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6

Central Presbyterian Church

WASHINGTON, D. C.

—

R. V.

A DISCOURSE,

BY REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D., PASTOR.

—

. DELIVERED JANUARY 18, 1880.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
J. F. SHEIRY, PRINTER, 307 SEVENTH STREET, NORTHWEST.
1880.

OFFICIAL.



At a meeting of the Session of the Central Presbyterian Church, held on Wednesday evening, February 4th, 1880, the following action was taken.

Resolved: That the Pastor of this church be requested to furnish, for publication, the Historical Discourse delivered by him January 18th; and that a Directory of the church be printed as an appendix to it.

True extract from the Records.

J. V. A. SHIELDS, Clerk.

A DISCOURSE.

BY REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D.

"For the LORD thy God hath blessed thee in all the works of thy hand : He knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness : these forty years the LORD thy God *hath been* with thee ; thou hast lacked nothing."—*Deuteronomy 11, 7.*

As this is the only church in this city connected with what is known as the Southern General Assembly, I begin this discourse with a brief allusion to the division of the Presbyterian Church.

If the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church had not adopted the famous "Spring Resolutions," in May, 1861, and if the Presbyteries in the Southern States had not in the summer and fall of that same eventful year withdrawn from the jurisdiction of that Assembly, there can be no doubt that the war between the states, that raged with so much vigor and fierceness for four long and dreary years, would have necessitated a practical division of the old Presbyterian Church.

That war ceased in April, 1865, and in the month following the General Assembly (North) met in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Unfortunately for the cause of Christian peace, that body made no effort to heal the division in the Presbyterian Church; but, with great unanimity and earnestness, adopted the following resolutions:

"The General Assembly exhorts its Presbyteries, in the event that any of the ministers of the rebel states, sharing

in the guilt of treason, shall apply for admission into these Presbyteries, not to admit them, or in any way to recognize them as ambassadors of the Cross of Christ, until they gave satisfactory evidence of their repentance of this sin."

"Private members of the church in the Southern States applying for membership, shall not be admitted to the communion of the church until they give evidence of repentance for their sin, and renounce their error."

Many earnest-minded and devoted Presbyterians in the communion of that Assembly were startled and shocked by these enactments, and felt that the Assembly, transcending its constitutional and Scriptural functions, had virtually established a new term of fellowship—and that a political or civil one—in the Church of God.

On the first page of the records of this church, written under authority of the Session, and by a "vanished hand," are these words:

"It is our love for the truth, and the simple, Scriptural worship of God, that has compelled us to forsake the old church of our fathers, endeared to us by the tenderest and strongest ties and associations."

This vindication of the motives of those first interested in this enterprise is a debt which I should not fail thus to discharge. And so it was when I reached Washington, in January, 1868, I found that these persons had been carefully and prayerfully considering the practicability of organizing a church in which all Presbyterian Christians, of whatever locality, party, or persuasion, "might find a church home, hear a pure Gospel, and worship in spirit and in truth."

And just here, before leaving this line of thought, let me say, in all sincerity, this church was not originated in any antagonism to any of the churches of this city; it did not come to create strife, nor to stir up passion, nor to perpetuate party feeling, nor to embitter sectional an-

imosities: it came to preach the Gospel, and to know no man after the flesh.

Just before the church was organized, Rev. Dr. P. D. GURLEY—who was for years a faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ in this city, building up, filling and crowding the New York Avenue Church, holding that large and important pastoral charge together during all the exciting and trying times and scenes of the civil war, turning over to his successor the largest and most important congregation in Washington—this representative Presbyterian Minister said to one of the movers in this matter: “You have done right; this is a good move, and I am glad of it. Doubtless it will save to Presbyterianism many who would have gone to other churches. I wish you God speed in building up a pure Gospel church.”

The General Assembly (North) at its meeting in Baltimore, in 1873, with full knowledge of the Pittsburgh resolutions, unanimously declared: “That all action touching the brethren of the Southern Assembly has been, since the re-union, null and void; and we have confidence in the Christian character of these brethren.” And it is a noteworthy fact that the first official response to this deliverance of the Baltimore Assembly was made by the Session of this church in an overture to the Presbytery of Chesapeake.

I have alluded to these facts—not for the purpose of controversy, but just the opposite—to show that there has never been any strife between us and our sister Presbyterian churches, but the most cordial relations of Christian co-operation and communion. As I now remember, I have been invited to preach or speak in all the Presbyterian churches of the city; and, on the other hand, all the Presbyterian pastors have been invited to preach or speak in this church. And to-day, speaking for myself and this Session, we desire the closest Christian fellowship with them all.

THE FIRST SERVICE.

In January, 1868, a few Christians—not twelve in all—after earnest prayer to God for guidance, determined on an appointment for public worship, January 19th, at which I was invited to officiate, to be held in the Columbia Law Building, Fifth Street, between D and E, northwest, the monthly rental of which was guaranteed by an old and valued friend, (General THOMAS EWING,) who also gave one hundred dollars toward the support of the minister, and whose family has ever been most active in forwarding in every way the interests of this church.

This building had been the old Triunity Church, and used as such until the completion of their present edifice at the corner of C and Third Streets. After its purchase by Columbia College it served as a temporary worshiping place and home for the Calvary Baptist Church until the erection of their present edifice; and then for the Congregational Church until they took possession of their commodious structure corner of G and Tenth Streets, northwest, in 1867 or 1868.

The little congregation that assembled the afternoon of that third Sabbath in January, 1868, was not a secession of wealthy and influential members from some other church; nor was it a colony sent forth with abundance of funds and cordial good will by some strong loving mother church; it was only a handful of scattered Christians from various parts of the city, deeply interested in the Gospel of our Lord, desirous of doing His will and earnestly praying for His guidance and blessing. Then, there was no organization, no Session, no Elder, no Deacon, no Sabbath School, no Ladies' Society—not a dollar, nor a brick, nor a foot of ground for a house of worship.

To that little company of believers then gathered in that "upper room," the way, so far as human help was

concerned, did indeed seem dark, and even closed up. But the Son of Man was there, and light came down from the Shekinah Glory, and the voice of our Lord was heard: "This is the way, walk ye in it." Nor were we disobedient to the Heavenly Vision, but in the strength of our God determined to go forward.

A Sabbath School was organized; books were procured; a weekly lecture appointed; two Sabbath services were held, and after five months the way was clear for the organization of a church.

THE CHURCH ORGANIZED.

On the last Sabbath of May, the 31st, 1868, after an able and appropriate sermon by Rev. Dr. T. V. MOORE, of Richmond, Va., Moderator of the General Assembly, South, the following persons were organized, by Rev. A. W. PITZER, into the CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, with Gen. Jno. M. McCALLA and Dr. O. M. MUNCASTER as Ruling Elders:

Mrs. SUSAN M. BURCH,	Mrs. E. J. NOURSE,
Dr. BEDFORD BROWN,	Mr. C. H. NOURSE,
Mrs. MARY E. BROWN,	Miss M. R. NOURSE,
Mr. WM. G. BUSEY,	Mrs. LAURA PITZER,
Mrs. ELIZABETH BUSEY,	Mrs. RACHEL A. POLKINHORN,
Miss MARY E. COYLE,	Mr. L. J. ROTHROCK,
Miss LAURA V. COYLE,	Mrs. MARIA H. SPEER,
Mr. JNO. GALT,	Mr. ALEX. SPEER,
Mrs. SARAH M. HOLCOMB,	Mrs. OLIVIA L. SMITH,
Miss REBECCA HARMON,	Mrs. E. A. SHILLINGTON,
Mrs. ELIZABETH KINSEY,	Mr. J. C. WHITWELL,
Miss ELLA KINSEY,	Mrs. M. S. WHITWELL,
Mrs. JANE S. MILLER,	Mrs. JANE WADE,
	Miss EMMA WADE.

Twenty-seven members and two Ruling Elders; with the Minister, thirty persons in all.

Almost as soon as the church had a life and a name the thoughts of the people were directed towards securing funds for the purchase of a lot and the erection of a house of worship.

BEGINNING OF THE BUILDING FUND.

Last week in preparing this discourse, I took up, with feelings of the deepest interest, the little red morocco book in which our treasurer kept our accounts for the first three years of our existence. Under the head of Building Fund, page 80, date June 14, 1868, I find this entry: \$13.06. It was the first collection made from two little boxes, labeled "For the Building Fund," and placed near the door of our place of worship—two little boxes made by the hands of one who loved this church, and now placed near that door; and now, as always, dear to my heart.

These little collections varying from forty-two cents to twelve dollars were made each week through those boxes, from June 14, until they aggregated \$118.07, at the close of 1868. On the 9th of February, 1869, two donations were received from MRS. ELLEN ADAIR BEATTY, one of \$335, the other, in gold, of \$125. Later, this same devoted member gave valuable pictures, silver plate, and jewelry, to be sold for the benefit of the church, (the proceeds of which, added to the \$460 above, made nearly two thousand dollars;) also a silver vase from which our present handsome communion service was made. Others with equal love brought gifts, large and small, and the boxes yielded up their contents each week, and thus the Building Fund continued to grow

By November, 1871, a sum had been accumulated suf-

ficient to justify further action ; and at a congregational meeting held on the 12th of November, a committee, consisting of three good business men, was appointed to consider and report upon the subject of a church site. This committee reported, recommending the purchase of a lot corner of I and Third Streets, northwest, known as the Williams lot. After full and prayerful consideration of the subject, the congregation, on the 22d of November, unanimously resolved :

“ That the Session be, and are hereby, authorized to purchase the lot recommended by the committee, provided not less than \$5,000 be paid in cash. * * * * And further, that the Session be authorized to proceed with the erection of a house of worship ; provided no contract for the same be closed until at least three-fourths of the money necessary to erect said house shall be paid into the treasury.”

The reasons actuating the committee and congregation in the selection of the site were these, viz: First, the lot was within fifteen minutes walk, by actual experiment, of a large majority of the congregation. Second, it was a part of the city greatly in need of a Presbyterian Church ; more so, perhaps, than any other portion. Third, it was a beautiful and most rapidly improving section of the city. The great transformation of Washington by the Board of Public Works had then just begun.

LOCATION SELECTED AND LOT PURCHASED.

On the 1st of December, 1871, the Session as above authorized, purchased of JAMES M. CUTTS, ROBERT WILLIAMS, and ADELA WILLIAMS, his wife, a lot at the corner of I and Third Streets, northwest, fronting fifty-eight feet on I Street and one hundred and forty feet on Third Street, for the sum of \$8,676.80 ; of which amount \$5,000 was paid in cash, and the Session, acting as trustees for the church,

gave six notes, one falling due each year, for the remainder. These notes have all been paid promptly as they became due. The church was paying between five and six hundred dollars rent for the Law Building each year; and it seemed far wiser to incur the obligation of an annual note of about six hundred dollars, and possess a house and lot of our own, than to continue paying a like sum for rent indefinitely.

After this purchase, energetic efforts were made to procure funds for the erection of this chapel. Members of this church, liberal and loving friends of other churches and communions, public spirited citizens, and some strangers from a distance, contributed freely, and some most generously; and our two churches in Baltimore, Franklin Street and Franklin Square, encouraged by the example and words of their pastors, Drs. MURKLAND and LEFEVRE, contributed \$600.

CHAPEL COMPLETED AND DEDICATED.

The contract for the erection of the chapel was signed on the 24th of June, 1872. Ground was broken July 2d; the first stone was laid July 15th; the house was completed January 4th, 1873; the first sermon preached in it January 5th; and the dedication took place January 19th, 1873—five years, to the day, since the first service in the Law Building.

The size of the chapel is 36x58 feet, and will hold three hundred and fifty persons with comfort, and four hundred with crowding. Its total cost, with furniture, (including the carpet, the gift of the children,) was \$8,000—all of which was paid, to the day, long ago. And just here let it be said, that in twelve years, no person with whom this church has had business transactions, has had to wait five minutes for his money, after it was due; and

every dollar, as the treasurer's books will show, has been properly accounted for and audited.

It was a day of devout thanksgiving and joy when we took possession of our new, tasteful and comfortable church home, and knew that God had crowned our labors and toils with abundant success and His richest blessing.

In less than two months, the size of the congregation had more than doubled; showing that enlarged and more comfortable accommodations will very generally lead to increased attendance upon the services of the sanctuary.

The increase of our membership has been at the rate of sixteen per year—more than double the annual average increase of the Presbyterian Churches; and with removals, dismissals, and deaths, our present communing membership is one hundred and thirty.

Of the twenty-nine original members, six have been dismissed to other churches; eight have joined the General Assembly and Church of the First-Born in Heaven; and fifteen still remain upon our roll.

And I am sure that no one will think it otherwise than eminently proper, that I here record the official testimony borne by the Session, and spread upon its minutes, to three of those who are not with us to-day. I allude to Elders JNO. M. McCALLA, L. I. ROTHROCK, and Miss M. E. COYLE.

GEN. JOHN M. McCALLA,

WAS BORN IN 1793 AND DIED FEBRUARY 28, 1873.

He was a man of great ability, unflinching courage and incorruptible integrity. He served with eminent distinction in the war of 1812 ; had occupied positions of high responsibility in his native state, Kentucky, and in the Federal Government. For many years he had been a wise, useful and honored Elder in the Presbyterian Church. From its organization in May, 1868, he had been fully identified with the Central Presbyterian Church, as its senior Elder and devoted friend. In all things he was an example to that flock over which the Holy Ghost had made him overseer and which he loved so warmly and tenderly.

In his personal and official intercourse with the members of the Session and the church, he ever displayed the highest qualities of the gentleman and the Christian, so that it is only just to say he was venerated and loved by every member of the congregation.

In the assured hope of the Gospel, he passed peacefully away to his rest and reward.

MISS MARY E. COYLE,

DIED SUDDENLY AT HER RESIDENCE IN THIS CITY, DEC. 3, 1875.

Her's was a most remarkable Christian character. Gifted with a strong, clear intellect; a self-reliant, resolute will; a true and tender conscience; and with warm and loving sympathies, she consecrated all to her Saviour, and, like Him, went about doing good. The Southern Presbyterian Church should hold her in loving remembrance, for it is largely due, under God, to her that our Assembly has an organized congregation in this city. Perhaps it is not too much to say that the Central Presbyterian Church had its origin in her heart. Nothing less than a careful perusal of the entire records of this church, from its inception to her death, will show how fully she was identified with all its history, and how much of its prosperity was due to her prayers and labors. She was buried from the church, to the planting and prosperity of which she had devoted the labors of eight of the best years of her life, and we bore her tenderly to the grave, committing her body to the care of that Saviour who keeps loving watch over all His sainted dead.

“Servant of Christ, well done,
Rest from thy loved employ.”

MR. LARKIN J. ROTHROCK,

BORN IN FREDERICKSBURG, VA., MAY 18, 1830, DIED IN PHILADELPHIA, PA., JANUARY 14, 1878.

He was the first fruits, unto Christ, of the ministry of Rev. A. W. Pitzer, in Washington, D. C. He was admitted to the Lord's Table the first Sabbath of May, 1868, one month prior to the organization of the Church. From its origin he was fully identified with all of its interests. He was one of its first Trustees, and his services in this office were most valuable, especially in the erection of the Chapel. He was elected Elder in April, 1870, and served most acceptably and efficiently in the Session, the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. The fact is here recorded that to his tireless energy and unwavering devotion, the existence of the Central Presbyterian Church is, under God, largely due.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

The Sabbath School was formally organized with nine members, on the 26th of January, 1868. It has averaged two hundred scholars a year on its roll, of which nearly one-half would be new scholars ; so that the total number of scholars enrolled has been not far from one thousand.

In looking over the records of the church, I found among the first acts of the Session, the following enunciation of principles to be maintained, viz :

First, that singing in worship belongs to the whole congregation, and is under the direction of the Pastor and Elders.

Second, none but communing members have a right to vote for church officers.

Third, that the Sabbath School is under the care and control of the church Session.

Fourth, that the title to the church property should be held by trustees, who are church members, subject always to the direction and authority of the church.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.

There are some fundamental principles upon which this church has always acted, and from which I hope it will never depart. While we hold, in common with all orthodox churches, the great body of Christian truth, yet we have sought to make certain principles specially prominent in the life and work of this church.

First, the *spirituality* of the church. The Lord Himself said: "My Kingdom is not of this world;" not of this world in its head, its nature, its officers, its members, its mission. This church has never undertaken to settle questions of mere worldly policy. It asks no man

from what section of the country he comes ; nor what are his political views. It does not know men after the flesh or party ; nor has it ever sought the influence and favor of the civil government as an aid in building up the Kingdom of Christ. It has been far more solicitous to have its members separated from the world, than to have the help of the world. We have been, and we are, far more concerned, as to the *quality* than the *number* of the members of this church, thinking that the question, "How many?" is far less important than that other one, "Of what kind are they?" We have thought that ten earnest-minded, spiritual Christians who read their bibles, and pray and come to the services of the sanctuary, and give alms, and do good works, and are honest, and truthful and chaste, are of more value than scores, or even hundreds, of drinking, dancing, theatre-going, sanctuary-neglecting, worldly-minded, prayerless professors.

Second, this church has been content to adhere tenaciously to the old historic formularies of doctrine, government, and worship of the Presbyterian Church. The latest and most approved ideas of the New Broad Presbyterianism have not been welcomed to our sanctuary. Our singing has not been controlled and led by hired "professionals," who praise God for pay, but by the same faithful and excellent precentor and organist, Mr. J. C. WHITWELL and Miss LAURA V. COYLE, who, for twelve years, have led the service of song in the sanctuary ; not for filthy lucre, but for love to Christ and his church. We have not transformed our Sabbath School into a toy shop, a candy store, nor an amateur theatre. The chapel has not yet had to do duty as a Granary on Thanksgiving, nor a Green-house on Christmas. Thus far we have lived without fair or festival, bazaar or ball, pic-nic or excursion, raffle or lottery. We have not outgrown all the wisdom of the past, and are content to ask for the old

paths, and to walk in them. The human statement of truth may and does change from age to age, but the Truth itself is eternal; the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

Third, giving of our substance to God is duty, grace and worship. And, since the first two or three years, this church has been supported by the weekly offerings of the worshippers. This church is free—free alike to all. There are no enforced subscriptions, nor annual sale of pews, with the best place for the longest purse. There is a Divine Rule, 1 Cor. XVI, 2: “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him,” rich and poor alike, and give cheerfully as unto the Lord. Nor have the gifts of this congregation been expended upon itself. From the first we have acted upon the truth that our field is the world, and that we must help to preach the Gospel to every creature; and hence in the minutes of the Assembly’s Systematic Benevolence there is not even one blank in any column opposite the name of this church.

The following table will show, under proper heads, what has been done by us in all departments of Christian-giving since January 19, 1868:

	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	Total
Home Missions.....	\$30	\$87	\$110	\$92	\$100	\$69	\$65	\$120	\$60	\$80	\$67	\$50	\$880
Foreign Missions....	104	57	24	27	41	35	30	87	61	268	175	150	1037
Education.....	45	70	60	51	40	200	225	180	10	10	10	8	889
Publication.....	15	31	21	20	20	35	20	15	10	15	9	7	218
Miscellaneous.....	100	55	65	64	42	132	30	51	39	60	104	77	819
Congregational.....	3339	3850	4180	4604	9430	3298	3283	3403	3245	3475	3222	2916	48244
Total.....													52137

TWELVE EVENTFUL YEARS.

These twelve years have been most eventful in church and state. Omitting any mention of important events in

the state ; in the church, these twelve years include the reunion of the Old and New School Presbyterian Assemblies of the Northern States, the meeting of the World's Evangelical Alliance in this city, the formation of the First General Presbyterian Council at Edinburg in 1876, the organization of the Reformed Episcopal Church, the fraternization of the two great Methodist bodies of this country, and the remarkable results of the preaching of Moody and the singing of Sankey.

PULPIT AND CHURCH CHANGES IN THE CITY.

In these twelve years all of the Methodist pulpits of this city have changed pastors four times. With one exception, all of the Baptist Churches have changed pastors ; some of them several times. Of the Episcopal Churches, Drs. ADDISON of Trinity, and VAUGHN LEWIS of St. John's, are the only ones whose names I now recall as being here then. Of the Presbyterian Churches, the West Street Church of Georgetown, (formerly the Bridge Street,) the North, the Western, New York Avenue, the Assembly, and the Fourth, have all had, new pastors. Drs. SUNDERLAND at the First Church, BITTINGER at the Westminster, CHESTER at the Metropolitan, abide pastors to-day as they were then.

The following new churches of Christ have been erected : Of the Presbyterian family, the Metropolitan, West Street of Georgetown, North, Eastern, Gurley Chapel, and Central. Of the Methodist, the Metropolitan, Hamlin, Grace, North Capitol, and Mt. Vernon Place. The Congregational, Lutheran Memorial, and Ascension, and others, of which I cannot speak with certainty.

Many churches have been renovated, renewed, enlarged and beautified. Among these I may mention,

Epiphany; Foundry; Fourth, Assembly, and Westminster Presbyterian; First, Fifth, and E Street Baptist.

ACTION OF SESSION AS TO FUTURE WORK.

I cannot better fill up the appropriate opening here made, and close this address, than to lay before you the unanimous action of our Session touching the enlargement of our borders.

“The Session of this church, with earnest prayer to God for guidance, has carefully considered the question of completing our present house of worship, and is firmly of opinion that the time has come when our congregation should inaugurate energetic and united measures to secure, if possible, during the year 1880, a sum sufficient to lay the foundation, put up the walls, and roof in the main audience room.

“All, or nearly all, of this sum should be secured beforehand, in order that no burdensome debt, so paralyzing to Christian activities, shall rest upon our people. The entire work of increasing the building fund and erecting the house of worship ought to be undertaken in a spirit of faith and prayer, and should be made a means of grace and spiritual revival and growth to our congregation.

“With enlarged and more comfortable accommodations, we are persuaded that our congregation will also be correspondingly increased, and, as a church, we shall thus be enabled to accomplish far more than we have ever done for the cause and glory of our blessed Lord.

“We believe that scores of persons pass by this chapel who would worship with us if we had a church.

“We owe this to the memory of those noble and large-hearted christians, who, twelve years ago, with heroic faith and unflinching courage, undertook this work for God; and especially do we owe it to the Lord Jesus himself, who has so signally blessed the prayers and labors of the past; who gives us this day a chapel and lot paid for at a cost of \$17,000; a united and efficient church; the good will of our fellow Christians, and favor with the people.

In reliance upon our covenant-keeping God, and with prayer to Him for help, we will arise and build the house for His worship and glory."

ASCRIBING ALL THE PRAISE TO CHRIST.

If this simple story speaks well for the patient hope, the tireless zeal, the inflexible integrity, the heroic faith, and large-hearted liberality of those who aided in this enterprise in those dark days of its early existence, when success to human eyes seemed hopeless, how much louder does it speak, as it was intended to speak, of the matchless love of our Divine Lord; of His daily guidance; of His surprising grace; of His covenant faithfulness to His people and His promises? It is His work, and marvelous in our eyes; to Him, not to us, be all the praise and all the glory. If the Angel of the Covenant had not gone before, and been with and blessed us, all our labor had been in vain. And now, as we go forth to higher and larger work for our Lord, let the sentiment of our hearts find expression in the prayer of Moses: "That the presence of the Lord go with us, and that He show to us His glory."

"We know not what awaits us,
God kindly veils our eyes;
And o'er each step of the onward way
He makes new scenes to rise.

"So on we go not knowing,
And would not if we might;
We'd rather walk in the dark with God
Than go alone in the light.

"Where He may lead, we'll follow,
Our trust in Him repose,
And every hour in perfect peace
We'll sing, He knows, He knows."

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

PASTOR.

REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D.,
42 I STREET, NORTHWEST.

ELDERS.

JAMES V. A. SHIELDS,
JOHN STEWART,
JOSEPH L. ENDERLE,
CHASE ANDREWS.

DEACONS.

JOHN C. WHITWELL,
DANIEL REIGART,
ROBINSON LOVING.

TRUSTEES.

REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D.,
JAMES V. A. SHIELDS,
JOHN STEWART.

TREASURER.

JOSEPH L. ENDERLE.

DIRECTORY.

A

WILLIAM ADAM, 74 I Street, northwest.
Mrs. SUSAN R. ADAMS, Frederick, Maryland.
Mrs. CAROLINE ALLEN.
CHASE ANDREWS, 126 Massachusetts Avenue.
Mrs. MARIA S. ANDREWS, 126 Massachusetts Avenue.

B

Mrs. CORNELIA G. BALDWIN, 812 New Jersey Ave., northwest.
EBENEZER B. BALL, 201 First Street, northwest.
Miss BETTIE M. BARNES, Maryland.
MARTIN W. BARR, 822 First Street, northwest.
Mrs. HALLIE C. BARR, 822 First Street, northwest.
MARTIN P. BARR, 822 First Street, northwest.
C. BOYD BARRETT, 403 G Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARY A. BATES, Boundary and Lincoln Avenue.
Mrs. ELLEN A. BEATTY, Clarkesville, Tennessee.
Mrs. VIRGINIA BERRY, 106 C Street, northwest.
Miss JULIA BROOKS, Virginia.
Mrs. AMELIA BROWN, 912 Third Street, northwest.
WILLIAM G. BUSEY, 11 Congress Street, Georgetown.
Mrs. ELIZABETH BUSEY, 11 Congress Street, Georgetown.
Mrs. CATHERINE BUSEY, 1625 I Street, northwest.

C

ADOLPHUS W. CALLAHAN, 408 I Street, northwest.
Mrs. ELIZA CAUSIN, Baltimore, Maryland.
Miss NANNIE CAUSIN, Baltimore, Maryland.
A. KING CHANDLER, Virginia.
Mrs. MARY E. CHANDLER, Virginia.
Mrs. S. FRANCES CLARK, 301 E Street, northwest.
Mrs. ROSE CLARK, 301 E Street, northwest.
JAMES COMPTON, 512 Seventh Street, northwest.
Miss LAURA V. COYLE, 218 E Street, northwest.
JACOB I. CRAGIN, 1534 Columbia Street.

D

WILLIAM L. DEWART.
Mrs. ELLEN B. DOLL, 521 Twelfth Street, northwest.
Mrs. VIRGINIA DUSENBERY, 222 Delaware Avenue, northeast.
Miss MARY W. DUSENBERY, 222 Delaware Avenue, northeast.
Mrs. ROSALIE H. DYER, 220 E Street, northwest.
Miss CORDELIA DYER, 220 E Street, northwest.
Miss MARGARET DYER, 220 E Street, northwest.
Miss LUCY DYER, 220 E Street, northwest.

E

BENJ. S. ELLIOTT, 1307 Third Street, northwest.
Mrs. LETITIA E. ELLIOTT, 1307 Third Street, northwest.
DELLWOOD K. ELLIOTT, 1307 Third Street, northwest.
ROBERT M. ELLIOTT, 1307 Third Street, northwest.
G. SARGENT ELLIOTT, 1307 Third Street, northwest.
JOSEPH L. ENDERLE, 902 French Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARY W. ENDERLE, 902 French Street, northwest.

F

MYRON FINCH, 424 Fifth Street, northwest.
Mrs. FANNIE W. FINCH, 424 Fifth Street, northwest.
Mrs. ELIZABETH FORD, 45 Myrtle Street, northeast.
COLLIER C. FRAYSER, 523 Second Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARGARET FRAYSER, 523 Second Street, northwest.

G

JOHN GALT, Westminster, Maryland.
Mrs. KATE G. GALT, Westminster, Maryland.

H

Mrs. HARRIET H. HARDING, 418 Sixth Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARY HARMON, 1110 Sixth Street, northwest.
THOMAS F. HERBERT, 813 Third Street, northwest.
Mrs. FANNIE HERBERT, 813 Third Street, northwest.
Mrs. SARAH M. HOLCOMB, 224 Second Street, southeast.
Miss MATTIE G. HOPKINS, 935 H Street, northwest.
Miss MOLLIE A. HUNTER, 201 Massachusetts Ave., northwest.

K

GEORGE W. KENNEDY, L Street and N. J. Avenue, northwest.
Mrs. ELIZABETH KINSEY, 432 H Street, northwest.
Miss ELLA KINSEY, 432 H Street, northwest.
Miss JOSEPHINE KNORR, 1030 Seventh Street, northwest.

L

Mrs. MARCELLA LANNAN, 310 First Street, northwest.
Mrs. ANNA LANSDALE, 7 West Street, Georgetown.
Mrs. HARRIET LE CONTE, 903 T Street, northwest.
Mrs. MATILDA LORD, 510 G Street, northwest.
Miss MARY S. LORD, 510 G Street, northwest.
Mrs. ELIZABETH LORD, 701 Fifth Street, northwest.
Miss ALICE LORD, 701 Fifth Street, northwest.
ROBINSON LOVING, 424 Fifth Street, northwest.
Mrs. JENNIE D. LOVING, 424 Fifth Street, northwest.

M

Mrs. MARY E. MAJOR, 506 I Street, northwest.
Miss LILLY MAJOR, 506 I Street, northwest.
Miss MARTHA METCALF, 303 K Street, northwest.
PERCY METZGER, 404 Sixth Street, northwest.
GEORGE R. MILBURN, 1329 F Street, northwest.
Mrs. EUGENIE P. MILBURN, 1329 F Street, northwest.
Miss MARY J. MINOR, 949 Massachusetts Avenue.
WILLIAM W. J. MURPHY, 919 New York Avenue, northwest.
JOHN McCORMICK, 1122 First Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARY E. McCORMICK, 1122 First Street, northwest.
Mrs. HENRY McKEE
Mrs. CARL McKINLEY, 318 Third Street, northwest.

N

Miss CARRIE NEIDTFELDT, 920 Fourth Street, northwest.

P

- Miss SALLIE F. PATTERSON, 1246 Eleventh Street, northwest.
J. D. PERRYMAN, Rockville, Maryland,
Mrs. MARY C. PHILLIPS, Cottage Hill, northeast.
WILLIAM G. PHILLIPS, Cottage Hill, northeast.
Mrs. LAURA PITZER, 42 I street, northwest.
Mrs. RACHEL A. POLKINHORN, 2422 Pennsylvania Avenue.
JOSEPH PRATHER, 409 M Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARTHA J. PRATHER, 409 M Street, northwest.

R

- LOUIS M. REID, 506 K Street, northwest.
Mrs. LILLIAN H. REID, 506 K Street, northwest.
DANIEL REIGART, 414 Sixth, Street, northwest.
Mrs. REBECCA T. RIGGS, 820 First Street, northwest.

S

- Miss ELIZABETH F. SCHWIERING, 421 Eighth St., northwest.
Mrs. LAURA L. SHEIRY, 132 F Street, northeast.
JAMES V. A. SHIELDS, 827 Fourteenth Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARY B. SHIELDS, 827 Fourteenth Street, northwest.
Miss MARY S. SHIELDS, 827 Fourteenth Street, northwest.
Miss ANNA P. SHIELDS, 827 Fourteenth Street, northwest.
Miss SARAH V. A. SHIELDS, 827 Fourteenth Street, northwest.
Mrs. ANNA E. SLEATOR, 616 M Street, northwest.
Mrs. OLIVIA L. SMITH, 610 F Street, northwest.
JAMES E. SMITH, 610 F Street, northwest.
Mrs. SARAH E. SMITH, Athens, Georgia.
Miss MARGARET E. SMITH, Athens, Georgia.
Mrs. MARIA H. SPEER, 218 E Street, northwest.
Miss BESSIE SPEER, 218 E Street, northwest.
JOHN W. H. SPROESSER, 1140 New Jersey Ave., northwest.
Miss LUCY STEPHENSON, 105 Gay Street, Georgetown.
JOHN STEWART, 32 I Street, northeast.
Mrs. JANET C. STEWART, 32 I Street, northeast.
Miss MARY K. STEWART, 32 I Street, northeast.
JAMES M. STEWART, 32 I Street, northeast.

T

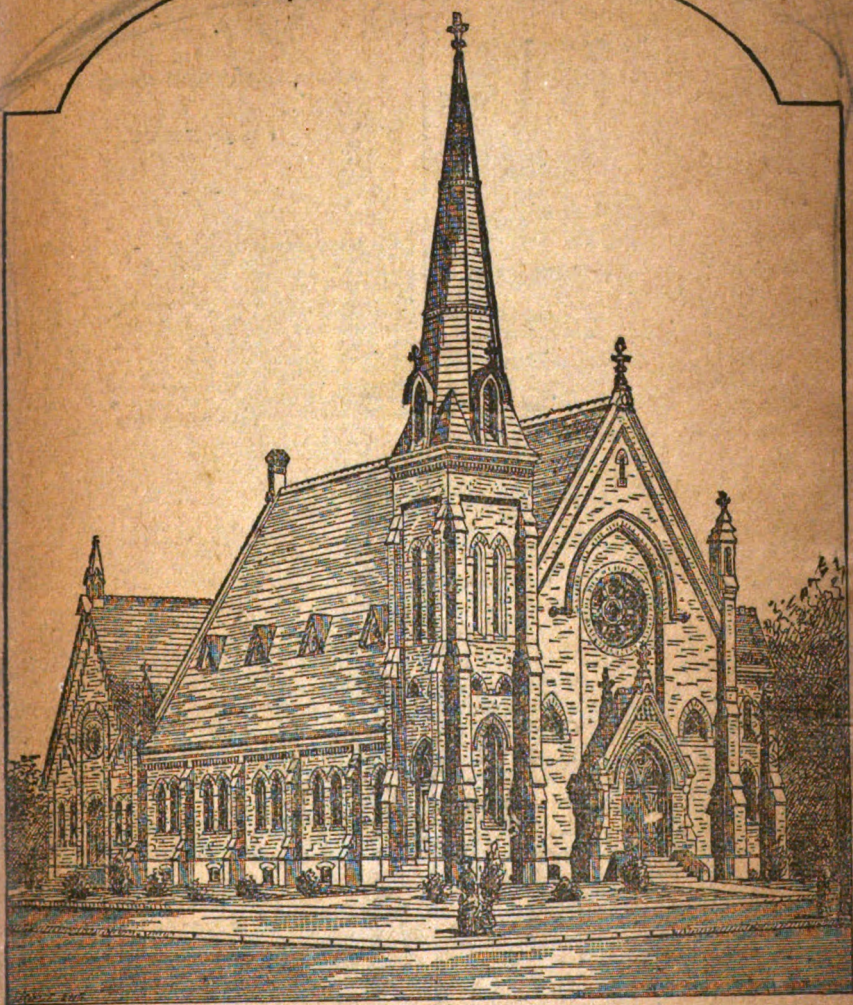
- Mrs. ANNA T. TAYLOR, 14 F Street, northwest.
Mrs. ELLEN T. TURNER, 419 New York Ave., northwest.

W

- Miss EMMA J. WADE, 613 F Street, northwest.
Mrs. AMELIA J. WHITFORD, cor. North Capitol and Pierce Sts.
Miss MAGGIE C. WHITING, Virginia.
JOHN C. WHITWELL, 1014 Eleventh Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARGARET S. WHITWELL, 1014 Eleventh St., northwest.
Miss MARY V. WHITWELL, 1014 Eleventh Street, northwest.
GEORGE G. WILSON, 608 New York Avenue, northwest.
Mrs. MARION L. WILSON, 608 New York Avenue, northwest.
BENJAMIN C. WRIGHT, 412 K Street, northwest.
Mrs. MARTHA WRIGHT, 412 K Street, northwest.
Miss LAURA E. WRIGHT, 412 K Street, northwest.
Mrs. AREVIA WRIGHT, Richmond, Virginia.

Y

- Mrs. VIRGINIA T. YOUNG, 1002 Eighth Street, northwest.



THE NEW CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON:

SATURDAY.....December 5, 1885.

THE NEW CENTRAL CHURCH.

A Handsome Structure to be Dedicated To-morrow.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EDIFICE—ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—THE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP, &c.

The handsome structure erected at the corner of 3d and I streets northwest, for the congregation of the Central Presbyterian church, Rev. Dr. A. W. Pitzer pastor, will be formally dedicated to-morrow. The edifice, of which a cut is published in to-day's STAR, is of Gothic architecture, constructed of brick with stone trimmings. It has a frontage, including the tower projection, of sixty-three feet on I street, and with the chapel extends back 120 feet on 3d street. Upon the southwest corner of the building is a graceful spire, whose height from the ground is 109 feet. The interior wood-work of the church is of yellow pine with cherry trimmings. There are five handsome double windows on each side, of rolled cathedral glass. Five rafters, fifty feet long each, and resting on carved stone work, show from below. The distance from the floor to the apex of the roof is sixty-three feet.

THE INTERIOR.

The floor slopes towards the pulpit at an incline of one inch to each row of seats. The old fashioned pew has been discarded. The seats are comfortable chairs, their backs being connected so that from the rear they have the appearance of pews. The seats are hinged so that they can be raised or lowered, and under each seat is a rack where the occupant may deposit his hat. The aisles radiate from the pulpit, and the seats are arranged in semi-circular rows rising one behind the other in the style of an amphitheater. Seven hundred seats have been provided, but if occasion requires the seating capacity of the church can be largely increased by closing aisles now left open, and filling up spaces at the side of the pulpit. Instead of partitioning off a vestibule a space has been divided off from the main portion of the church by means of tapestry curtains. If necessary these curtains can be rolled back, and the auditorium considerably enlarged. In the rear of the pulpit is the chapel, where the congregation has worshipped for several years. A door has been made connecting the chapel with the main auditorium, and the large windows behind the pulpit can be opened so that the two auditoriums can be made practically into one. This chapel, which is 36 by 58 feet, has seating capacity for 350 people. In the construction and arrangement of the church especial care has been bestowed upon the details contributing to the comfort of the congregation. Instead of leaving all the space to the apex of the roof open, a ceiling has been made crossing a few feet below the apex, which arrangement, it is claimed, has great acoustic advantages. At the southeast corner of the church, near the main entrance, is a retiring room provided with all conveniences. The

plans of the building were drawn by W. H. Baldwin, and it was erected under the general supervision of Mr. J. H. McGill. The entire cost of the new portion, exclusive of lot and chapel, will be less than \$25,000, which sum, in view of the completeness, comfort and beauty of the building, is considered by the congregation as marvelously small. Many churches that have cost over \$50,000 are inferior to the new Central church in these respects.

GIFTS TO THE CHURCH.

Persons from all parts of the city, from all classes, conditions and communions, have shown great interest in building this church, and have given freely and generously. The organ is a gift from Mrs. Dr. S. C. Busey; the pulpit windows, from Miss Catherine Coyle; the pulpit carpet, from Master George Whitwell; the church carpet, from the Sabbath school; the pulpit, the Bible and the pulpit sofa, from Mrs. A. G. Pedrick. One pulpit chair was given by W. B. Williams, and another by Mrs. Olivia Smith; the communion table, by Mrs. G. A. Blake; the communion chairs, by Dr. A. W. Pitzer; the posts and rods for the tapestry curtains, by Mr. M. Murphy, and the collection plates, by Miss Annie Shields.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH.

The Central Presbyterian church is the only church in this city connected with the Southern General Assembly. Rev. Dr. Pitzer, the founder and pastor of the church, a native of Virginia and a graduate of the Danville seminary, organized and was pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Leavenworth, Kansas. During the war he was in the south and served as missionary to the Army of the Tennessee. When he came to this city, in January, 1868, he found that a number of persons had been carefully considering the practicability of organizing a church in which all Presbyterians, of whatever locality, party or persuasion, might find a church home. The enactments of the General Assembly then excluded from communion members in the southern states unless they renounced their political error. The central church was not organized in antagonism to any of the churches of this city, and since its organization the most cordial relations have existed between it and its sister Presbyterian churches here.

In January, 1868, a few Presbyterians determined on an appointment for public worship January 19th, at which Dr. Pitzer was invited to officiate, to be held in the Columbia law building, 5th street, between D and E northwest, the monthly rental of which was guaranteed by Gen. Thomas Ewing. This building had been the old Trinity church, and used as such until the completion of their present edifice at the corner of C and 3d streets. After its purchase by Columbia college it served as a temporary worshiping place for the Calvary Baptist church until the erection of their present edifice, and then for the Congregational church until they took possession of their commodious structure corner of G and 10th streets northwest.

THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS.

May 31st, 1868, after a sermon by Rev. Dr. T. V. Moore, of Richmond, Va., moderator of the general assembly, south, the following persons were organized by Rev. Dr. Pitzer into the Central Presbyterian church, with Gen. John M. McCalla and Dr. O. M. Munceaster as ruling elders: Mrs. Susan M. Burch, Dr. Bedford Brown, Mrs. Mary E. Brown, Mr. Wm. G. Busey, Mrs. Elizabeth Busey, Miss Mary E. Coyle, Miss

Laura V. Coyle, Mr. John Galt, Mrs. Sarah M. Holcomb, Miss Rebecca Harmon, Mrs. Elizabeth Kinsey, Miss Ella Kinsey, Mrs. Jane S. Miller, Mrs. E. J. Nourse, Mr. C. H. Nourse, Miss M. R. Nourse, Mrs. Laura Pitzer, Mrs. Rachel A. Polk-Johnson, Mr. L. J. Rothrock, Mrs. Maria H. Speer, Mr. Alex. Speer, Mrs. Olivia L. Smith, Mrs. E. A. Shillington, Mr. J. C. Whitwell, Mrs. M. S. Whitwell, Mrs. Jane Wade and Miss Emma Wade.

The little band at once inaugurated plans for the selection and purchase of a building site. At the head and prominent in the labor were Mrs. Ellen Adair Beatly, whose contributions, from time to time, aggregated \$2,000, and Miss Mary E. Coyle.

BUILDING THE CHAPEL.

By November, 1871, a lot had been selected, and in the following December it was purchased for the sum of \$8,676.80. It fronted 58 feet on I, and 140 feet on 3d street, and was selected with a view to the prospective growth of the city in that region.

Preparations were at once made for erecting a chapel. Ground was broken July 2d, 1872, and the building was dedicated January 19th, 1873, just five years after the first service in the Law building. The chapel cost \$8,000, of which \$600 was contributed by the Franklin street and Franklin square churches in Baltimore.

The church has grown steadily in influence and membership, and at last outgrew the chapel, in which it had a pleasant home for many years, and it became necessary to erect the commodious church building, which will be dedicated to-morrow. The church revenues for all objects are derived from offerings each Sabbath. There are no pew rents, no subscriptions, fairs, festivals, or excursions. The record of the central church in its temporal relations has been quite an enviable one. It is the boast of its members that no person with whom the church has had business transactions has had to wait five minutes for his money after it was due. From the outset congregational singing has been a feature of the church service.

THE PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.

The church membership now numbers 170 and the congregation about 400. The present officers of the church are: Pastor—Rev. A. W. Pitzer, D. D. Elders—James V. A. Shields, John Stewart, Joseph L. Enderle, Chas. Andrews. Deacons—Daniel Reigart, Robinson Loving, James Compton, Dellwood K. Elliott, Wm. G. Phillips. Trustees—Rev. A. W. Pitzer, D. D.; James V. A. Shields, John Stewart. Treasurer—Joseph L. Enderle.

The present membership is as follows: Chas. Adrews, Mrs. Maria S. Andrews, Alexander Armstrong, sr., Mrs. Cornelia G. Baldwin, Ebenezer B. Ball, Martin W. Barr, Mrs. Hallie C. Barr, Martin P. Barr, Mrs. Henry A. Bates, Mrs. Virginia Berry, Miss Julia Brooks, Mrs. Amelia Brown, Mrs. Elizabeth Busey, Mrs. Catherine Busey, Thomas C. Barr, Aldus J. Barr, Mrs. Kate Baker, Tegnall Brame, Mrs. Laura M. Brame, Mary Banes, Ella K. Buchanan, Charles M. Buchanan, Eliza T. Berry, Maximilian A. Benter, Mrs. Virginia A. Benter, Daniel L. Bedinger, Mrs. Mary A. Bates, Adolphus W. Callahan, Mrs. Mary E. Chandler, Mrs. S. Frances Clark, Mrs. Rose Clark, James Compton, Cora T. Clements, Mrs. George Cutshaw, Rufus

Clark, Thomas C. Clark, Louisa A. Clements, Ferdinand W. Callaghan, Mrs. Virginia Callaghan, Mrs. Ellen B. Compton, William L. Dewart, Mrs. Virginia Duzenberg, Mrs. Rosalie H. Dyer, Miss Cordelia Dyer, Miss Margaret Dyer, Miss Lucy Dyer, Evan J. Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth J. Davis, Mrs. Letitia E. Elliott, Dellwood K. Elliott, Robert M. Elliott, G. Sargent Elliott, Joseph L. Enderle, Mrs. Mary W. Enderle, Harry F. Ebbs, William C. Ewing, Bruce S. Elliott, Norman T. Elliott, Mrs. Alice G. Estes, Letitia E. Elliott, Elizabeth E. Elliott, Joseph W. Enderle, Mrs. Fannie W. Finch, Mrs. Elizabeth Ford, Collier C. Frayser, Mrs. Margaret Frayser, Mrs. Mary Fox, Charles B. Ford, Martha K. M. Frayser, John Galt, Mrs. Kate G. Galt, Rebecca F. Green, Mrs. Louisa J. Gourlay, Mrs. Harriet H. Harding, Thomas F. Herbert, Mrs. Fannie Herbert, Mrs. Sarah M. Holcomb, Miss Mattie G. Hopkins, Miss Mollie A. Hunter, Jacob E. Horning, Mary H. Hopkins, Francis Harrison, Mrs. Susan Harrison, Margaret Hislop, M. D. Louisa R. Henry, Mrs. Emma G. Hays, Joseph H. Hunter, Mrs. Annie D. Hunter, Anna M. Harvey, J. Athens Johnson, Mrs. Mary L. Johnson, George W. Kennedy, Miss Ella Kinsey, Miss Josephine Knorr, Jennie Kennedy, Emma F. Kirby, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Kaiser, Mrs. Marcella Lannan, Mrs. Anna Lansdale, Mrs. Harriet Le Conte, Mrs. Matilda Lord, Miss Mary S. Lord, Mrs. Elizabeth Lord, Robinson Loving, Mrs. Jennie D. Loving, Mrs. Mary E. Major, Miss Lilly Major, Miss Martha Metcalf, Percy Metzger, Miss Mary J. Minor, John McCormick, Mrs. Mary E. McCormick, Mrs. Henry McKee, Mrs. Carl McKinney, Mrs. H. K. Martin, George C. W. Magruder, Abram G. Mount, Mrs. Margaret J. Mount, Mrs. Virginia L. Moore, Charles C. McCormick, Jennie B. McPherson, Ebenezer P. Miller, Minnie McCormick, Miss Sallie F. Patterson, J. D. Perryman, Mrs. Mary C. Phillips, Mrs. G. Phillips, Mrs. Laura Pitzer, Joseph Prather, Mrs. Martha J. Prather, Mrs. Annie A. Phillips, Louis M. Reid, Mrs. Lillian H. Reid, Daniel Reigart, Miss Elizabeth F. Schwiering, Mrs. Laura L. Shery, James V. A. Shields, Mrs. Mary B. Shields, Miss Mary S. Shields, Miss Anna P. Shields, Miss Sarah V. A. Shields, Mrs. Anna E. Siator, Mrs. Olivia L. Smith, James E. Smith, Mrs. Maria H. Speer, Miss Bessie Speer, John W. H. Sproesser, Miss Lucy Stephenson, John Stewart, Mrs. Janet C. Stewart, Mrs. Mary K. Stewart, James M. Stewart, Jennie Clare Shields, Mrs. Mary A. Sproesser, James V. A. Shields, Jr., Jessie Stewart, David J. Shopoff, Mrs. Mary A. Smith, Mrs. Anna T. Taylor, Mrs. Ellen T. Turner, Miss Emma J. Wade, Mrs. Amelia J. Whitford, Mrs. Margaret S. Whitwell, Miss Mary V. Whitwell, George G. Wilson, Mrs. Marion L. Wilson, Benjamin C. Wright, Mrs. Martha Wright, Miss Laura E. Wright, Mrs. Arevia Wright, Mrs. Louisa F. Walker, Bettie Willerson, George M. Whitwell, Charles C. Wilson, Mrs. Charles C. Wilson, Seymour Wright, Mrs. Jennie D. Ward, Mrs. Julia A. Webster, Mrs. Virginia T. Young and Miss Eugenia Zeh.

MORNING SERVICES.

The program for to-morrow's services is as follows: 9:30 o'clock a. m., address to Sabbath school by Rev. Wm. Dinwiddie, D. D. 11 o'clock a. m., sermon by Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D. Statement by the pastor, Rev. A. W. Pitzer, D. D. 7:30 o'clock p. m., sermon by Rev. M. D. Hoge, D. D.

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