

THE  
BETHLEHEM COVENANT CHURCH  
Warren, Pennsylvania

DAY OF DEDICATION

P L U S

O N E

Y E A R

October 27, 1974

DAY OF DEDICATION PLUS ONE YEAR

October 27, 1974

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."

It was just one year ago today, (Oct. 28, 1973) that we gathered together to express our Gratitude and Thanks to God for bringing us to the point of being able to Dedicate a beautiful new Church Edifice to the Glory of God! It was in this sense of Love and humility that we came to Worship Him on that most glorious day, Sunday, October 28, 1973.

Today, it is Dedication Sunday, PLUS ONE YEAR! Was the effort, the long hours of work, the heavy expense worth it all? In this brief insert to the bulletin, I would have us to take a "look" at the year since the Dedication.

I am reminded of a statement made by an "Outsider" sometime ago when he said, "...if what they teach and do is merely on their own, it will soon be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to stop them, lest you find yourselves fighting even against God" (Acts 5:38-39). Of a certainty, this is a Work of God; it is not in vain, and it will produce - even as is His Purpose and His Plan!

More and more is the influence of the Bethlehem Covenant Church being felt and realized in this new location. The people of this community are beginning to know we are here to stay! As I have visited in many of the homes from time to time, I get the friendly impression - we are accepted! People have been inquiring about us, showing an interest in us and coming when events and services are of such that cause them to desire to know more about us as a de-

nomination.

For your information, with the action taken at the last Quarterly Business Meeting, we have now seen a growth to our Church Membership by Sixteen which brings our current membership to very close to 160. Your Pastor has been talking with others who will be submitting membership applications within the near future. So, there has been a growth and there will continue to be growth to our Church Membership!

Our Church has taken on the sponsorship of a Boy Scout Troop, Number 45, which numbers around 20-25 enthusiastic boys. They meet every Monday evening in the basement of our Church.

Just the other day, four ladies of the community asked if they could meet in one of our rooms for Bible Study and Prayer from 10:00 - 2:00p.m. How often they will be meeting or what may come from this, I do not know, but the possibility of a Community Prayer Room!!!. It excites me. When they asked about cost or charges, I said that the only cost would be that they remember the Bethlehem Covenant Church in their prayers!

The Sunday School has shown new growth through the year, but it does have its "ups and downs". To have a good, effective, operating Sunday School as well as a complete Church Program, it cannot be the work of just a few, but it does require the every effort and work of the Pastor, the entire Church Board and our Total Congregation.

I would like to see the church facilities being used more and more with the Ladies, the Men, the Children and Young People of this area being included in as many activities as possible. (Men, you lead the way by inviting as many men of the area to the Breakfast scheduled for Saturday, November 16th at 7:00a.m.)

Just last Thursday evening , it was decided by the Church Board to go ahead with the ordering and purchasing of three new Hufcor Folding Doors for the basement area. This will give us the added "room" space that is needed. But these doors will cost us money. If each family will put an extra Five Dollars into the Building Fund Offering each month, the full amount can and will be realized very quickly. Remember this when you give your next Building Fund Offering.

What does the Future hold for us? The Potential is great and time will show that -

" We are making full proof of our Church Ministry." (2 Tim.4:5)

So, let us come with JOY, WITH GLADNESS AND WITH THANKSGIVING as well as with a RENEWED DEDICATION TO THE WORK CHRIST JESUS, IN HIS GRACE, HAS GIVEN US, THE MEMBERS OF THE BETHLEHEM COVENANT CHURCH.

*your Pastor,*

*Paul J. Webster*