

The church school finance committee floated bonds at 4% interest in denominations of \$100, \$500, and \$1000. The consistory approved a weekly offering envelope for financial support beginning in 1959. It should be noted that nearly one-third of the anticipated cost, \$96,593.41 of \$300,000, was received by the end of 1958.

Early in the construction, an unforeseen obstacle was found. As no test holes were drilled before excavation began, the presence of layers of red shale was unknown. The additional cost for removal of the rock was in excess of the contract. At this point, there was no alternative but to pay the amount necessary as the rock had to be removed.

The 232nd anniversary of the founding of New Goshenhoppen church was marked by the laying of the cornerstone for the new education building on October 11, 1959. By this item, the church school building debt was \$150,000.

Work continued through to May of 1960 when the church school building was completed. A series of dedication ceremonies followed as Rev. Shellenberger conducted both morning worship services and the children's service in the new Fellowship Hall. An open house followed in the afternoon from 2 until 8 P. M. A community night service was held on Wednesday, May 18, with greetings offered by visiting clergy and music presented by the Sunday School orchestra. A final dedication service was held on May 22 when the president of the Lehigh synod, the Rev. Charles D. Rodenberger, delivered the sermon.

The building committee's work was to have built a functional building suitable for the work of Christian education. It contained 14 classrooms, a spacious Fellowship Hall, a church school office, supply, storage, boiler, and recreation rooms and toilet facilities on each level. The original cost of erecting the building was estimated at \$275,000 but the aforementioned excavation problems, changes and interest payments saw the total rise to \$321,000 by completion. Schellenberger once said, "A building is only a tool. Without consecrated workmen to use the tool and people to take advantage of the opportunities, the building means nothing."

As the new building was completed and Sunday School classes occupied their new home, it was decided in 1961 to renovate the first floor of the church. Rev. Shellenberger suggested that one room be converted into a parlor that would serve as a family room for funerals and weddings as well as a place for the aged or infirmed who wished to worship at the church but were unable to negotiate the stairs to the sanctuary.

Rev. Shellenberger resigned as pastor of New Goshenhoppen in 1965, to accept a pastorate in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Sunday School Classes



1st Row: Linda Fox, Shirley Cronrath, Sue Hoffman, N/A, Lorraine Peterson, Audrey Stauffer, Cindy Imbody, Penny Kline, Brenda Bauman.
2nd Row: David Duka, N/A, Robert McNaughton, Ted Reed, Martin Kulp, Sylvia Stottlemire, Mike Styer, Geisinger Twins, David Haas, Paul Moser, Lorraine Dawson, Phyllis Lusch, Raymond Schmoyer.
3rd Row: Rev. Schellenberger, Francis Derr (teacher), Irma Graber (teacher). **1962**



Ellen Shellenberger, Roy Grubb, Reverend Shellenberger, Roger Harpel, Lois Derr, Bernice Hillegass (teacher), Michael Moyer, Gail Gery. **October, 1960**

The following was written by Rev. Nevin E. Shellenberger especially for this anniversary booklet.

Reflections On The New Goshenhoppen Sunday School 1954 - 1965



Rev. Shellenberger

My first impression of the New Goshenhoppen Church School? It seemed like a mass of inscrutable confusion. Every available space was for teaching. Curtains were pulled from the balcony dividing the nave. First floor windows were opened enabling children to join in the opening exercises. An orchestra played selections before and during the opening service. From any location two or three teachers could be heard teaching the lesson for the day. There were Sunday School Officers, Superintendents, Secretary and Treasurer, but there were no regularly scheduled meetings to discuss Christian Education. There was little done in the way of Teacher Train-

ing. The teaching methodology was basically lecturing and telling Bible stories.

But, in spite of all handicaps there was a well functioning Sunday School. Attendance was good. There was no difficulty in recruiting teachers. Money was at hand to pay the bills. There was no rancor or major discontent. Under the prevailing circumstances the best possible ministry of Christian Education was conducted.

Yet there was a very positive awareness that some changes were needed. It was apparent that three areas needed consideration: (1) The need for class room space. (2) The need for a functioning Board of Christian Education closely aligned with the Church Consistory. (3) The need to provide teachers with the opportunity to learn new methods in Christian Education.

To provide much needed space, the Library (which in former days played a vital role throughout the community) was moved from the main room on the first floor to a room in the rear. (The Library in these years was much neglected.) Some walls and curtains were installed. Classes were moved to the farm house and to John's Chapel in East Greenville. Most important, interest was revived in a new Church School building facility.

The former Pastor, Dr. Calvin M. DeLong, who had retired in 1953, recognized the need for a Church School building, and under his leadership a building fund was created. Now impetus was given for the building fund. A three year campaign was conducted to raise funds. A planning committee was organized, and finally a building committee was appointed. The new building was dedicated in 1960.

The attitude of the congregation to this major step (the first building program since the building of the present church in 1857) is evidenced in one experience. An aged man of the congregation, not a wealthy man, came to the Pastor and said, "I will not live long enough to see the building completed, but we need that building, and I want to be a part of it". With that he shook the Pastor's hand and pressed into his palm one thousand dollars. With this kind attitude, how could New Goshenhoppen fail in its forthcoming ministry of Christian Education.

With the completion of the Church School Building, a Board of Christian Education was organized. Priority was given to teacher training. Synodical and Denominational leaders trained in Christian Education were brought in to help reorganize the Sunday School. The School was organized along the lines of what then was known as closely graded. Teachers were sent to week-long workshops at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, and Juniata College in Huntingdon. Many training sessions were attended by our Church school leaders throughout the South East Conference. Visual education was introduced. Equipment was bought: a slide projector, a Bell and Howell 16m motion picture projector and various record players.

Of some concern was the introduction of the so-called "New Curriculum" which required a great deal of teacher preparation. Some teachers thought the curriculum too demanding and resigned but, others were soon recruited. The new material, unlike many congregations, caused no major difficulties at New Goshenhoppen.

Other than Sunday morning Church School there were ongoing programs. The long established Daily Vacation Bible School continued to flourish. A new venture was the Day Camp conducted in the park during the summer. The young people gathered in the park for the study of God, Jesus Christ, and Biblical concepts as they were found in nature. For the noon

meal the young people were taught simple meal preparation over a camp fire and using crude utensils (some may remember the No. 10 tin can). Out-of-door worship was an important part of the camp program. The wooded area on the slight rise at the northwestern corner of the park was cleared. A simple cross was erected, and the area became an outdoor worship center. Games, crafts, and singing (remember "You push the damper in and you push the damper out and the smoke goes up the chimney just the same?") rounded out the Day Camp program.

After two years the camp was moved to an Arboretum in the Hereford Hills overseen by Ralph Berky, a local naturalist, who took leadership in helping the young people and the adult staff to become more aware of God's wondrous works in nature. A bus was hired to transport the young people to the Arboretum. The Day Camp gave impetus to the congregation's support of the camping programs at Fernbrook and Mensch Mills.

One final reflection — the Church School building. It was amazing how readily the congregation supported the building program especially when consideration is given to the size of the proposed building. The building seemed excessively large. Some neighboring Pastors questioned: "Why such an expansive building?" Fortunately, the building committee had the foresight to see into the future. At the time no one knew exactly how a building that size might be used, but wisdom dictated that the building should be adequate to meet whatever needs might evolve in the life of the congregation. The foresight of the congregation has been more than justified by that which has been realized since 1965.

Now that I am retired as Co-pastor at Church Of The Apostles, U.C.C., Lancaster, I have the luxury of looking back over my ministry and question what was accomplished. I view my short Pastorate at New Goshenhoppen (1954-1965) as a time of transition — a period when the solid rock of the past became a stepping stone in preparation for yet greater things to come.

I have deliberately given no details, nor have I mentioned names, these are recorded elsewhere in the annals of the Sunday School and Congregation. What I have written are reflections that have erupted from my memory leaving an indelible mark.

Nevin E. Schellenberger
August, 1990

The new pastor, Rev. Albert Teske, was welcomed into the fold at New Goshenhoppen in November of 1965. Almost three years later, on October 20, 1968, a much relieved congregation joined in celebration as a bond burning ceremony indicating the final debt on the church school building was realized.