. Laing's wish to retire was granted.

During the following summer the pulpit was supplied by various persons. In the fall of 1 941 the Rev. Merrill R. Nelson took over the pastoral duties. He remained for only one year and was succeeded by Rev. Victor Alfsen. After a short stay he, also left to take up mission work in Alaska. At this time Rev. Mr. Nelson returned and an arrangement was made with The Howells Congregational Church whereby they would share the services of our pastor. Mr. Nelson remained for one and one-half years and then departed for Minnesota to work in the Home Mission Field. At this time the title of Pastor Emeritus was centered on Rev. John S. Laing in appreciation of his long and faithful service in the Church.

In 1946 came the Rev. David R. Kennedy. He remained until 1951, serving our church and Howells Congregational, as well.

After the departure of Mr. Kennedy an agreement was made to have union services with the Otisville Methodist Church, alternating the services in the two churches. Rev. Robert Bowering, the Methodist pastor, cooperated willingly until 1952 when he was transferred by the Methodist Conference to another field.

In 1953 the Rev. Lary B. Small was appointed as acting pastor of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Church by Hudson Presbytery. He has conducted the spiritual life of the church efficiently and with marked success. All organizations of the church are flourishing and its membership is increasing.

Indeed, our church has progressed a long way in the past one hundred years, and with the help of Almighty God and the continued determination and faith of us all, we believe it will continue to be an inspiration and help to the community for many years to come.



Rev. John Laing and Rev. Lary Small at the Centennial Celebration,

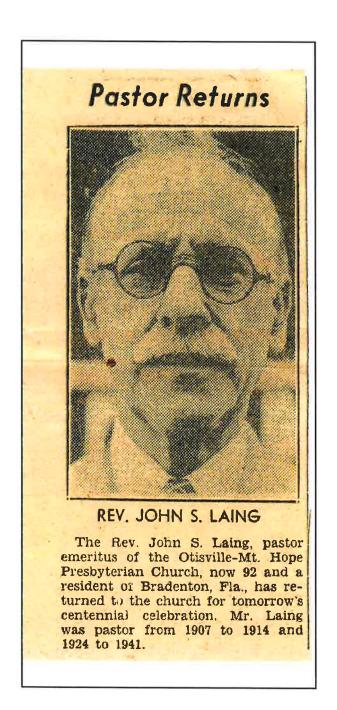
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After the reception following last Sunday's service, motion picture films of the church and Otisville residents were shown by Mrs. Carl Mitchell.

Centennial guests this week have been Mrs. Hattie J. Tate, with her daughter and son, of Brooklyn; Mrs. J. Van W. Smith, visiting with her sister, Miss Lydia Wade; Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Parsells and daughter, Lynn; Mr. and Mrs. William Weinberg of Sayville, N.; Mr. and Mrs. Blake Newkirk of Newburgh; Mr. and Mrs. John Kump and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Turfler of New York City; and Mrs. Ira Smith and son of Monroe.

The Rey. John Laing, the church's pastor emeritus, of Bradenton. Fla., with Mrs. Laing, are staying with their daughter, Mrs. Jean Mitchell.



Otisville Church Memorials Are **Bedicated Sunday**

The Otisville - Mt Hope Presbyterion Church had at the 11 o'clock Sunday morning service a dedication ceremony. A new communion table was dedicated in honor of all those who served in the late war, as a memorial from the church subscribers, a cross in memory of Anthony George, by his wife, Eva George, and the Baptismal Font given by Ray Glass in memory of bits wife, both deceased having passed away within the past year. Mr. Glass is now a Port Jervis resident with business affiliations in New York.

The pastor the Rev. Larry B. Small, conducted the ceremonies with responses by the congrega-

tion.

Mr. Small in making a plea leading up to the coming 100th anniversary of the church, that the regular attendance at church services be doubled by then. With every member bringing in another this can be done. Also the paster asks if it is too much to ask of anyone to spend one hour a week at the church for worship when we all have so many blessings bestowed on us week in and out.



From the Middletown Tilmes-Herald, Sept. 9, 1955

Otisville Church Honors Members For Long Service

Special recognition for long service to the church was made to some of its easier communicatita at a buffet distance following the final contential service of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church Sunder marriag.

day marring.

American Feauly roses were pregented as a teaen of appreciation
to Mr. and Mn. Henry A. Holley,
for the leagest continuous active
membership of both husband and
wife — nearly 60 years cach; to
Mr. and Mr. Stanton Rockwell,
hip for 55 years have regularly
prepared the Communion service,
and to Mr. Kackwell as the oldest
iving Elder; to Mrs. Grace House
for 35 years service as church orcented and to lets. Laura Patterlien, who at the age of 30 is still
aerwing as church treasurer, memher of the board of trustees, and
bescher in the Eunday School.

serving as charted treasurer, mentileve of the board of trustees, and
learner in the Euroday School.

Honorable mention was made
amount charman of the 190th annicerary committee. Mrs. Shirley
Smarille and Mrs. Harriet Francisco, co-chaumen of the ansiverary sources formal; and Mrs.
Frank Writer and Mrs. Ronald
Walter who were responsible for
tice anniversary dinner which followed the service and for the

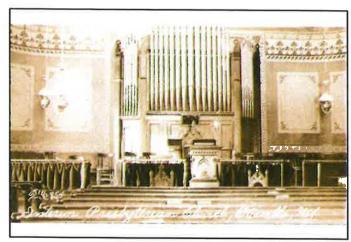
Walker, who were responsible for the anniversary dinner which followed the service and for the trucheon the previous Sunday.

Paster Receives Gift

The Rev. Lary B. Small, postor,
was presented a piece of luggage by the congregation in appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the centernial.

The church was filled to overflowing with residents and homecoming members from as far as Ohto Piccida and California. The Per David & Machines, executive of the Synand of New York Prebytery, delivered the sermon. A synopsis of the church's hist-

A synopsis of the church's history and his own ministry was given at the dinner by the Rev. John S. Laing, who at the age of 92 traveled from Ferika to be present. The Wumen's Association of the church prepared and served the dinner. The centennial closed with the singing of stongs and hystoms.

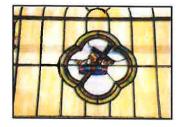


Interior of Otisville Presbyterian c. 1900



View from across Main Street Note the two entry doors.

The sanctuary had a balcony.

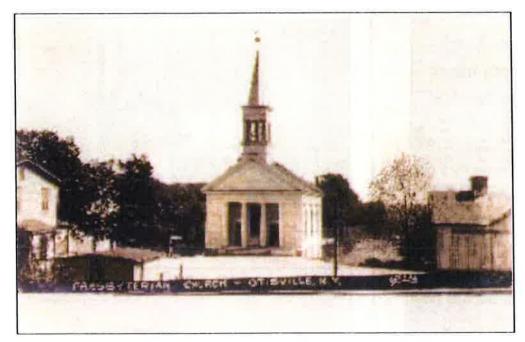




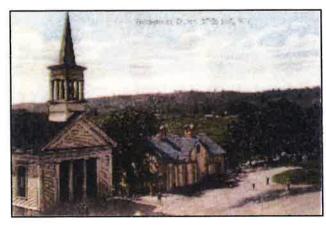
Before electricity, the original windows were clear glass.







This photo was taken from the top of a railroad car.

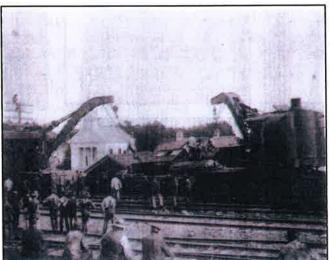


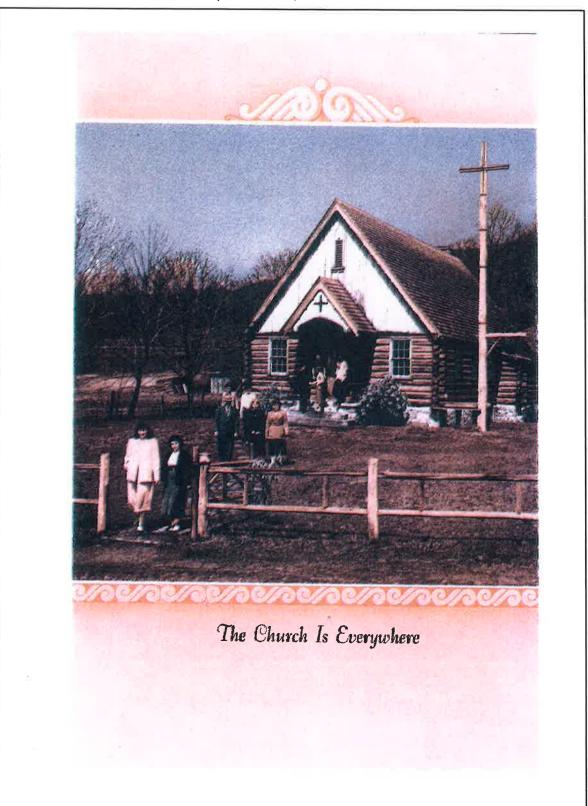
The church was built on property donated by Ephraim Loomis. The building was completed in 1856. Loomis' barn in the photo was destroyed by a fire and rebuilt. This barn collapsed under heavy snow after the Church Centennial.

BELOW: a locomotive derailment just above the church's Main St. parking lot

Carriages could drop off worshippers at the door.







ONE HUNDREDTH AT NIVERSARY SERVICE OTISVILLE - HT. HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 11, 1955, 11 A. M.

GUEST OF HONOR

Rev. John S. Laing, Pastor 1907 - 1914; 1924 - 1941

"Holy Hour" Organ Prelude Call to Worship, Invocation, Lord's Prayer Hymn 11 "Come, Ye That Love the Lord" Responsive Reading 524 Cloria Patri Rev. Robert Bowering Scripture Reading Rev. John S. Laing Prayer Choral Response "Lift up Your Heads" Emerson An hem "Quietude" Mallard Offertory Doxology "Now Thank We All Our God" Hymn 424 The Rev. David R. Kennedy ermon Pastor 1946 - 1951 "Faith of Our Fathers" Hymn 219 Benediction (Congregation Seated) Choral Amen Organ Postlude "Exalt His Name" Cooke

Pollowing the service, reception down-stairs.

NOTICES

Memorial flowers have been given today as follows:

In memory of Louise Corwin, by her sister, Krs. Sylvia Butzgy.

In memory of Mrs. E. L. Walker, and Mrs. Kenneth Walker, by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Yos-

In memory of Mrs.E. L. Walker, by her husband and family.

The Pulpit Scarf and Bible Markers being used for the first time today, have been given by Edna and Fred Crandall, Cpl. Harold L. Benton, and Ramon Benton, in memory of Harold L. Benton Sr., and Richard J. Benton.

Following the service today, all are invited downstairs for an hour of fellowship and a bite to eat.

The second Centennial Service will be held next Sunday at 11 A. M. The preacher will be Rev. David R. MacInnes, Executive of the Synod of New York. A buffet luncheon will be served downstairs after the service. We hope you will come back next Sunday.

Our Dwelling Place

OMEWHERE we must come to rest. Our fearful and feverish spirits, buffeted and bewildcred, must find a home. Sidney Lanier, in From the Marshes of Glynn, declares:

As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery sod, Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness of God. . . .

In the early part of the last century a young man wandered at sunset one day among the Massachusetts hills, lonely and fearful of the future. He had just left home to find work in his chosen profession. Suddenly against the crimson sky he sees a lonely bird, winging its solitary way southward. He watches it till it is gone. But the moment is not gone. For William Cullen Bryant this instant became a guidepost for life. If an unseen power would guide a lonely bird, it most certainly would lead him too. You recall these lines from To a Waterlow!

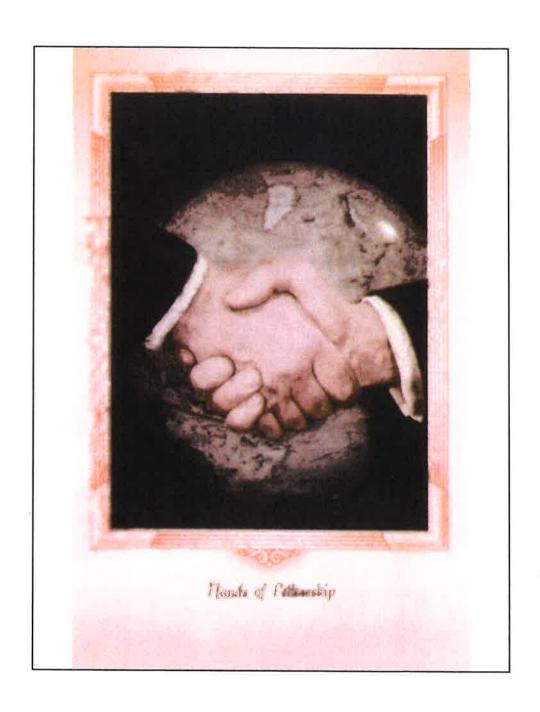
He who, from zone to zone, Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight, In the long way that I must tread alone Will lead my steps aright.

Centuries ago the Psalmist in the ninetieth Psalm reassured himself and his people, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

Every Sabbath millions of people wend their way to a village church, a wayside chapel, a soaring temple, to hear the words of eternal life and to meet Him who is the Living Word. They go to find rest for their souls, a home for their spirits, an abiding dwelling place.

We come to Him who reassures us, "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest."

Na. 5904. Litha in U.S.A



ONE HUNDREDTH APPLICABLE SERVICE

OFISVILLE - MT. HOPE P RESTTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, September 18, 1985, 11 A. M.

Roy. Lary Baker Small

Linister Organia

Organ Prelude Andente Religioso Stults Call to Worship, Invocation, Lord's Preyer Hymn 47 "Our God, Our Help" Responsive Reading 531 Gloria Patri Seripture Reading | Bov. John S. Leing Er. Leing Prayer Choral Response Anthem - I Will Lift Up Mine Byes Lens Offertory Be Thou My Stay Doxology
Hymn 57 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Phee"
Sermon The Rev. David S. MacInnes
Executive of the Synod of New York
Anthem The Lord is Good Dale
Hymn 140 "The Church's One Foundation" Esnediction (Con regation Seated) Choral Amen Organ Postlude Bacred Memories Hayser

Buffet dinner and social hour downstairs after the service, to which all are invited Meny of the floral pieces today have been given in memory of loved ones departed, or in honor of loved ones still living. They are as follows:

By the Fatterson children, in memory of their father, Horace Patterson, and in honor of their mother, Laura Patterson ess By Clifford and Amelia Farsells, in honor of their mother, Lulu Parsells ass By Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bronner, in memory of their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bronner Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cross ess By Mrs. Fred Newkirk and family, in memory of Mrs. Newkirk's husband, Mr. Fred Newkirk ses By Mr. and Frs. Archie House, in memory of Mrs. Nouse's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William House ass By Mr. Broje Osterdahl and Mrs. Doris Osterdahl Runnalls, in memory of Mrs. Osterdahl, wife and mother, and Carl Osterdahl, son and brother ass By Frank J. and Carrie V. Writer, in memory of Mr. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Ella K. Writer's parents, Benjamin H. and Ella K. Writer ass By Mrs. Laura Francisco and family, in memory of Mrs. Francisco's husband, Mr. Mial Francisco and Family, in memory of Mrs. Francisco's husband, Mr. Mial Francisco and Mrs. Walker's parents, George and Anna Miller and By Mrs. John S. Leing of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Jean Doty, in memory of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Andrew Hitchell.

The boquet of red roses have been given by the Wessen's Association, in honor of all the older members of the church

The Restored Fellowship

HE WHOLE world is a scene of his ken follow-keys. More are created in the image of God, to live in fellow-key with each other as children of God. But the family is hadly broken. Nation is pitted against nation, race against race class against class, and even creed against creed. Man, whose most basic distinction has in his being a member of the class of mankind, tends to exaggerate subordinate distinctions and to forget that he is a man.

To restore or heal the broken fellowships of the world is the treest need of the hour.

There are people who believe fear can do it. If nations and people are ideald enough of each other they ought to behave And a race in armaments is out Let us be realistic enough to concede that this may be a cause for peace, for even in a home children may cooperate in the tasks of the household because they fear punishment from their tather. Nations may cooperate in the work of the family of nations because they tear the strength of one member. But at best tear only holds in check; it never cements. Fear only breeds resentments suspicions and at last a reckless bravado, which at any moment may set the world after.

Our Christian faith enters with a revolutionary idea for man's communal life on earth. Men can get together, but only in God. In His sight, we are all of equal and ournal worth. This He confirmed when He gave His only beginten Son, Joses Christ to pay on the Cross the same high print for every one. If we have life with God, through Joses, then the inescapable corollary is that we must seek to restore a tellowship with one another. This is no option which we may reject if we choose, this is the task. And to this task we bring a new and tadical approprial of all men, and in Hun a love for all men. In this newness a fellowship can be restored

Centennial Celebration in the news

Church Centennial Attracts Visitors

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The Rev. John Laing, the church's paster emeritus, of Bradenton, Fla., with Mrs. Laing, are staying with their daughter, Mrs. Jean Mitchell.



Mrs. Grace House, organist



Pastors gather after Anniversary service:

L - R: Rev. John Laing, Rev.Robert Bowering and Rev. Lary Small

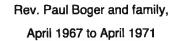


Hostesses: L. (unknown) and Mrs. Lary Small on right.

Pastors through the years



Rev. Victor Alfsen and family, October 1942 - October 1945







Rev. Jacob Klaasse and his family served in Otisville from September 1904 - May 1906









Rev. David Kennedy & family February 1947 - March 1951



Rev. Jim Stuckey at wedding ceremony gives the blessing



Rev. Lary Small, November 1953 - May 1957 Pastor during the 100th Anniversary.



Rev. Merrill Nelson January 1944 to October 1945



