

# 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

Manship arranged to hold meetings in the Odd Fellow's Hall at 3rd and King Sts. Mr. Manship met with good success and built up a congregation that decided to finish the church building on Second St. Mr. Manship was a "past master" at raising money for church work and he collected large sums outside of the city. The work of building was resumed and the church was completed after which the first service was held on Oct. 12, 1850. It was dedicated on the morning of Nov. 28, 1850, by Bishop E. S. Janes. He was assisted by the Rev. Henry Slicer, Ass't. Chaplain of the U. S. Senate, of which he became Chaplain on Dec. 7, 1853.

In 1865, it was decided to look for a site for a new church. Lots at 4th and Washington Sts. and 5th and Washington Sts. were considered and the present site at 5th and Washington Sts. was selected and purchased on Mar. 10, 1866, from James L. Devou. The corner-stone was laid on Sat., June 9, 1866, by Bishop E. R. Ames. He was assisted by the Rev. Alfred Scott and the Rev. J. D. Curtis, the pastor. The lecture-room was dedicated on Dec. 23, 1866, at the evening service, by Bishop Ames assisted by Bishop Levi Scott. The morning service was conducted by Bishop Ames and in the afternoon a group of speakers entertained. In spite of inclement weather, large crowds attended all of the services.

The auditorium was dedicated on Nov. 17, 1867, by Bishop Ames. He was assisted by Bishop Scott and the Revs. Mr. England, Mr. Woolston and Mr. Houston.

After a general overhauling and refurnishing a reopening service was held on Mar. 7, 1880, by the Rev. O. W. Scott. In 1896, the Sunday School room was improved and the dwelling adjoining the church on Washington St. was purchased on Jan. 7, 1896 from Samuel A. Price, Jr., for a parsonage. Improvements were made in 1901. After major improvements including 17 new memorial windows a service was held on Sept. 20, 1903. Those taking part included Pres. Elder Robert Watt, and the Revs. J. D. C. Hanna, A. W. Lightbourne and R. H. Adams, the pastor.

Improvements were made in 1905. On Aug. 24, 1915, 507 Washington St. was purchased with the intention of using this property for a parsonage and converting 505 Washington St. into a church-house. Owing to war-time conditions this was postponed. A new pipe-organ was unveiled on May 11, 1919.

During 1925 extensive improvements were made to the church and the property at 505 Washington St. was converted into a church-house. The reopening services started on Sun., Oct. 11, 1925 with the pastor, the Rev. James A. Leach, D.D., in charge. The morning services were conducted by the Rev. J. D. C. Hanna and the Rev. James W. Colona, D.D., preached in the evening. The services continued throughout the following week.

The 95th Anniversary was celebrated with a full week of services starting on Sun., Nov. 1, 1942. Dr. Francis H. Green, of Pennington Seminary spoke at the 3 o'clock exercises. The church had been extensively improved in preparation for this event under the direction of the Rev. T. J. Sard, the pastor.

The 100th Anniversary of the church was celebrated with a full week of services starting on Sun., Apr. 19, 1947 under the direction of the Rev. T. J. Sard, the pastor.

Mt. Salem Methodist Church (M.E.) was organized in 1847, at Riddle's Banks, on the Brandywine Creek. The first meetings were held in the old Lyceum Building. On May 4, 1847, Wm. Law donated a church site "on the road leading from the Kennett Pike to the Bancroft Mills." This was a portion

of the present site at 19th St. and Mt. Salem Lane. The erection of a stone church was started immediately. The dedication services were held on Apr. 23, 1848, by the Rev. Thomas Hodgson. The graveyard across the street from the church was laid out and the oldest tombstone is on the grave of John B. Smith, who died on June 18, 1848. A Sunday School was opened at Riddle's Banks in 1858.

The first church was torn down and a new church was built in 1878. The dedication service was held on Nov. 3, 1878, with Dr. R. L. Dashiell in charge. Bishop Levi Scott was present but very feeble. Among those assisting were the Revs. Alfred T. Scott, Henry Sanderson, John L. Houston and C. F. Sheppard, the pastor. Over the main door there was a stone inscribed "To the memory of James Riddle—he being dead yet speaketh."

This church was destroyed by a fire that started at 2 A. M. on Feb. 2, 1879. Work of rebuilding was started immediately and while the work was in progress, the congregation met in Greenhill Church. The Sunday School met in the Y. M. C. A. Hall at Rising Sun and in Riddle's Chapel.

The new church was dedicated on July 13, 1879 by Dr. John H. Dashiell at the morning service. He was assisted by the Rev. C. F. Sheppard, the pastor. At 8 A. M. a reunion service was held when former pastors were greeted by the congregation. Exercises were held in the afternoon and the Rev. Mr. Dashiell preached again in the evening.

In rebuilding, the tower of the old church was used but the structure was almost entirely new. It was constructed of Brandywine blue rock from Philip P. Tyre's quarry. The pews were ash, trimmed with walnut. There was a recess pulpit. The old altar rail was placed in the lecture room. Mt. Salem Church was interested in missions conducted at Riddle's Banks and at Centerville. In 1893, having been weakened by explosions at the Du Pont Powder Yards on the Brandywine, the steeple was condemned and it was replaced by a frame cupola. On June 9, 1899, Wm. P. Bancroft donated a plot of land to the church. In 1902, the bell presented by the trustees of Riddle's Chapel was placed in the tower.

After extensive renovations, the church was reopened on Sept. 23, 1906, with the Rev. F. L. Carpenter, the pastor, in charge. A love feast was conducted by the Rev. Thomas L. Poulson. At a Sunday School rally speeches were delivered by Pres. Elder A. S. Mowbray and Pres. Elder S. M. Morgan.

In 1917, an addition for a Sunday School was built. It was dedicated on Sun., Oct. 7, 1917. All-day services were held beginning with an old-fashioned class meeting at 9:30 A. M. The morning sermon was delivered by Dist. Supt. Robert Watt. In the afternoon the Sunday School orchestra gave a concert, after which a platform meeting was held. Speeches were made by Mr. Watt, the Rev. T. R. Van Dyke and others. The evening sermon was preached by the Rev. T. R. Van Dyke, former pastor. The dedication was then conducted by the Rev. Wm. E. Habbart assisted by Mr. Van Dyke. A. Edward Rhodes was the architect.

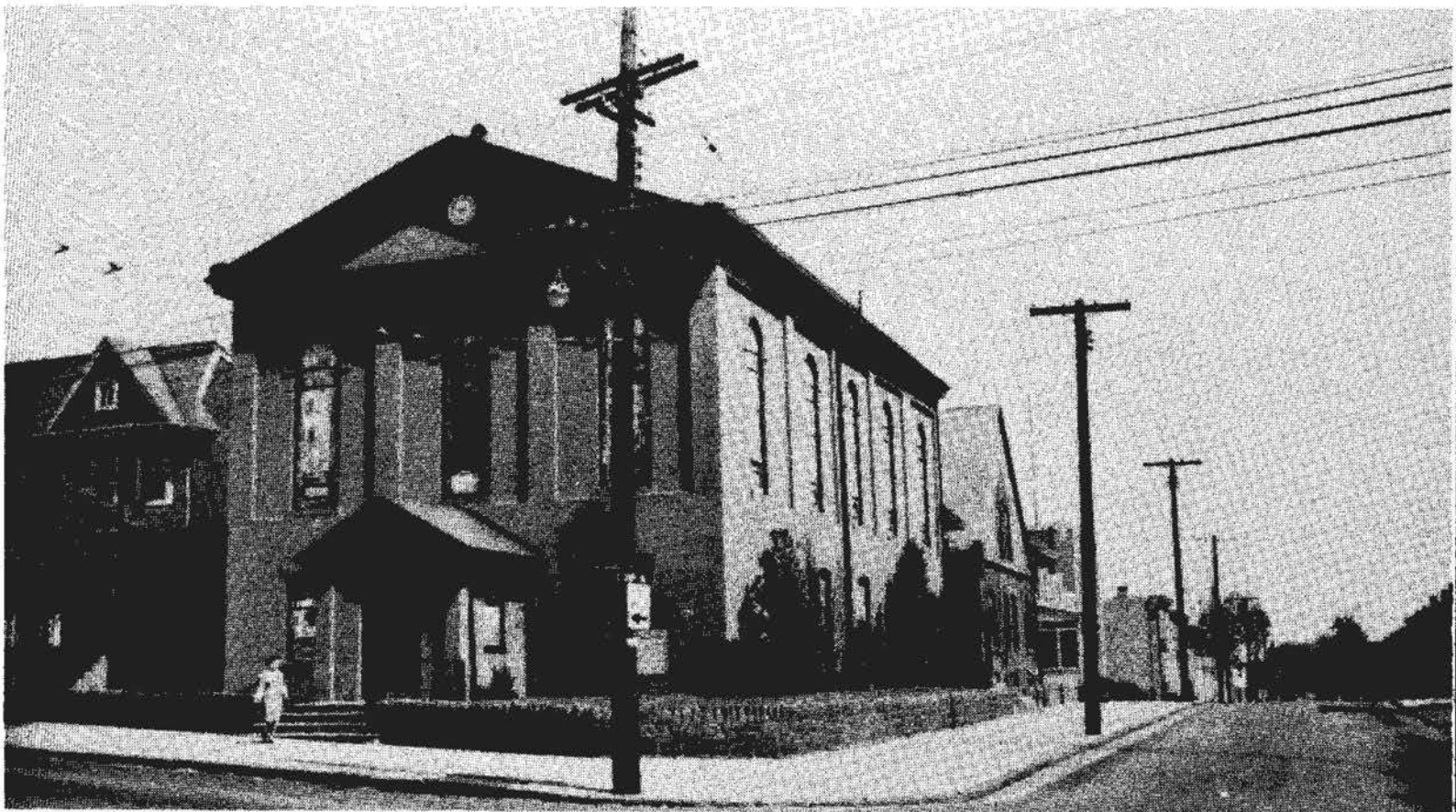
The 75th Anniversary was celebrated with services lasting from Nov. 5 to Nov. 19, 1922.

A new tower was built in 1939. The dedication of the tower was held on Sun., Oct. 29, 1939. The Rev. W. E. Habbart preached in the morning and the Rev. L. E. Windsor in the evening.

Two new flags and a set of stained glass windows were dedicated on Dec. 12, 1943. The Rev. F. D. Milbury, the pastor, was in charge of the services. The speaker was Dr. Samuel L. Hamilton, of the New York University, a former member of Mt. Salem Church.



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