

# THE CHURCHES OF DELAWARE

by

FRANK R. ZEBLEY

Author of "Along the Brandywine"



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

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Ferry." Here, is located the only intrastate ferry in Delaware, under the supervision of the State Highway Department. The ferry is a flat-boat of two-car capacity, powered by an automobile engine. It is guided by a steel cable that sinks to the bed of the river when the ferry has passed. It is operated from sunrise until sunset and there is no charge for crossing.

On Dec. 10, 1832, Isaac and Jacob Cannon donated the site to Canton M. E. Church with the provision that the church would then be built. It was incorporated on May 18, 1833 and again on June 13, 1843.

A new church was erected in 1883. In 1941, it was remodeled and the reopening service was held on Sept. 21, 1941. It has a county-wide reputation for its fine fish-fry and fried-chicken suppers which are served in the social-hall beside the church. In the graveyard there is a walled-in plot of the Nicholson family, the stones of which date back to 1811. This is undoubtedly an instance of a church being built beside a graveyard.

Wallace M. E. Chapel was organized and met in Quinton's School, between Laurel and Cannon's Ferry. They were incorporated on Mar. 4, 1881. No church was ever built.

Mt. Zion Methodist Church (M.E.) is located on the Du Pont Highway three miles north of Laurel. The original church was built on the road to Bethel. The congregation was organized in 1809. On May 19, Matthias and Charles Moore deeded 81 square perches of land at Manlove's Grove to a board of trustees headed by Elzy Moore. The church was built and was called "Elzy Moore's Meeting-House," until 1825, when it was given the name "Wesley Chapel." The building was of frame construction. In 1852, the chapel was torn down and the congregation divided; one group organized Sailor's Bethel at Bethel and the second group organized Mt. Zion Church. For a short time the second group met in a district schoolhouse.

The present church site was donated on Jan. 8, 1853, by Wm. Wheatly. A church was erected during that year. In 1872, the church was extensively repaired. A rededication service was arranged to be held on Nov. 3, 1872, by the Rev. Messrs. Wm. Urie, J. B. Mann and Ridgeway. The church was incorporated on Oct. 31, 1881.

Four acres of land, opposite the church, were secured from Robert T. Spicer on Oct. 4, 1918. The present church was built in 1921 and was dedicated on June 11, 1922. The old church was moved to the opposite side of the road where it is used as a social-hall. There are two graveyards, one to the rear of the church and one north of the social-hall.

Christ Methodist Church (M.P.), at Laurel, was organized in 1831. The first meetings were held in the schoolhouse. The first church was built in 1832 and a graveyard was laid out. It was located on West St., just west of the railroad where the old graveyard can still be seen. The oldest tombstone is that of Susan Townsend, who died on April 28, 1852. The church was dedicated by the Rev. Samuel Rawleigh. It was not plastered until 1841 at which time the benches without backs were replaced with comfortable seats. The church was incorporated on Feb. 4, 1843.

On May 14, 1866, a new church site on Wheat St.—now Central Avenue—was purchased from Geo. B. Phillips. The new church was completed and was dedicated on Nov. 10, 1867, by the Revs. J. J. Murray, R. Semple Rowe and L. W. Bates, D.D. The old church was sold to a negro congregation and moved to a new site. More land beside the old graveyard was purchased on Mar. 4, 1881, from Joshua H. Marvil.