

THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

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*A history, in brief, of the nearly 900 churches
and former churches in Delaware as
located by the Author.*

1947

in the spring of 1946 to take care of the growing school. Grace Baptist Church of Wilmington is the sponsor of this work.

Grace P. E. Church is located one mile north of Talleyville. On Dec. 30, 1835, a meeting was held in Talley's schoolhouse, built in 1806, about one mile east of Perry's Tavern, for the purpose of forming an Episcopalian congregation. On Feb. 20, 1836, the schoolhouse was purchased from Eli Baldwin Talley for \$275.00 and fitted up as a church. It was given the name "Grace P. E. Church." It was consecrated by Bishop H. U. Onderdonk on June 11, 1835. Interest in Grace Church became very low by 1860. In 1861, new life was instilled and the chapel was improved. The old high pulpit was replaced with modern furnishings.

In the fall of 1872, they purchased ten acres of land, north of Talleyville, to be used as a site for a church and a graveyard. On Oct. 1, 1874, the cornerstone of the present stone church was laid by Bishop Alfred Lee. It was opened for worship on July 4, 1875. In 1883, a rectory was presented by a lady friend of the parish. In 1887, the carriage-porch was built and the roof was rebuilt. Horse-sheds were built in 1889.

After major improvements, including the addition of the chancel and sanctuary, a reopening service was held on Sept. 4, 1892, with Bishop Leighton Coleman in charge. He was assisted by the Revs. J. H. Berghaus and R. L. Stevens. A new organ had also been installed.

The parish-house was built in 1928. It was dedicated on Feb. 17, 1929, by Bishop Philip Cook, assisted by the Rev. Charles A. Rantz, the rector. New pews, a desk and other furnishings were dedicated on May 21, 1944. The speaker was Kilsoo Haan, Washington representative of the Sino-Korean Peoples League. New organ chimes were dedicated on Sun., Mar. 30, 1947 by the rector, the Rev. E. H. Ehart, Jr. Mrs. Pearla Morton was at the console. The chimes with an amplifying set were given by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Talley in memory of their son, Staff Sergt. Millard Talley who had served in the Pacific area during World War II.

The church tower was struck by lightning on Wed. eve., Apr. 30, 1947 but there was little damage. The tombstones in the adjoining graveyard date back to 1880.

Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church (M.E.) was organized in 1833, at Rockland. On Mar. 7, 1834, Thomas J. Aldred donated 165 perches of land to Curtis Talley, Charles Talley, Casper Munden, John Frame and Thomas Underwood, trustees. A stone church was built in 1834. In 1876, a fine organ was installed and an addition was made to the library. The building was remodeled in 1888. A heater was installed in 1931. In 1932, memorial windows were installed and a new roof was built. In 1935, the male members pitched in and made substantial improvements to the grounds. The Rev. Walter E. Fosnocht, the pastor, had been the last minister to serve at Edge Moor Church. When this church was torn down, the bell was presented to Mr. Fosnocht who, in turn, presented it to Mt. Lebanon Church. The bell was installed on Sept. 3, 1936. The bell and belfry were dedicated, at an all-day service, on Sept. 13, 1936. In 1937, extensive improvements and refurnishings were made. In 1938, a memorial window was installed by Miss Mary S. Lecarpentier of Rockland. So far as possible the labor for the many improvements from 1935 to 1938 was furnished by the men of Mt. Lebanon. There is a large, enclosed graveyard. The oldest tombstone that the writer could find is that of Ezra Evans who died on Aug. 9, 1836.