

Fiftieth Anniversary
of the
Grace Reformed Church
March 11, 1885-1935



March 3 to 10, 1935
CULVER, INDIANA



Rev. HARVEY E. HARSH, Pastor

PASTORS

Rev. Peter Spangler	1885-1886
Rev. N. H. Loose	1886-1888
Rev. Samuel Shaw	1888-1892
Rev. J. W. Barber	1892-1900
Rev. H. N. Smith	1900-1901
Rev. S. E. Klopfenstine	1902-1907
Rev. A. J. Michael	1907-1915
Rev. J. W. Bechtel	1915-1917
Rev. G. P. Fisher	1917-1919
Rev. J. F. Tapy	1920-1925
Rev. C. A. Lang	1926-1931
Rev. Harvey E. Harsh	1932-

CHARTER MEMBERS

John Zechiel	Mary Reed
Rosina Zechiel	Ora Brown
Henry Zechiel	Joseph Benner
Losetta Zechiel	Emline Benner
John Souder	Ezra Blanchard
Matilda Souder	Sarah Blanchard
Oliver Morris	Joseph Bender
Margaret Morris	Mary Bender
David Reed	Elizabeth Behman

FIRST CONSISTORY

Pastor, Peter Spangler

Elders

John Zechiel

David Reed

Deacons

John Souder

Oliver Morris, Sec'y.

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Half century of service to mankind!
And still the steeple stands beneath the sky,
Thrones rise and fall and fashions drop behind,
The Church is all we have that doesn't die.

Now fifty years and still the Church is young,
Still men keep faith and seek the finer things,
Still hymns of faith and praise to God are sung
While time rusts fame, ends power and humbles kings.

Men come and go upon the stream of change,
Through new and old God keeps His place on earth:
Abiding faith! Oh, is that phrase so strange
Since centuries add luster to its worth?

March 10, 1935

Culver, Indiana

Rev. Harvey Harsh, Pastor

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

March 10, 1935

Church School Program.

Robert Rust, Superintendent.

Song Service

"*I Love to Tell the Story*" No. 635 (New Book), 711 (Old Book).

"*Saviour Like a Shepherd Lead Us*" No. 621 (New), 295 (Old).

Prayer—Miss Edna Stahl.

Presentation of Children's Division Superintendents.

Program by Children's Division—Mrs. A. J. Dillon, Superintendent.

Word of Welcome—Richard Jones.

Anniversary Day Greeting—Robert May.

Song, "*True to Our Own*"—Primary Girls.

Reading, "*My Business*"—Merwyn Cromley.

Exercise, "*Little Temples*"—Primary Girls.

Song, "*We Are All Little Builders*"—Children's Division.

Song by Congregation, "*I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of Old*" No. 622 (New), No. 719 (Old).

Interlude, *Im Volkston* (Seifert), *Melody in D* (Ole Bull), *Poem* (Fibich)—Miss Margaret Swanson.

Call to Worship—

Minister: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with thanksgiving. Know ye that the Lord, he is God, it is he that made us and we are his. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.

People: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight. O God, my strength and my Redeemer.

Invocation—Rev. A. H. Zechiel.

Hymn, "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" No. 234 (New), 334 (Old).

Scripture.

Gloria Patri.

Prayer—Rev. J. F. Tapy.

Prayer Response—Choir.

Fiftieth Anniversary Litany.

Anthem, "*Out of the Depths*"—Choir.

Welcoming of New Members.

Consecration Hymn, "*Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken*" No. 374 (New).
514 (Old).

Announcements.

Offering, "*Morning Mood*" (Grieg)—Miss Swanson.

Solo—Chester Zechiel.

Sermon, "*A Venture of Faith*"—Rev. A. J. Michael.

Hymn, "*Break Thou the Bread of Life*" No. 243 (New), 517 (Old).

Holy Communion—

Consecration of Self.

Consecration of Elements.

Distribution of Elements.

Communion Hymn, "*Just as I Am*" No. 263 (New), 166 (Old).

Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Doxology.

Benediction.

Triple Amen.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY LITANY

(Congregation seated with bowed heads)

Minister: For fifty years of ministry of thy word; for the wise and earnest preaching of God's purpose, of the truth that makes men free, and of the way that leads to life everlasting:

People: We thank and adore Thee, Lord.

Minister: For fifty years of opportunity to worship in the heart of this city; for this place of quietness and peace where Thy children have found a Saviour; where the bereaved have found a Comforter; where the lonely have found a Comrade; where the weary have found rest, where the confused have found perfect understanding.

People: We thank and adore Thee, Lord.

Minister: For fifty years of administrations of the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the solemnizing the sacred rite of marriage, the baptism of innocent children and penitent men and women, and for the christian comfort offered at the burial of the dead;

People: We thank and adore Thee, Lord.

Minister: For fifty years of promoting enterprise at home and abroad and for the encouragement and willing support of world-wide evangelism and education;

People: We thank and adore Thee, Lord.

Minister: In humble gratitude to all who have loved and served this church; with hearts made tender by the memory of those who have joined the Church Triumphant; and as a glad and willing offering of thanksgiving and praise;

People: We thank and adore Thee, Lord.

Minister and People: Now, therefore, we, the friends and members of this, Grace Reformed Church of Culver, Indiana, in the presence of Almighty God, conscious of being surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses, grateful for our lofty inheritance and mindful of the sacrifice of the fathers who wrought for us, do re-dedicate ourselves, this church, and all of its appointments, to the worship of God and the service of our fellows, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Sunday Afternoon, March 10, 1935

Fellowship Hour, 2 O'clock.
Song Service Led by Chester Zechiel.
Scripture Lesson.
Prayer.

Special Music by Three Zechiel Brothers } Albert
Henry
Lewis

Greetings from Visiting Pastors.

Music—Men's Quartet.

Sermon, "Prosperity of the Church"—Rev. A. H. Zechiel.

NOTE: Rev. Zechiel will present the same message that he presented at the Dedication of the Church in 1890.

Hymn, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

Benediction.

Sunday Evening, March 10, 1935

Union Service at 7:30.

Prelude, *Souvenir of Antwerp* (Owen)—Miss Margaret Swanson.

Invocation.

Hymn, "Day Is Dying in the West" Church Hymnal No. 27, Church School Hymnal 145.

Anthem, "At Eventide"—Choir.

Scripture Lesson—Rev. Richard Pengilly.

Gloria Patri.

Prayer—Rev. R. L. Haley.

Prayer Response—Choir.

Announcements.

Offering, "The Rosary" (Nevin)—Miss Swanson.

Music, "Sweet Sabbath Eve"—Ladies' Quartet.

Sermon—Rev. J. F. Tapy.

Hymn, "Abide With Me" Church Hymnal No. 25, Church School Hymnal No. 149.

Doxology.

Benediction.

Choral Response.

Note: We are happy to welcome our guests into the fellowship of our services today.

Will you please note that this program contains the different sessions for today; therefore please do not destroy as you will need it in the other services.

The Pastor and Officers of the Church desire at this time to express their appreciation for the hearty co-operation shown them during the planning and preparing for the occasion, as well as the week of observance itself.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rev. Harvey E. Harsh, Pastor

Elders

Deane E. Walker
Conrad C. Mattox
Walter M. Hand
David H. Smith
Jerome Zechiel
John Mitchell

Deacons

Austin Romig
E. V. Parr
Arthur F. Hatten
H. H. Tallman
Henry Henning
Evert B. Hoesel

James Marshall Secretary to Consistory
L. C. Zechiel and Henry Zechiel Elders Emeritus
Jerome Zechiel Delegate Elder to Classis and Synod

Trustees

Henry Zechiel David H. Smith John Mitchell

CHURCH SCHOOL OFFICERS

Superintendent Robert Rust
Assistant Superintendent James Marshall
Primary Superintendent Mrs. A. J. Dillon
Assistant Primary Superintendent Mrs. Henry Henning
Pianist Mrs. Charles Cowen
Assistant Pianist Mrs. Robert Rust
Primary Pianist Margaret Swanson
Assistant Primary Pianist Virginia Loser
Chorister Thelma Smith
Assistant Chorister Sam Long
Home Department Superintendent Mrs. E. V. Parr
Assistant Home Department Superintendent Mrs. W. E. Friend
Cradle Roll Superintendent Mrs. Cleve Crabb
Assistant Cradle Roll Superintendent Mrs. Raymond Mikesell
School Secretary Fern Hawkins
Assistant School Secretary Opal Mikesell
Treasurer John Mitchell
Primary Secretary Max Fechner, Jr.
Assistant Primary Secretary Ruth Pedersen

CHURCH HISTORY

The present Grace Reformed Church of Culver, with its membership of one hundred sixty-four, is an outgrowth of a congregation of eighteen charter members organized on March 11, 1885, as the Marmont Congregation of the Reformed Church. Services were conducted in the Methodist Episcopal Church by the pastor of the Plymouth Charge, who served congregations at Plymouth, Twin Lakes, Jacoby and Zion. Rev. Peter Spangler served one year. Rev. N. H. Loose, the second pastor, served for two years. When the Marmont Charge was organized in 1888 with congregations at Twin Lakes, Marmont, Zion, Delong, and Bruce Lake, Rev. Samuel Shaw was called to be the first pastor of this Charge. It was during the pastorate of Rev. Shaw that the first church was erected in memory of Rosina, wife of John ("Grandpa") Zechiel. The Zechiel family assumed the cost of erecting and enclosing the building ready for lath and plastering and the congregation was to finish and furnish the interior. The corner stone was laid in June, 1890, and about September 1, 1890, the building was formally dedicated to the service of God. D. H. Smith, an Elder at present, was the stone mason who laid the corner stone.

The growth of the congregation was very slow in the earlier years, numbering but twenty-two in January, 1890. During the year 1891, however, the membership was doubled, a group of young people being received during March of that year.

In November, 1892, Rev. Shaw resigned to take up a pastorate in Lone Tree, Iowa. The next year Rev. J. W. Barber and family took up their abode in the parsonage which was just being completed. During the nine-year pastorate of Rev. Barber the congregation was greatly strengthened both spiritually and numerically, especially during 1896-97 when 56 new members were received. Every department of the Church grew and prospered. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the Woman's Missionary Society and Ladies' Aid did excellent work and a general feeling of good will prevailed. Heretofore there had been two elders and two deacons elected one each year for a period of two years; in 1897 an additional elder and deacon were elected and the term extended to three years. (The congregation at the present time—1935—is served by six elders and six deacons.)

From July 1, 1900, to December 16, 1901, Rev. H. N. Smith served the charge very acceptably. Soon after his marriage he resigned to accept a pastorate in the east.

Rev. S. E. Klopfenstine took up the work in January, 1902. He labored faithfully among us as long as his strength permitted. Dur-

ing his pastorate we entertained Classis for the first time. In 1906 the church building was remodeled. Because of ill health, the Pastor found it necessary to resign from the task of leading the people through this unsettled period of history.

Then on March 12, 1907, came young Rev. and Mrs. A. J. Michael and "Baby" Elizabeth, and for eight and a half years they led in all kinds of church activities. During this pastorate the charge was reconstructed and it became possible for us to have services every Sunday evening and on alternate Sunday mornings. The church basement was then fitted for Sunday School and social activities. The annual New Year's dinner was established. The Every Member canvas was introduced as a part of the Church program. A gasoline lighting plant was installed. The charity committee appointed and a fund provided. We entertained Classis for a second time. The Individual Communion set was presented by Mrs. Kate ("Grandma") Hawk. John Zechiel was made a life-long advisory member of the Consistory. Many new members were added to the church during this period of our history. Rev. Michael left us in June, 1915, to take up the work at Freeport, Ill., under the Home Mission Board.

In 1911 one of our boys, Edward E. Zechiel, was graduated from Central Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He received a call from Stoutsville, Ohio, where he began his ministry. He also served at Wadsworth and Akron, Ohio, and is now serving at Louisville, Ohio.

During the months that we were without a pastor the Mid-Week prayer services were conducted by leaders appointed by the Senior Elder.

Rev. John Bechtel came the following October and remained two years. During this pastorate a trial was made of the Combined Sunday School and Church services. New Hymnals were purchased which made our worship more pleasant. The Zion Congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. We paid \$700.00 to the Delong Congregation for their share of the parsonage.

Rev. Bechtel was succeeded in 1917 by Rev. G. P. Fisher, who also served us for a period of two years. On Christmas of that year the Culver Military Academy presented each Sunday School of the township with a gift of \$25.00. On New Year's day the budget system of Church Finance was introduced and pledges taken on a weekly basis. That year a new furnace was installed and the interior of the church decorated. The young people built a tennis court on the lot in the rear of the church.

Rev. Tapy came in time for the Congregational meeting January 1, 1920, and remained until he became the Superintendent of

the Fort Wayne Orphans' Home in June, 1925. On January 12, 1920, Dr. Good presented the forward movement and nearly \$3,000 was subscribed to that cause. We had at that time a membership of 153. Our church building and equipment was valued at \$12,000; the parsonage and grounds at \$3,500. During this ministry the parsonage was remodeled at a cost of \$1,064. The church basement received a new wood floor. A new bulletin board was purchased for in front of the church; and ventilators placed in the ceiling of the church building. Elders Lewis, William and Jacob Zechiel were elected to honorary membership of the Consistory. Classis was again entertained.

In January, 1920, Rev. Tapy served on a committee of realignment of Classis and Synod, at which time the Culver Charge became a part of the Fort Wayne Class of the Synod of the Mid-West. Previous to this time we had been under the jurisdiction of the St. Joseph Classis of the Ohio Synod. One interesting item on record during the year of 1920 is an order for "No Parking" signs to be posted along the hitch racks south of the church as this space is reserved for horses.

Rev. C. A. Lang came to us in January, 1926. During his pastorate the church was re-roofed and re-decorated. He welcomed 54 new members into the fellowship of the church. We entertained Fort Wayne Classis. The deacons presented for 1930 the largest budget in the history of the church, \$4,234.05. Rev. Lang did exceptionally fine work with the children of the church; and the secretary has noted Rev. Lang's Children's services greatly approved by the Consistory. His resignation was accepted on July 15, 1931, at which time he became pastor of the Federated Church near Youngstown, Ohio.

When the present pastor, Rev. Harvey E. Harsh, came to us, he found the difficult task of rallying the forces and reviving the congregation that had been without a pastor for nearly a year. The Consistory and membership have generally given him loyal support and progress has been made along many lines. The members are kept informed of all services through the medium of the Church Visitor which the pastor edits weekly. Every effort is made to increase the attendance at the regular services. On September 11, 1932, the Ladies' Aid Society presented the church with 100 New Reformed Church Hymnals and the Church School with 125 hymnals, "Praise and Song Service".

Last June a great wedding took place in Cleveland, Ohio, when the Reformed Church of the United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America united to form the Evangelical and Re-

formed Church. This union widened our scope of service and activities.

On account of the "depression" greater effort has been required to meet our financial obligations and to respond to the many special appeals that have been presented from time to time. We are facing the future with new hope and consecration to the task of carrying on the Master's work in this place.

Today as we review some of the high points in our church history we pause to pay tribute to the great Head of the Church, to all those who have been called to the Church Triumphant, to the three who have been faithful members of the congregation ever since its organization, to the men who have gone out from us to preach the Gospel in other fields, and to the host of others here and there who have had fellowship with us in the past, and whose lives are being spent in useful service elsewhere.

Especially do we desire to greet and welcome all who in the future shall be added to our number, and share with them the privileges of membership in this church.

CHURCH SCHOOL HISTORY

The Culver Grace Reformed Sunday School was organized between the year 1888 and 1892. As to the actual date there is some contention. Since there are no official records of the beginning, the afore mentioned dates will give some idea as to the origin of the Sunday School.

At the time of its origin, the town of Culver, then Marmont, was without a Bible school. Those that were interested in organizing the new Reformed church with the aid of the Zion Reformed church also conceived the plan of a Sunday School to facilitate the work of the church. The school first met in the Methodist church, moving to their own new building in 1890.

The school was successful from the very beginning due to the enthusiasm and the hard work of the early leaders, especially the charter members of the church. Its good influences were soon felt and it was not long until it became one of the outstanding Sunday Schools in the county.

The enrollment, small at first, grew to more than two hundred by 1908. During the first few years, collections were small. Older members say that the total contributions never ran over seventy-five cents to one dollar. Probably not more than two thousand dollars was taken in during the first twelve years. From 1919 to 1934 our records show that \$13,895.50 was taken in. In the beginning there were no separate classes as we have today. The group was taught

by one teacher, who was usually the Superintendent. Too much credit cannot be given to the early teachers and superintendents for the valuable work they gave to the school.

Grace Reformed Sunday School formed the bulwark of social activities in the community. All the people in the surrounding community had a fundamental interest in the work of the school and its subsidiary organizations. Sunday School picnics, box socials, Bible study groups, occupied the minds of all the individual members. One of the outstanding organizations to be formed out of the Sunday School was the Christian Endeavor, founded about 1891. This was a live group and it did much constructive work during its existence. It owed its very life to the younger people of the Sunday School who appreciated the necessity for the organization.

In 1910 what was known as class six was organized. This was the first class to be organized. During the next few years others classes were organized, which are mentioned elsewhere in this booklet. During this period of organization a forward step was taken by coordinating the Church School under a written constitution. This constitution has served as a guide for continued progress and growth of the school.

Although it is impossible to chronologically record the work and names of leaders, class instructors, choristers, pianists, organists, those who aided in programs, etc., we believe that the superintendents deserve mention. As nearly as we were able to ascertain, the following have served as superintendent of the Sunday School:

Henry Zechiel	Deane Walker
Samuel Ulery	Earl Zechiel
Samuel Buswell	Cecil Smith
Walter Hand	W. E. Friend
Charles Zechiel	David Smith
Albert Stahl	Arthur Hatten

Robert Rust

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

A few years after the church had been enlarged, it became apparent that more room was needed for classes, especially for the primary group. This need was finally met, about the year 1913; by moving the children's classes into the basement where they had their separate opening worship service and their class period. Gradually the equipment was increased, the classes more closely graded, and the Graded Lessons introduced. This children's division, which includes the Cradle Roll, Beginners, Primary and Junior classes, has always joined the main school for the closing service.

It has helped with most of the special programs, such as Chil-

dren's Day, Christmas, and Rally Day that the Church School has given, and has an annual Promotion Day.

The superintendents have been Edna Stahl, Clara Blanchard, Mrs. Austin Romig, Mrs. Grace Wade and Mrs. Arthur Dillon.

CLASS No. 6

1910 marked a new period in the history of Grace Reformed Sunday School when the first organized class was formed. This class was organized under the leadership of Miss Ethel Smith, who is now known as Mrs. E. E. Zechiel, wife of the pastor of Paradise Church in Louisville, Ohio. The class was organized on the 18th of March with ten charter members. The class soon grew to be a large class of interesting boys. The one big activity of this class was their summer camp on the Tippecanoe river some miles south of Culver. A number of these boys have become leaders in various communities.

THE SEARCHERS

"The Searchers," a class of girls, was organized and received a charter from the Inter-Sunday School Association on September 5, 1910, with fourteen charter members.

Mr. Charles Zechiel was our teacher and helped much with organizing and carrying on the work of the class. The group purchased the wall attendance record board and the secretary's table which now stands in the vestibule; and at Christmas, 1912, presented the church with the pulpit Bible that is still in use.

After several years our teacher became superintendent and Mr. I. S. Hahn taught for a time. In 1915 Mrs. G. B. Eisenhard became teacher, continuing for three years during which time the large enrollment created much interest in Sunday School work and social times. About the year 1917 was a busy one for Cupid, for in twelve months, thirteen girls of the class were married, and we were kept busy with showers and parties. Charles Zechiel again became teacher for a time, who was followed by Albert Stahl, who taught several years. Daniel Schueren followed as teacher, until the class united with the present Crescent Class.

WILLING WORKERS

The third class to be organized was a class of women who were organized September 21, 1910, with Henry Zechiel as their teacher. This class had fifteen charter members. The class seems to have carried two names. It was known in the Sunday School as Class No. 10 and also carried the name of "Willing Workers". This organization held its first meeting with Mrs. Anna Pecher. For a number of years the members of this class fellowshiped and worked together. As the ranks of this class grew smaller and the ranks of

Mizpath class also began to decrease, the two united in one class, which carried the name of "Willing Workers". Early in the year, 1933, the Willing Workers class disbanded and united with the "Loyal Women" that they might share the same teacher.

LOYAL WOMEN'S CLASS

On June 20, 1914, fifteen members of Class No. 8 of Grace Reformed Sunday School met at the home of their teacher, Mr. D. H. Smith, to organize the class. This organization was known from that date as the Loyal Women's Class. The first officers were: President, Mrs. John Mitchell; Vice-President, Mrs. Parker; Secretary, Mrs. Della May; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. H. H. Tallman; Treasurer, Miss Edna Stahl. The object of the class is Bible Study, Soul Winning, Christian Culture, Mutual Helpfulness and Extension of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. There were twenty-six charter members and twelve of these are still members of the class organization. They are as follows: Mesdames El-nora Asper, Ada Cromley, Flora Smith, Grace Wade, Blanch Hand, Louise Romig, Clara Gottschalk, Ethel Tallman, Tressa Duddleson, Birdie Hawk, Mary Blanchard, and Olga Mitchell.

During the twenty-one years of history there have been one hundred names on the roll of this organization. The following were the teachers of the class during this period: D. H. Smith, Mrs. E. Parker, Mrs. J. F. Tapy, Mrs. W. G. Brown, A. F. Stahl, Dan Schueren, and Mrs. Minnie Crossland. The class at present is a part of the large Adult class, formed in 1935, of which Deane Walker is the teacher.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. W. G. Brown, Vice-President, Mrs. C. C. Crouch; Secretary, Mrs. Bruce Ogden; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. E. R. Corwin; Treasurer, Mrs. Ola Morrow; Chorister, Mrs. A. M. Romig; Pianist, Mrs. H. H. Tallman.

MIZPATH CLASS

In the record of the Church School we find that on February 26, 1914, a class known as the Mizpath Class was organized. Mrs. Charity Stahl was the first teacher of this class. The number of charter members was fifteen. For some time this class labored faithfully together in the fellowship and service of the Master. When the ranks began to be thinned, the remaining members united with the "Willing Workers".

LOYAL CHRISTIAN WORKERS

On January 23, 1915, a group of young men organized what was known as the "Loyal Christian Workers". Deane Walker was the first teacher. This class has been of profit to the young men of our church. The young men's class that we have in our school today is a continuation of this class.

LOYAL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORS

A class of men known as the "Loyal Christian Endeavors" was organized May 12, 1915, with Walter M. Hand as teacher. This class is still an important factor in our school as from its number come some of our officers and teachers of today. Many times has this class rallied to the call of service. Throughout its twenty years of history this class was served by one teacher, W. M. Hand, until January 1, 1935, when it became a part of the Adult Bible class.

CRESCENT CLASS

On January 26, 1921, the class then taught by Mrs. C. E. Reed met in the home of their teacher, the purpose of the meeting being to organize. The organization was completed with the name "Crescent Class" being selected. As we survey the records of this class we find that they not only have proven as an avenue for fellowship and social times, but at many times have sent liberal gifts to the Orphans' Home and the various places of need. This organization is still functioning as one of the live organizations of our school.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. C. J. Long; Vice-President, Mrs. Wayne Von Ehr; Secretary, Mrs. Lloyd Hawkins; and Treasurer, Miss Edna Stahl. During these years the teachers have been Mrs. C. E. Reed and Deane E. Walker.

YOUNG LADIES' CLASS

A class of young women was organized by Mrs. Crossland, their teacher, in May, 1922. This class met once a month at the home of the girls. In each meeting there was place for devotional service, which was followed by a paper on a subject of interest to young people. A part of the time was spent in a social activity. Names were obtained of girls of like age from the Fort Wayne Orphans' Home and gifts were sent at Christmas time. Many of the class contributed to a "Friendship Chest" for children of other lands. This chest was sponsored by another organization. This class is now being taught by Miss Osie Stahl.

TRI-C CLASS

The Tri-C Class of Grace Reformed Sunday School was organized in October, 1933, at the home of Mrs. Wade, teacher, with twenty-seven young men and young ladies of the Senior High School as members.

The purpose of the organization is to make us better "Christians, Comrades, and Co-workers", and to strive to live a little nearer the meaning of our motto: "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

The Tri-C Class meets each Sabbath morning for Bible Study and on the first Tuesday night of each month for programs, trans-

action of business and social activities. During the short period of organization this class has donated liberally to the Orphans' Home in Fort Wayne and to the Church Budget.

THE THREE L'S

The Loyal, Liberal and Loveable Class was organized in December, 1933, with ten charter members answering to the roll call. They chose as their first officers the following: President, Helen Jean Schweidler, and Secretary, Marion Rose Loser—Mrs. Wayne Von Ehr being their teacher. The class meets monthly in the home of the members. The evening is given to a devotional program and to some social activities. In 1934 two more members were added to our number. The class song is "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us." The members of the class are trying to live up to the name.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AND LADIES' AID

November 2, 1889, marks the beginning of the women's organizations of our church. While Rev. Shaw was our pastor, the ladies of the church met in his home and were organized into a Missionary and Aid Society. Eleven members were enrolled as charter members with Mrs. Shaw as the first president. Only one of these eleven charter members remains with us; namely, Mrs. Ora Menser.

The object of the organization was to create an interest and unite the efforts of the women of the congregation in missionary work, to raise funds for missions and for congregational purposes. The organization grew in numbers and in interest and continued its meeting every two weeks with a good average attendance, doing a large amount of mission work and being of great assistance to their congregation.

In the year of 1918 it was decided to reorganize and to have two distinct organizations, namely, Woman's Missionary Society and Ladies' Aid Society. The Ladies' Aid was organized for the purpose of maintaining the interest of the ladies in the work of raising money for congregational purposes, and continued assistance to their congregation. Every woman who was a member of the church or church school automatically became a member of the Ladies' Aid. During the years of its organization, it has always been of great value to the church of which it is a part.

April 17, of the same year, 1918, thirteen ladies and the pastor met to organize the Missionary Society. The following were the members of this new organization: Mrs. Samuel Buswell, Sr., Mrs. Wilbur Brown, Mrs. Ada Cromley, Mrs. J. E. Dennie, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Walter Hand, Mrs. Ora Menser, Mrs. Charity Stahl, Mrs. Anna Stahl, Mrs. Lawrence Wade, Mrs. Jacob Zechiel, and Mrs. L. C. Zechiel.

Five of the above number have been called by death, namely, Mesdames Buswell, J. Zechiel, L. Zechiel, A. Stahl and C. Stahl. Four of this number are active members today: Mesdames Menser, Hand, Brown and Wade.

During the first year thirty-two names were placed on the roll. The following have served as president of the organization: Mrs. Henry Zechiel, two years; Mrs. Ora Menser, three years; Mrs. J. F. Tapy, two years; Mrs. D. H. Smith, three years; Mrs. W. M. Hand, two years; Mrs. Wilbur Brown, three years; Mrs. Clara Blanchard Gottschalk, one year, and Mrs. Roy McIntire, one year.

GIRLS' MISSIONARY GUILD

The Girls' Missionary Guild of Grace Reformed Church was organized in 1928 under the leadership of Miss Osie Stahl and Mrs. C. A. Lang. The charter members of this organization are as follows: Margaret Swanson, President; Martha Long, Vice-President; Ruth Smeltzer, Secretary; Margaret Swigart, Corresponding Secretary; Daisy Eckman, Treasurer; Bernice McIntire, Doris Menser, Lois Bess Morris, Gene Menser, Margaret Zechiel, and Marjorie Tallman, with Miss Osie Stahl as Counsellor. This group of eleven girls adopted the constitution and by-laws of this organization and from that year on have strived to live up to their motto, "To Live Is to Give".

The first social function of the newly formed organization was in the year, 1929, when, in co-operation with the Zion G. M. G., they acted as hostess to the Fort Wayne Classical meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society and Girls' Missionary Guild. A banquet was served in the church basement which was enjoyed by 160 women and girls. Another function of the guild is the annual Mother and Daughter Banquet at which time the girls entertain their mothers.

This organization has endeavored to do some type of charity work every year and in doing this has sent clothing and toys to the Winnebago Indians, the Orphans' Home at Fort Wayne, to the children in China, and some to our own charity work.

Another function of the guild is to send at least one representative to the Guild camp each summer. They have been able to do this each year since the organization. Each year they hold a joint meeting with the Woman's Missionary organization and also help in the joint Thank Offering service, as well as contributing in the mite boxes. These few mentioned things together with the regular monthly meetings, which are held in the homes of the girls, constitute the activities of the guild. At their monthly meetings a mission book is studied, a devotional period observed and a social time enjoyed.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

On the evening of May 23, 1891, the young people of Grace Reformed Church met for the purpose of organizing a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. This occurred soon after, according to our historian, a large group of young folks had been received into the church. No doubt, a need was felt for some outlet of activity for these new members.

The first officers were: President, Miss Edith Shaw; Vice-President, Miss Amanda Reed; Recording Secretary, Miss Mollie Oyler; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Arthur Castleman; Treasurer, Miss Byrdie Souder.

The object of the organization was to promote an earnest Christian life among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance; and to make them more useful in the service of God.

In the more than a quarter of a century in which this society functioned, this objective has been fulfilled over and over—according to the testimony of many members, who have said that Christian Endeavor has meant so much to them. The young people of other churches were influenced by this society, for we find their names in the records as officers and workers, especially since the meetings were held on Saturday evenings most of the time.

From among our group we note the following, who have entered the gospel ministry: Herbert Garn, in the Christian church, and Ed Zechiel and Otto Zechiel in our own denomination.

The society at various times helped the church materially. Some items recorded are: purchasing the bookcase, paying on the furnace, janitor's salary, song books, organ, missions, and giving \$200.00 toward rebuilding the church.

The society helped in promoting clean and wholesome recreation for the young people.

At the Centennial celebration in August, 1916, C. E. had an attractive float.

A Junior Christian Endeavor Society was organized some time after the Young People's. One of the windows in the re-built church was paid for by the Juniors. This society was active for a number of years, training the boys and girls of the church.

May Montgomery (Holt), an earnest worker in the church, organized the first Junior C. E., and was its efficient superintendent as long as she lived in Culver, after which others carried on the work.

The charter members of the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society were Edith Shaw Kirkpatrick, Arthur Castleman, Mollie Oyler-Holt, Clyde Souder, Birdie Souder-Young, Lilly Davis-Houghton, Delia Snyder-Neidlinger, Gertrude Byrd-VanSchoiack, Ethel

Jones-South, Emma Scates-Green, John Hawk, Harry Davis, Alice Shultz-DeRock, Minnie Armstrong-Dean, Flora Oyler-Smith, Elsie Walter-McKesson, Nellie Garn-Woodward, Ollie Overman, Charles Benner, Leander Easterday, Amanda Reed, Myrtie Shaw-Fisk, Byrdie Snyder-Hawk, Harry Scates, Melvin Scates, Alice Badgley-Good, Ernest Shaw, Ezra Koontz, Mila Jones-Eikler.

HOME DEPARTMENT—CRADLE ROLL

There are two departments of our church schools that have been of much value in the history of the church, but which are not seen by those who attend the church school. These are the Home Department and the Cradle Roll.

The Home Department has served in many instances to bring comfort and cheer to the shut-ins. This department ministers to those who are not able to come to the services in the church by taking them literature and sharing with them in a worship and meditation period. The greatest fruits of this department cannot be found written in a record but in the hearts and memories of those, who, through personal contact, meet the ones who were helped by the service.

The Cradle Roll is a department where the children are first enrolled. Many mothers have appreciated the help rendered them by the leaders of this department. In checking the record books we find that there have been more than one hundred seventy-five names on the roll of this department since it was organized.

This congregation is proud of the fact that, since the organization of Fort Wayne Classis in 1920, one of our number has served as the Treasurer of that organization. W. M. Hand is the only officer of Fort Wayne Classis that has served since the organization of the Classis. Also we learn that for at least ten years before the organization of Fort Wayne Classis W. M. Hand was Treasurer of St. Joseph Classis.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Acknowledgment is made of the sponsorship of this Anniversary Booklet by the G. M. G., which made possible the publication of this valuable historical matter. Appreciation is also expressed to all those who have helped in any way in collecting and writing this historical data.

We note that during the fifty years of history five hundred and twenty-one names have been written on the church records.

Anniversary Program



SUNDAY, MARCH 3. *Charter Members Day.*

Church School at 9:30. Henry Zechiel, the First Superintendent, will be in charge.

Morning Worship at 10:30. Charter Members will be recognized in this service.

Henry Zechiel, Mrs. Sarah Blanchard, and Mrs. Ora Mensex are three of the original eighteen members.

Evening Worship at 7:30. "Glimpses Into the Past."

MONDAY, MARCH 4, AT 7:30.

Program presented by Woman's Missionary Society, Ladies' Aid and Girls' Missionary Guild.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, AT 7:30.

Sermon by Rev. E. E. Zechiel, of Louisville, Ohio, who is a son of the Congregation.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, AT 7:30.

Program presented by Church School giving points of interest from the past.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, AT 7:30.

Sermon by Rev. H. N. Smith, of Carrollton, Ohio.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, AT 7:30.

Sermon by Rev. R. S. Mathes, of Goshen, Ind., who is President of Fort Wayne Classis.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10.

Combined program in forenoon beginning at 9:30 a. m.

Program by Children.

Welcoming of New Members

Sermon by Rev. A. J. Michael, Maywood, Ill.

Holy Communion Service.

Fellowship Meal at Noon.

Fellowship Hour at 2:00 p. m.

Union Service at 7:30.

Sermon by Rev. J. F. Tapy, Fort Wayne, Ind.