

# 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

**Redden M. E. Chapel.** When Redden was a thriving village a group met in McColley's Chapel, on Jan. 13, 1894, elected trustees and were incorporated as "Redden M. E. Chapel." On Mar. 12, 1894, James A. Evans donated land on the south side of the main street as a church site. The chapel was then built and dedicated. In the meantime, three disastrous fires have almost wiped out the village. Services were abandoned in 1918 and the building finally fell down in ruins. A grove of trees and thick brush are all that remain to mark its former site. At the 1941 Methodist Conference it was decided to sell the site.

**Faith M. P. Church,** located on the old King's Highway, one and three-quarters miles above Redden, was built in 1898. The church was incorporated on Feb. 28, 1900. The one-acre church site was donated on Apr. 11, 1901, by John H. S. Ewell. The church ceased to function in 1930 and stood idle until 1935. It was then rented to a Holiness group who purchased the building in 1938. It is now known as the "Faith Bible Holiness Undenominational Church." After extensive repairs, including a new shingle roof, the church was rededicated on May 21, 1944, by the pastor, the Rev. Robert Nailor. There is a graveyard to the rear of the church, the tombstones dating back to 1899.

**Grace Methodist Church (M.P.)** at Georgetown was the outgrowth of a big revival held in the summer and fall of 1891 at the corner of Race and Edward Sts. A tabernacle was erected and many conversions resulted. The Rev. Louis A. Bennett had been assigned to the pastorate of the rural churches Hebron and Providence with instructions to establish a church at Georgetown. He arrived on the afternoon of Apr. 24, 1891 after a three days' drive by horse and carriage from Kemptown, Md. Diligent inquiry within a few days disclosed that the two rural churches had less than a dozen members and that, in Georgetown there were but two persons who were affiliated with that denomination.

A survey was made which disclosed that some dissention had taken place in Wesley M. E. Church and it took but little persuasion to get some of them to break away. While the tabernacle meetings were in progress plans were made to rent a hall when cold weather should arrive. This hall was located at Cedar St., and Railroad Ave., and was owned by George Christopher Calhoun who conducted a store on the first floor. The church was incorporated on June 27, 1891. Several months later it was decided to build a church.

A site was purchased on the n. w. cor. of Market and King Sts., from Geo. W. Bennum, on Nov. 6, 1891. A frame church was built and given the name "The First M. P. Church of Georgetown." The doors were thrown open to the public for the first time on Sun., Apr. 10, 1892. The dedication services were held on Tues., July 4, 1899. They were conducted by the Revs. L. A. Bennett, D. W. Austine and D. W. Hodges.

During the spring of 1905 a lot was purchased on the s. e. cor. of Market and King Sts., diagonally across from where the church stood. The frame church was moved under the direction of the pastor, the Rev. Howard O. Keen and it was slightly remodeled. On Sun. morning, Nov. 21, 1909, while the congregation was at prayer, fire, from a defective chimney, broke out and the church was destroyed. The second church, built of brick, on the present site was finished in the late spring of 1910. It was dedicated on Sun., July 7, 1918, during the pastorate of the Rev. John T. Bailey. This church was burned between 3 and 4 o'clock on Sun. morning, Feb. 20, 1927, as a result of a severe electrical storm which caused electric light wires to ignite it.

The third church, built of brick, was started on Mar. 28, 1927. The cornerstone was laid on Oct. 27, 1927, by the Rev. M. E. Hungerford, the pastor.



Among the articles placed in the corner-stone was a history of the church written by Oscar S. Wilson, the Associated Press representative in Georgetown. The church was opened for the first time on June 10, 1928. The dedication service was held on Nov. 28, 1943. It was conducted by Dist. Supt. W. A. Hearn, assisted by the Revs. R. W. Sapp, J. Earle Cummings, M. E. Hungerford and Wm. P. Kesmodel, the pastor.

A new electric pipe-organ, with chimes was dedicated on Sun. Sept. 22, 1946, by the Rev. Wm. P. Kesmodel, the pastor. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Dr. T. C. Mulligan, Dist. Supt. The chimes were a memorial to Harold West, Arnold L. Roach, Harry E. Hill and Harold Scott who had lost their lives in World War II.

**St. Paul's P. E. Church** at Georgetown was founded in 1794. It was incorporated on June 21, 1794. Services were held in the Court House prior to the erection of the first church. On Mar. 8, 1797, the Commissioners for laying out the town of Georgetown donated lots No. 102 and No. 103 at Front and Pine Sts., as a church site, the consideration being one cent. The trustees sold this land on Mar. 6, 1805 to Wm. Russell for \$14.00.

On July 23, 1803, four lots at Pine St., and North Lane, were purchased from the estate of Geo. Hazzard, for \$28.50. This is part of the present site. The erection of a frame church was started. On Jan. 15, 1805, the Legislature provided that a lottery could be held to raise \$1500.00 for the purpose of completing the church and enclosing the graveyard. The church was dedicated on St. Paul's Day, 1806, by the rector, the Rev. Hamilton Bell, who is buried beside old Christ Church, east of Laurel. On Feb. 8, 1827, another lottery was authorized but it was not held. The frame church had galleries on three sides, a high pulpit with a sounding board and a clerk's desk in front of the pulpit. The frame church was removed and a brick church was built in 1843-44. It was consecrated on Nov. 19, 1844, by Bishop Alfred Lee.

Early in 1856, during a heavy storm, the roof was blown off and the church was seriously damaged. Rebuilding was started immediately and the reopening service was held on Jan. 11, 1857.

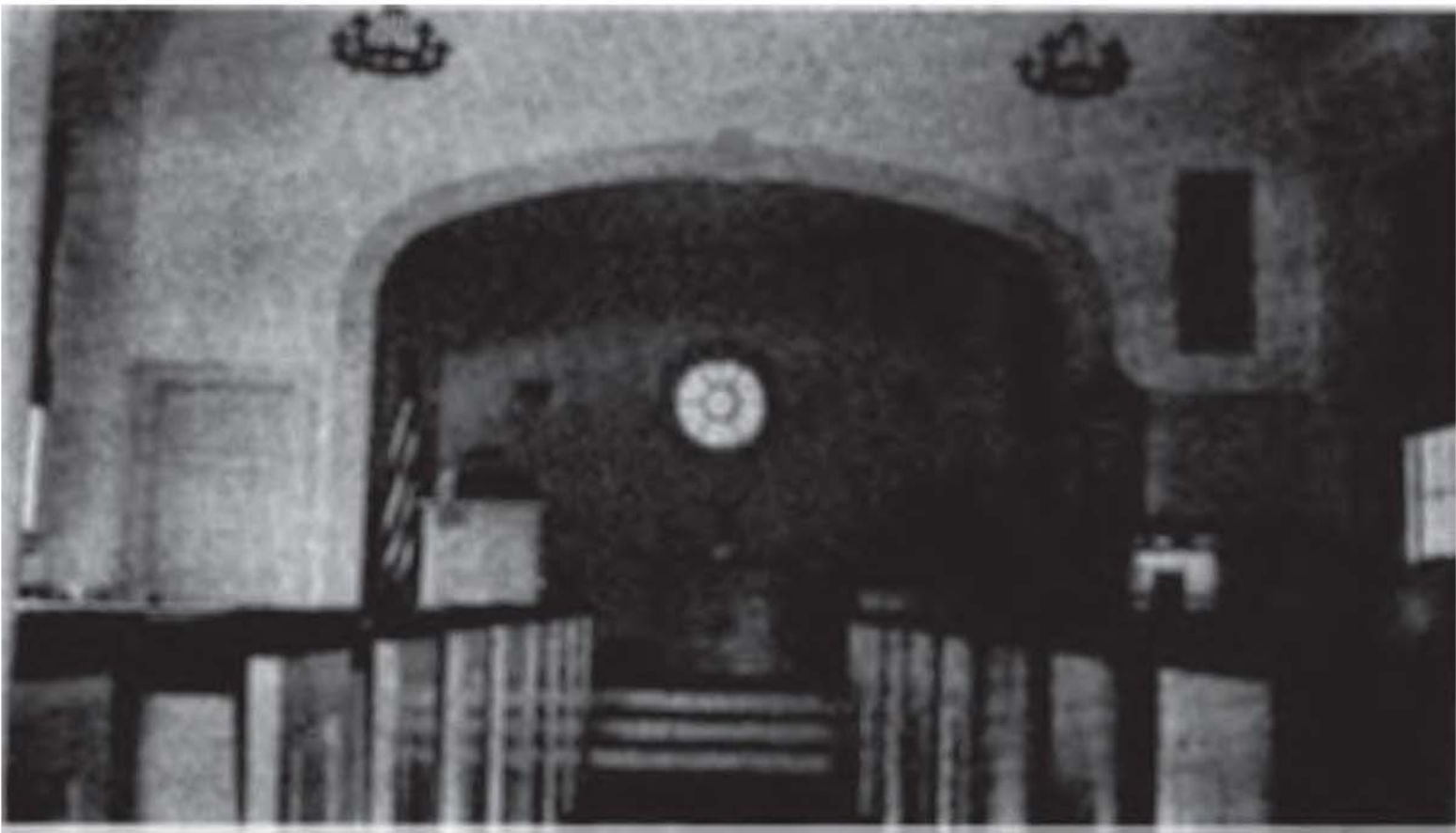
In June, 1865, a new altar and a beautiful lectern were installed. The old lectern was placed outside of the chancel to serve as a pulpit. The church was rebuilt in 1881. The plans were drawn by McKim, Meade and White of New York. This firm was organized on June 21, 1880, and planned a number of famous churches. Stanford White was a member of this firm and Mr. McKim was a cousin of the Rev. J. Leighton McKim. The reopening service was held on Oct. 13, 1881. A frame chapel was built to be used for Sunday School activities.

On Easter Sunday, 1882, a baptismal font was consecrated. It was a gift of former rector, John Linn McKim and friends. The interior of the church was beautified and a pipe-organ was installed in 1886. In 1891, a lot was presented to the church. A credence shelf, in memory of Judge John H. Paynter was received in 1894-95.

On Nov. 6, 1895 Mrs. Elizabeth W. Williams of Middletown presented a farm as a glebe. This 150-acre farm was located at Green Branch on the Georgetown-Laurel Road. A new bell was presented on Jan. 25, 1897, by Captain John S. Atkins. Land on Pine St. was purchased from Hettie A. S. Kollock on June 14, 1897. During that year the parish-house was moved to make room for a rectory. The rectory was completed and a service of benediction was conducted by Bishop Leighton Coleman on Dec. 10, 1897.

In July, 1901, a silver paten, in memory of Miss Martha W. Fooks was presented. A tablet, in memory of the Rev. Benj. J. Douglass, former rector,





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