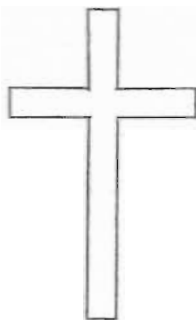


# "IN THOSE DAYS"

A BRIEF STORY OF HIS MINISTRY

*By*

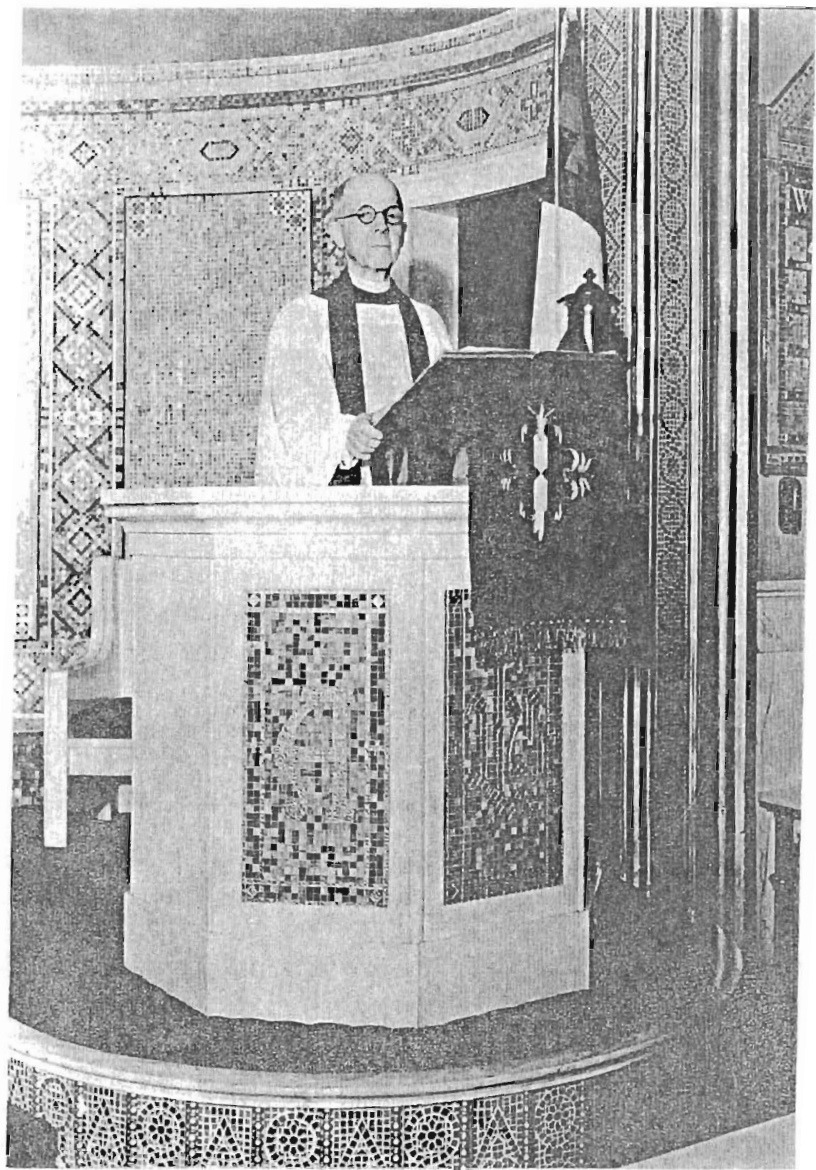
JOHN CULLER BOWERS, D.D.



PUBLISHED BY

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AND SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS  
CATONSVILLE • MARYLAND

1942



IN  
THOSE  
DAYS

A Brief Story of His Ministry

By John Culler Bowers, D. D.

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## DEDICATION

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This story is dedicated to all those to whom I have ministered and have gone to their "long home." Looking forward as they fought "the good fight" here they are now with the redeemed in the City of God. "They rest from their labours and their works do follow them."

Also to those members and friends in my former pastorates who continue in the service of their Lord here. Their interest in my family and myself abides and is evidenced in various ways.

And to the noble company of men and women in Salem who by their love, liberality and loyalty have made our accomplishments possible.

Nor, can I fail to record my gratitude for the goodly fellowship of that glorious band of young people who manifest their devotion to their church by attendance at our worship and their activity in our organizations.

Further, I desire to include my wife, whose cooperation with me in the work of the Lord has been unfailing. By her sincerity, cheerfulness, and the investment of her talents in the church activities she has made a large place in the hearts of many.

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## FOREWORD

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"*Hæc Olin Meminisse Juvabit*". This Latin phrase occurs in Vergil's Aeneid. It expresses the poet's belief that in the future, there would be those who delight to remember the events he is chronicling.

Upon this belief the author of this booklet has acted. He feels there will be those who, now and hereafter, will be pleased to recall the experiences and events herein recorded.

In a ministry of forty-six years there should be achievements worthy of a formal record. The author has served with commendable fidelity and acceptability three pastorates within a radius of fifty miles. In the three his motto has been, "Forward in the name of the Lord."

Very intimate bonds knit together him and the writer of these lines. We twain were cradled in the same maternal arms and trained under the same paternal hand. We knelt at the same family altar and inbreathed the atmosphere of the same Christian home.

Being the elder, I have watched with considerable interest and gratification the author's career. Therefore, I feel justified in writing, at his request, these few lines of commendation of his forthcoming booklet.

My sincere wish is, that many whom he has loved and served may read with unalloyed joy these pages of pastoral experiences and accomplishments, now being sent forth in the name of Him Who is the "Light of the world."

*George S. Bennett*

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## PREFACE

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Numerous requests have come to me in recent years to write some things for publication concerning my ministry. Some time ago I began to comply with these requests. It was my desire to see Salem Church free of all indebtedness before turning my manuscript over to the printer.

This desire has been recently realized. What I had originally intended to publish has been abbreviated. The reason is the advanced cost of printing due to the situation created by the war.

Naturally I find myself often surveying the forty-six years of my ministry gratefully.

Involuntarily I visualize many faces and scenes that have found an imperishable place in my memory.

Noble souls associated with me in these years conspicuous for their generosity, unwavering friendship, and devotion to their church, place me under indescribable indebtedness to them. They will always have a sacred place in my heart. Many have passed through the pearly gates and have joined the "Church Triumphant." Lovely and helpful while here, they are still an inspiration.

We are persuaded that many who read this story will experience blessed memories. We have received verbal expressions of appreciation of our work from those who have been transferred to other churches, also, cherished letters from those in the service of their country conveying their affection for their church.

It may be that in the coming years some will turn to this story for information.

The writer is profoundly grateful to God that He has permitted him to spend his entire ministry in the Maryland Synod, the Synod in which he was born, and in which his father spent the major part of his ministry, and grateful too, that he has been privileged to serve but three churches, all of them in the Eastern Conference: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C.; Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore; and Salem Lutheran Church, Catonsville, Maryland.

When our pastorate at Salem began some of our members were farmers and lived five or six miles from the church. There were few automobiles in this area in those days. We did a lot of pastoral work then with horse and buggy, or on horseback, and in winter with our sleigh. Since those days the village has grown into a community of thousands. In view of the many and varied changes that have taken place the subject of this story, "In Those Days," is borrowed from the record of the ministry of John the Baptist.

## St. Mark's

It was on the morning of the first Saturday in September, 1896, that a young man left his home in Jefferson, Frederick County, Maryland. He had graduated at the Gettysburg Seminary in June, and had preached a number of times in St. Mark's Church, Washington, D. C. Now he was going to become its pastor.

Here he performed his first marriage ceremony, confirmed his first class of catechumens, administered the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and of Baptism, for the first time.

During a pastorate of more than six years he had the joy of seeing the congregation grow and acquire substantial property improvements.

Many friendships were made which were helpful and enduring.

In those days the city was comparatively small contrasted with its present population. The members lived in various sections and he did much of his pastoral work with his bicycle.

Exchange of pulpits was more frequent then than now and the privilege of preaching in numerous other churches was enjoyed.

Having resigned to accept a call elsewhere, the young pastor at a social gathering was presented with a watch and chain. The former bears the inscription "presented to ————— by his members and friends of St. Mark's, Washington, 1902." Forty years have passed and the watch is still carried as a reliable timepiece, appreciated for its worth and the love which actuated the gift.

I was that young man. . . .

## Calvary

The first of November, 1902, my ministry at Calvary began. The field presented a larger opportunity for spiritual sowing and reaping than St. Mark's.

After a vacancy of about six months the people were anxious to have



a pastor. They gave me a hearty reception and spoke cheerfully about Calvary's future.

Many pastoral calls were made and I learned to know the members and their children in their homes.

One day we visited seventeen homes. Numerous memorials were secured. Several from personal friends after the Baltimore fire. A debt of \$9,000 was paid and the parsonage erected.

Enthusiasm was created by the increased attendance at congregational worship, the Wednesday evening "prayer meeting," and the growth of the organizations.

The Luther Leagues and the Singers of the Temple, a children's choir were organized.

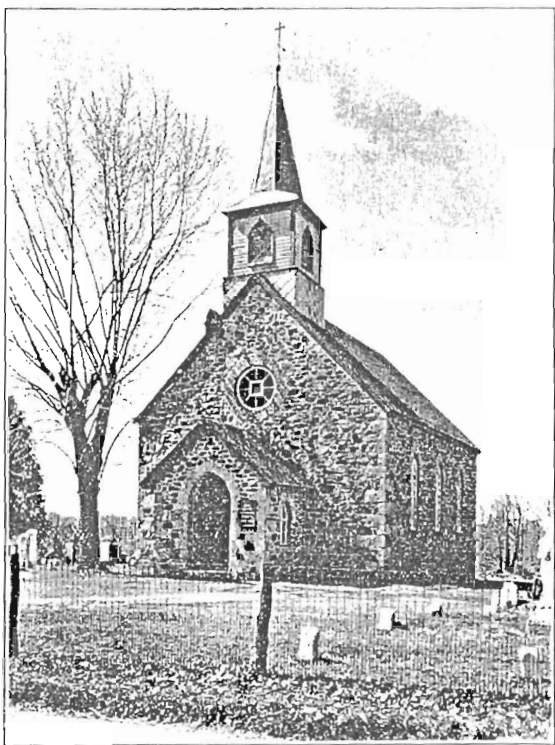
The smallest evening attendance was on the night of the Baltimore fire, in February, 1904. There were 61 present.

With gratification I often review my mental roll of the loyal men, women, and children who aided me in securing the desired results at Calvary.

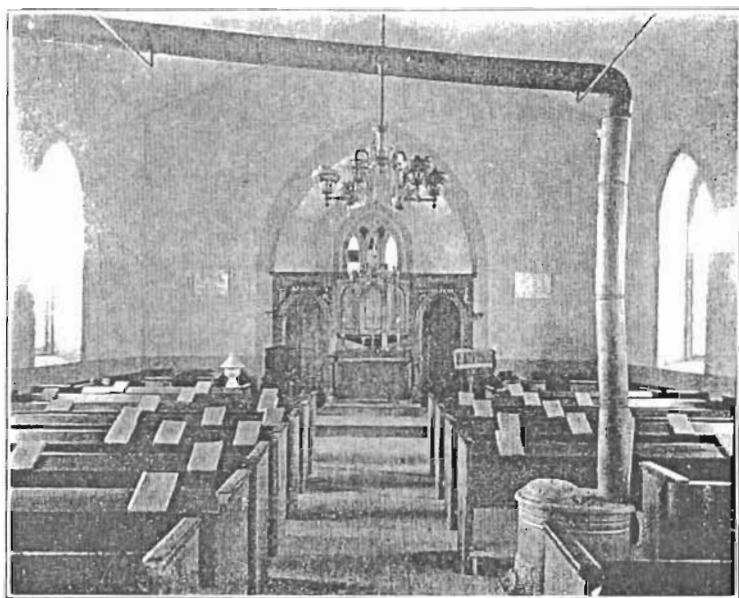
On the evening of December 28, 1908, Miss Adelaide Schuman and I were married in the Church by the pastor's brother, George. This is an abbreviated account of the occasion from the secular press:

"A vast congregation sees Pastor's marriage to Miss Schuman. The bride has been actively engaged in the work of the Church being a teacher in the Sunday School, President of the Junior League, and Superintendent of the primary department.

Among the ministers present were: Revs. L. M. Zimmerman, W. H. Dunbar, W. S. Frens, E. K. Bell, George Scholl, A. S. Hartman, A. O. Mullen, W. G. Minnick, P. A. Heilman, H. D. Newcomer, E. Felton, Henry Manken, U. S. G. Rupp, I. C. Burke."



*Old Salem*



*Old Salem Church Before Restoration*



*Old Salem Church After Restoration*

## The Old Church

September 30, 1849, a number of Lutherans held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a congregation in Catonsville.

They were encouraged by frequent visits and pastoral ministrations of Father Heyer, then on leave of absence from his Mission Station in India.

The writer conducted the funeral service for Miss Minnie Heyer, his niece, in 1911. She resided with Lieutenant and Mrs. Edward Poehlman, faithful members of Salem, at the time of her death.

The meeting resulted in the purchase of a lot upon which Old Salem was erected. Adjoining the Church are Salem Cemetery and two buildings. One building was formerly used as a parsonage, the other as a school.

Those who laid the foundation for the newly organized congregation gave liberally of their means. They also contributed generously of materials and personal labor.

A sweet toned pipe organ was brought from Europe which has been kept suitable for service at considerable expense.

The original roll of members contains these names: Wessling, Piel, Dill, Reich, Schneider, Maisel, Schmidt, Freund, Stirn, Zaiser, Leimbach, Gerwig, Gohr, Kirn, Ringeling, Schwab, Kalb, Grines, Werner, Silzle, Pakendorf, Schweinsberg, Farber, Schaub, Peters, Barnkol, Bassler, Zeltmann, Neuman and Fischbach.

The first regular pastor was Rev. A. Brockman, a man of great energy. After a brief pastorate, death claimed him and he was laid to rest in the newly created cemetery.

Dr. Ebeling succeeded him in 1854. He was distinguished for his intellectual attainments and fine spirit. His pastorate covered a period of fifty years. It was our privilege to form his friendship in the closing years of the past century when the Eastern Conference met in his Church. It was a great day for him, his people and all of us.

We held our services there in the autumn of 1910 when the new Church was being frescoed. Old Salem has been frescoed twice during our pastorate, and other desired repairs made which cost about \$3,000.00. We desire to record our appreciation of the following gifts which have been made in recent years. An altar cross, English Bible for Lectern, two Chancel Chairs, Church Directory Board, new altar cloths, new carpet for chancel and aisle, modern stove and new curtains. The old coal oil lamps and globes, some of which disappeared because of those who have a hankering for old things have been replaced by several interested members. It required time, effort and money to secure these substitutes from a rural Church which installed an electric lighting system.

Last Palm Sunday evening a large congregation assembled for worship when the Church was illuminated with coal oil lamps. Two services are now held in the old Church annually, one on Mother's Day, the other on Harvest Festival Sunday.

Some of the guest preachers have been Henry C. Schluter, Prof. E. C. Ide, Dr. John G. Morris, Dr. P. H. Hennighausen, Rev. H. C. Fultz, Rev. Titus Lehman, Dr. Paul Huffman, Rev. H. L. Schluderberg, Rev. Henry Spangler, Rev. Howard Walker, Dr. Zimmerman, Dr. McCauley, Dr. Enders, Dr. George S. Bowers, Dr. Deaton, Dr. Evers, Rev. Karl Mumford, Dr. Wade, Rev. Hackmann, Dr. Keller, Rev. Payne, Rev. Vulgaris, Rev. Carl Folkemer, Rev. Spicknall, Rev. Singer. Herman L. Ebeling, Ph.D., noted scholar and a son of Pastor Ebeling, attended a special service and made a very inspiring reminiscent address.

# Family Names of Burials in Salem Cemetery

ARENDT	GRAEF	LEAMAN	RUFF
ATKINSON	GRIMM	LEHN	SCHAEFFER
BARNES	GRINE	LEIMBACH	SCHAIBLE
BARNKOL	GROVER	LINK	SCHAUB
BARTELL	HAGEN	LINZ	SCHLESINGER
BASSLER	HAIN	MAISEL	SCHLINGER
BAUMAN	HANEY	MARKENKE	SCHMIDT
BECKER	HANITSCH	MARKER	SCHNEIDER
BLOMEIER	HARRIS	MATTFELDT	SCHWAB
BOHM	HAUG	MERKE	SEICKE
BOWEN	HEALEY	MERKLE	SEIDLICH
BROCHMAN	HEIDELBACH	MESCH	SELLMAN
BROCKMAN	HEINMUELLER	MULLER	SILZEL
BUTSCH	HEINRICH	MUNDLEIN	SIMONS
DANKE	HEINRICHEGE	MULLER	SINGER
DAVIS	HELWIG	MYERS	STAMM
DEGRAEF	HENKE	NEUMAN	STRAUSS
DEITZ	HERBOLD	NICOLAI	THAYER
DETTMAR	HEROLD	OPEL	UEBEL
DIEHLMAN	HESS	PAKENDORF	WALL
DILL	HILDEBRANDT	PAULUS	WAYS
DIMELER	HOERL	PEARSON	WEASER
DOLLHOFF	HUGHES	PREIFFER	WEBER
DOMER	HUSE	PIEL	WEHLAND
DUCKERING	KIMMELSHUE	PILERT	WEIPPERT
EBELING	KIRN	POEHLMAN	WERNER
EGE	KNOPLING	PORTER	WESSLING
ERDMAN	KOCH	PREISINGER	WHITE
FARRALL	KOLB	REICH	WIESE
FREDERICH	KRAH	REIMSNIDER	WISE
FREUND	KRAMER	RENTZ	WOLPEL
GESEL	KRONER	RENTZ	WOLTER
GIESKE	KULBACH	RINGELING	YEADAKER
GOHR	KUNIGUNDA	RODEY	ZEHNER
GORSTWEVER	LAPOLE	ROSENBERGER	ZELTMAN
GOUGH	LAUMANN	ROTH	ZEPPE



*New Salem*

## Salem

My ministry at Salem began July 1, 1910, without the formality of a trial sermon. My predecessor in Salem was Dr. Enders under whose ministry the Church was built.

Our first home was on Melvin Avenue next to the Sisters of Charity. There were but two in those days, Sister Corona and Sister Octavia who evinced their qualities as good neighbors in many ways. We cannot forget our pleasant conversations with Father Dunn, and Father Williams.

Our Installation Service was held on Sunday afternoon, October 20th at three o'clock. Those who constituted the Church Council were Henry Reich, Sr., G. Herbert Rice, Edgar Donaldson, W. H. Mattfeldt, Edward Petzold, George J. Zaiser, William Espey, Henry Reich, Jr., John W. Freund, H. C. Andreac. The program bears these names, Dr. Ide, Dr. Bell, Dr. Gift, Rev. Hightman, Dr. Newcomer, and Dr. Charles Steck.

In November the Church and Sunday School room were frescoed for the first time. This created an interest in securing a number of special gifts and memorials which have been added to through the years. These heightened the beauty of our sanctuary. A number were contributed by friends, not members of Salem, as expressions of appreciation of my pastoral service in sickness. The first memorial was the painting of the Ascension which has been pronounced by travelers in far countries and others as a great piece of art. Recognition has been made of these special gifts and memorials in the secular press, the "Salem Reminder," and with appropriate dedicatory services. While we gratefully express our appreciation of the interest of these donors we are not unmindful of those who have contributed generously towards the removal of our indebtedness on the parsonage and other property acquirements through this period of time. The vestry room has been transformed into a place conducive to study and meditation by two anonymous givers.

In 1911 the parsonage was erected on a lot purchased from the Misses



Jones for \$1,100. These friends voluntarily donated \$100 leaving the net cost at \$1,000. They continue to reside next door and through the years an ideal relationship has existed between them and the parsonage family.

Those present in the month of May when the lines were drawn for the foundation were Mr. Hubner, Mr. Rice, Mr. Reich, Sr., Mr. Reich, Jr., and Mr. Espey, the builder. Mr. Rice served as chairman of the committee and did a fine piece of work for the Church and community. The cost was about \$7,300 including the stable.

We moved into this modern home in September. A house warming was arranged when a great company of members and friends assembled. Musical numbers and felicitous addresses preceded the serving of substantial refreshment. Mr. Hubner presided.

In about five years the mortgage was burnt and the parsonage paid for. Then it became necessary to build an addition to our Sunday School building. This was begun in September, 1916, and completed in May, 1917. Because of World War No. 1 we could not install a modern heating plant, nor secure desired furnishings. Through that winter, and we will never forget it, many of our organizational meetings were held in the parsonage. Mr. Hubner superintended the erection of this fine addition and Walter Gieske was the architect. During these months I was frequently in Mr. Hubner's home and learned to esteem him and his motherly wife very much. He said we must push this work along as material is going up fast and it did. Some wondered what we were going to do with this enlarged Sunday School building and how we could ever pay for it.

Today it is paid for and we badly need more room. Then, our attendance was about 150. Now, before the war, we have attained an attendance of 375. All the windows are of stained glass with instructive and appealing symbols and medallions. The cost of the building with furnishings was about \$14,000.

In August 1932, it was decided to convert the dirt cellar into social rooms and a modern kitchen. Not including various gifts of furniture and kitchen utensils about \$7,000 was required to meet these improvements.

# Paragraphs From Our Register

## I

Some years ago we inaugurated the custom of having a number of our members, qualified by experience and study, deliver inspirational addresses to our classes in Catechism. Those who have done so are Mr. Pileri, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Leister, Mr. Payne, Mrs. VanSant, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Phillips, Miss Hazel Massey, Miss Emily Payne, Miss Eberhart, Elizabeth Heinmuller, Evelyn Flanigan, Mrs. Fulton Moore.

Salem has entertained the Eastern Conference, Young Women's Congress, Women's Missionary Society, Spring Conference, Gettysburg and Baltimore Leagues, Pre-Lenten Retreat, and the Maryland Synod.

While pastor at Calvary the General Synod elected me a member of the Deaconess Board. My aim is to put my heart in what I am called to do; and I was rewarded by securing some very substantial monetary contributions and gifts in furniture for the present building.

The following written in 1911 by my good friend speaks for itself:

"We deeply appreciate the kindness of the pastor and congregation of Salem in furnishing so beautifully and completely the Reception Room in our Mother House. Many comments have been made on the good taste displayed in selecting the furnishings. We are truly grateful for your generosity, believe me."

Yours very sincerely,

SOPHIA JEPSON, *Head Sister.*

## II

A day of unusual gladness was March 10, 1929, when our new organ was dedicated. A congregation that filled the pews and aisles attended the service. The pastor's sermon was from Psalm 66:2.

After the offering Mr. Moller, Sr., a close friend of our family for years, was introduced. He complimented us on the acquisition of such

a suitable organ with all modern attachments and our cash payment for it. He explained how the chimes, installed in 1919 by Henry Reich, Sr., in memory of his son, Sergeant George Edward, who met death in France, November 9, 1918, had been rebuilt to conform to the new organ.

### III

May 26, 1935, following a sermon by the pastor and an earnest appeal addressed to the congregation by Mr. Wagner, an every-member visitation was made.

The purpose was to secure money to make essential improvements. The people gave liberally. The frescoing had been marred because of the heavy snow, and a thaw causing the roof to leak. The Church was frescoed, a new carpet replaced the original one, a middle aisle created, pews rebuilt, also the pulpit, to correspond with the altar and mosaic Recedos. Through the interest and liberality of the Ladies' Aid Society, a marble and brass altar rail replaced the former one. The entire cost was \$5,000. Mr. Correll acted as supervisor and spent much time looking after details. These improvements did much to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary.

At the re-opening service on a Sunday afternoon in September the following were the participating ministers: Dr. Ott, President of our Synod, Dr. George S. Bowers, Reverends Shearer, Rector of St. Timothy's, Spicknall of the Methodist Church, Nesbitt of the Presbyterian Church, Hamm of the Baptist Church, Carl Mumford, and Payne and Vulgaris.

### IV

I have written these tracts and booklets for use in my work:

HEAVENLY RECOGNITION  
CHRIST KNOCKING AT THE DOOR  
HIS DISPOSITION  
I AM CALLING YOU  
OUR HABITS AND OTHERS  
THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE  
CONTRARY WINDS  
THE COMMON PEOPLE  
DAILY READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR LENT

We have always emphasized the truth that we are stewards of time and money. God wisely does not allow us to take out of this world any material possessions. I have been asked how much a well-to-do person left when he died. I replied, "I do not know the appraisement of his estate, but I am sure of this—he left all that he had."

## V

Lay delegates accompanying the pastor to conference and synodical meetings have been Messrs. Zaiser, Renn, Mattfeldt, Long, Rice, George Grim, Payne, Norris, Keeney, Reich, Correll, Klein.

Salem has never failed to pay its full Synodical apportionment which is now four times as much as it was in 1910.

Lately highly appreciated illustrated lectures and addresses have been delivered in our church to inspiring assemblies by prominent laymen. Lecturers: Jacob Gross, Page Etchison, and George Weitzel. Guest speakers: Merle Towner, Charles Moylan, Theodore McKeldin, Justice Loeber, Theodore Wilson, Neal A. Sibley and Carl Distler.

## VI

As the years increase we are naturally reminded of the great variety of people we meet along the journey of life. Folks of every sort. Sowers of seeds of many kinds.

Those who have helped me most and influenced me in carrying out my program have been the sowers of kindness, compassion, patience, and generosity.

A sense of humor, self-forgetfulness, and Christian consistency have characterized them. Not all have been members of my church. I have found some in places least expected.

As an evidence of the way Catonsville has grown I cite the fact that in 1911 I preached the Baccalaureate Sermon to a class of six:

MILDRED LEE  
SARAH MARSDEN (Mrs. Peddicord)  
GENEVA MCALEER (Mrs. Spittel)  
JOHANNA STUDE (Mrs. Seidel)  
AVRA WARREN  
MAY WERNER

Several years ago, 1940, I preached to a class of 300.

## VII

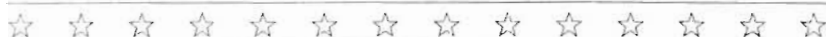
At this year's Fathers and Sons Banquet, there were four generations of the Conrad Becker family present. All are under our pastoral care. Our oldest member, Conrad Becker, his son, William, his son-in-law, Norris Gordon, his son, Norris, Jr.

"When I teach my class of boys in Sunday School, I often think of the inspiration I received from Mr. Coblentz who taught the *Bible Class* when we lived in Catonsville in 1924." Mrs. W.—

In 1915 Mrs. Zaiser, Mrs. J. Goucher Owens, Miss Louise Freund, Mrs. Friese, Mrs. Conrad Kolb and Mrs. Bowers arranged for a reception for the confirmation class and members received during the year. Music, addresses and refreshments were on the printed program. The Church Council, officers, teachers of the Sunday School and parents of the class were invited. A representative was selected to speak for every organization. The occasion was so successful that it has been made an annual affair. Some of our guest speakers have departed this life. Others have moved to distant places. Instructive messages have been brought recently by Revs. Brenneman, Rhodes, Mertz, Sorrick, Dr. Baringer, Ritterpusch, Hackmann, Dr. Weidley, Fite and Fred J. Eckert.

In those days of World War No. 1 our artist, Mr. Hankinson, shipped some of our Church and Sunday School memorials from his plant in Newark, N. J. Owing to confusion and crowded cars, some were unloaded at one station and some at another. Through the cooperation of John H. P. Schaub, we located, hauled and helped to assemble them. His was a service without remuneration. Tribute must be paid to Joseph Steinacker, prominent architect, for making a number of patterns for our Sunday School windows in those trying days, without cost.

The work of Henry Hankinson, distinguished artist and noted for his patience in 1915, 1916 and 1917 speaks for itself. His large contribution to the enhancement of our Church has been commended by an innumerable number since those notable years.



## Our Service Roll

CHARLES F. BERTRAM  
CARL L. CAMPBELL  
ROBERT J. DILL  
ELMER DILL  
JOHN Z. BOWERS  
C. LOUIS GRIM  
HENRY C. WALDVOGEL  
AUGUST HERLTH  
ROBERT L. MCKINNELL  
HENRY E. REICH  
FREDERICK C. MAISEL, JR.  
NICHOLAS RICE  
WALTER ZENKER  
ROBERT KANODE  
MELVIN SAUERHAMMER  
KENNETH RUNGE  
MELVIN GUTTROMSON  
WILLIAM SPITTEL  
CHARLES H. PAYNE  
CARROLL W. ROOS  
T. WENDEL MILLER  
H. EARL SERVARY  
RALPH N. HURTT  
LOUIS KIMMELSHUE  
HENRY A. HEINMULLER  
HENRY J. ROCKSTROH  
OSCAR M. GRIMES  
GEORGE W. GRIMES  
WILSON ARMSTRONG  
HENRY KNAPP  
WILLIAM OWENS  
ERNEST HILDEBRANDT  
GEORGE E. PERKINS  
ERNST W. PAYNE  
WILLIAM EITZE  
CHARLES GREEN  
LAWRENCE MYERS  
GEORGE WITTE  
ROBERT J. SPITTEL  
HELMUTH STUDE  
BERNARD CARRICK  
HARRY MAISEL, JR.  
THOMAS E. BOHANNON

ARTHUR LAPP  
HENRY DENKER  
JOHN L. HOERL  
ALBERT LEDLEY  
ARTHUR MITTENDORF  
FRANKLIN PREVOST  
WILLIAM STUDE  
CARSTEN S. BRINKMAN  
L. EWING SHAFER  
ELWOOD GRYMES  
PAUL H. B. REICH  
C. S. JOHNSON  
EDGAR L. GREEN  
JOHN MCFARLAND  
CHARLES ADOLPHI  
ADELBERT MILLER  
CHARLES MAISEL  
CHARLES P. McEVOY  
JAMES W. SELWAY  
MILTON GABLE  
JOHN SEIDLICH  
FRITZ R. STUDE  
EDWARD ROOS  
RAYMOND SERVARY, JR.  
WALTER PALM  
JAMES SPITTEL  
ALBERT G. MAISEL  
EDWARD MACNABB  
RICHARD HEHL  
LEWIS HEHL  
FRANK MAISEL, JR.  
VERNON TREUTH  
ROBERT TREUTH  
JOHN L. HOERL  
JOHN E. HOERL  
ELLSWORTH CADELL  
CHARLES W. ZIMMERMAN  
CHARLES L. STAPP  
CHARLES MORSBERGER  
JAMES COFFMAN  
ROBERT L. MAISEL  
FREDERICK E. SCHANKEN  
ELMER L. MORSBERGER

## Felicitous Privileges

It has been a peculiar joy to baptize, confirm, and marry the children of those whose parents were joined in Holy wedlock during these years. To have taught a Sunday School class since 1896.

Not to have missed a service because of sickness except during a hospital experience in 1925.

To have my two children, who love Salem, teach in the Sunday School and be "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

Also to know that through my personal ministrations there have been those who have appreciated my pastoral care and interest by bequeathing a portion of their material possessions to their Church. Gratefully do we write these names:

MRS. SILZLE  
MRS. GIESKE

MRS. ZAISER  
MRS. DIETZ

MRS. PARENIDORF  
MR. SCHMIDT

MINA TREUTH

Mr. Schmidt who left our Church five hundred dollars was not a member, but a friend who was married by the pastor.

To see our organizations grow in numbers and spiritual efficiency, attaining not only local but Synodical prominence. Through them many have been trained for more effective service in philanthropic and Church work.

Our Sunday School, Ladies' Aid Society, Brotherhood, Women's Missionary Society, Salem Missionary Helpers, World Friendship Society, Luther League, all contribute towards building a congregation that will go forward when others take our place.

To know that two of our young men, Herbert M. Payre and George Vulgaris, have entered the Gospel ministry. Both were confirmed by the writer. He also had part in their ordination. Herbert did not go farther than his own Church to find his very helpful wife, the former Miss Hilda Jacobi. I married them and baptized their lovely daughter.

To look back through so many years to those graduation days at the York Collegiate Institute 1890, Gettysburg College 1893, and Seminary 1896.

To feel as Mrs. Bowers and I do that it is a great uplift and support to know that after thirty-two years, we have the increasing confidence and affection of the people in Salem and of countless others.

To recall that in the student days of Herbert and George, Salem provided money for furnishing a dormitory room in the Seminary. A lovely letter from Dr. Alleman, a friend for many years, expressed his appreciation of our continued interest in the Seminary and in this room by providing for necessary repairs.

To recur to the fact that I was born in a village where the villagers prided themselves upon their gardens. Then I acquired a fondness for a garden from my parents and my village folks. When the parsonage was erected, we began to make a garden on the spacious lot assisted by two of our Church boys, Simon Maisel and Carl Bauman. The lilacs planted thirty-one years ago, the fruit bearing and ornamental trees, the rose section, the lily pond and a great variety of other flowers have often supplied a need in Salem, and have brought cheer to many aged and others in hospitals.

My garden and Forlifer's Health Club (Fidelity Building) have provided a very congenial way for physical exercise.

To remember the Sunday evening in August, 1923, when it was my privilege to preach to a large congregation in St. Paul's Church in San Juan, Porto Rico, Alfred Ostrom, D.D., pastor. Mrs. Bowers, our children—John Zimmerman and Ethel, were in the assembly.

To help others in hours of trial to see the Christian way as we have found it by experience.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of my ordination to the Gospel Ministry was observed in 1921. Numerous gifts were received and gratefully remembered today. Greetings were brought by Dr. Ide, Rev. Samuel J. Miller and my brother. Mr. Donaldson and Mr. Coblentz made brief congratulatory addresses.

Our Sunday School orchestra, organized and directed by Mr. Leister, is a great help in our weekly music and on special occasions. The members are to be commended. They are Brent Matthews, Thomas Bohannon, Bernard Carrick, Howard Miller, Charles Bertram, James Coffman, Robert Spittel, Edith Leister, Ruth Mattheiss and Carolyn Prevost.



## THE CHURCH COUNCIL.

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MRS. JOSEPH PREVOST

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MRS. CHARLES ZENKER

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## Letters

Dear John,

It is good to know that you are undertaking the personal collection of biographical material and I hope that before long it will appear in print. Mrs. Knubel and I send heartiest greetings to you all.

Ever since you and I graduated as college classmates at Gettysburg in 1893 I have followed with joyous interest your ministry.

Above all have I been observant of that ministry as carried on for more than thirty-two years at Catonsville, Md. It has been a pastoral activity particularly marked by steadiness, Christian fidelity and constructive development. This is the type of Christian ministry which is noteworthy as a model and which is to be commended wherever it is manifested.

Indeed it has been so commended in all nations during all Christian centuries.

Faithfully yours,

F. H. KNUBEL.

President, United Lutheran Church in America.

It has been my privilege to know the Reverend Doctor John C. Bowers for more than twelve years. Doctor Bowers is truly representative of that type of ministers who become an institution in a community. He represents that era in which the Doctor and Pastor were as members of each family to whom they ministered, sharing with them their joys and sorrows.

It was my privilege seven years ago to be present at a service in Salem Lutheran Church which marked the beautiful redecoration of that building.

In saying a word of greeting to the large congregation, I expressed the thought that such an achievement as that service commemorated, meant so much more coming at the close of twenty-five years of ministry to the same congregation than it would have meant at the beginning. We of Saint Timothy's Church where Doctor Bowers has many friends, wish for him and Mrs. Bowers, many more years together of blessed ministry to the people of Catonsville.

WM. WELTON SHEARER

Rector of St. Timothy's Church.



November 21, 1942.

It is always a pleasure to recognize our fathers in Christ. When I recall those who influenced my life and my ministry, I always include in the number the Reverend Doctor John C. Bowers of Catonsville, Maryland. He was the Secretary of the Maryland Synod when I was ordained to the ministry. The event took place in St. Mark's Church in Baltimore in 1909. Dr. Bowers preached the ordination sermon. His message was full of sound advice to the young men who were to be ordained. He then participated in the ordination ceremony itself and laid his hands upon my head as I became a Lutheran minister.

I have always cherished Dr. Bowers as a warm personal friend and a wise counsellor. His splendid record of sustained service in the Lutheran Church of the Maryland Synod is worthy of wide recognition and I am sure will bring him many stars for his eternal crown.

ABDEL ROSS WENTZ.

January 11, 1943.

Dear Dr. Bowers:

May I not take this occasion to express to you my heartiest congratulations upon the completion of thirty-two years as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church. I believe that instead of extending congratulations to you, it would be more fitting for me to congratulate Salem Church and Catonsville.

As a brother-minister, I would like to express my personal appreciation for the splendid work you have done in this community. As a preacher, you have always uplifted and magnified Jesus Christ, and have evinced an evangelical fervor and passion which does honor to the founder of your Church and our Protestantism, Martin Luther. You have been indefatigable in your pastoral labors, serving not only your own Church, but responding to every call of the community. In so doing you have won a place of esteem and affection in the hearts of us all.

However successful you may have been as Pastor-Preacher, your greatest contribution has been made by the simple, sincere Christian quality of your own character, and in the fine influence that has emanated from your Parsonage and family life. The best evidence of one's success in life can be found in the quality of home and family one produces. Yours is one of which you and Mrs. Bowers may indeed be proud. I am not unmindful of the part the lovely Mistress of your Parsonage has played in it all and I therefore include her in this word of appreciation.

I am confident that I express the feeling of my own congregation, and that of the entire community, when I pray that you both may be spared to us for many years to come.

Again, Congratulations!

As ever,

J. TURNBULL SPICKNALL

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Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Bowers:

Hearty congratulations on your thirty-second anniversary. God has greatly blessed us with a long close friendship and many years of service. Your literature indicates that you are "a workman that needeth not be ashamed."

L. M. ZIMMERMAN

November 26, 1942.

My Dear Friend:

I want to congratulate you heartily upon the completion of forty-six fruitful years of active service in the ministry. You can review these years with the joy and satisfaction of knowing that you have faithfully, humbly, and effectively been "going about doing good," leaving behind a record which should warm the heart of any Christian Minister. In the churches of which you have been the pastor and in the one in which you are now so successfully serving, as well as in the larger spheres in the work of the Maryland Synod and in the United Lutheran Church, you have rendered fine service and have exerted an influence which cannot be evaluated by statistics. I wish to congratulate you also that, during the major portion of your ministry you have enjoyed the fine and efficient cooperation of a devoted wife.

It gives me much joy to say all this because of our personal friendship which began in Seminary days and has continued without interruption during all these years,—a friendship that has constantly deepened since, largely through your personal influence, I was called to succeed you as pastor of Calvary Church in 1910. All along you have been a real steadfast friend who could be trusted at all times. This I appreciate very much.

Hoping that you may enjoy many more years of active service, I am

Sincerely yours,

FOSTER U. GIFT.

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November 16th, 1942.

Dear Dr. Bowers:

I appreciate more than I can tell the cordial reception which you and the members of your congregation gave me yesterday when I was privileged to speak at your Church on behalf of the United Lutheran Church in America.

While there, I could not help letting my mind run back over the years during which I have been happy in my acquaintanceship with you, going back as they do to the days of my boyhood.

It is difficult to realize how many years have passed since then and that you are now entering upon the thirty-third year of your pastorate at the Salem Lutheran Church at Catonsville. I congratulate you and your people most sincerely and from the depths of my heart

on this Thirty-second Anniversary of your pastorate. During these years you have been permitted to fill an important place in the work of the Lutheran church and the congregation which has been privileged to be under your pastoral care is fortunate and happy indeed. That these thirty-two years of labor on your part have been exceedingly fruitful was more than evident yesterday by the size of the congregation which attended the morning service to hear a stranger present the general work of the Church. I know, therefore, full well that the average congregation which assembles to worship each Sunday morning must be even larger than that which was there yesterday. Congregations of such size do not come without much work and labor on the Pastor's part. I know that your people are happy and blessed in your pastoral ministrations as well as edified and inspired by your preaching.

To you and your people I send cordial greetings and best wishes on this signal anniversary in your joint labors together. I pray God that the future will have much of happiness and joy for you all and that the years to come will continue and enhance the success that has crowned the labors of the past.

Blessed indeed are the people who have such an earnest, consecrated, self-sacrificing and devoted pastor as you for their spiritual leader.

With my kindest greetings and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

CARL M. DISTLER.

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September 25, 1942

Dear John:

It was good of you to sit down and write me the letter which came to me yesterday. I have always appreciated your friendship. There are two points of contact between us—Gettysburg and Jefferson, Md.

I thank you for the little booklet, *His Disposition*. It is very well done. It emphasizes some of the traits your friends have found in you. You might have included another—a sense of humor—for I am sure Jesus had it.

It is a pleasure to remember also your unfailing support of the Seminary.

With all good wishes,

HERBERT C. ALLEMAN.

December 18, 1942.

Dear Dr. Bowers:

I wish to offer to you my sincere congratulations upon this the completion of your thirty-second year as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church.

In the short time that I have been in Catonsville, one of the things that has impressed me greatly is the wonderful loyalty that you have inspired in the people of your church,—loyalty to our Lord and Master, and loyalty to you their beloved pastor.

As a younger man in the Christian ministry, I feel that it is a great privilege to have among my friends one whom God has used so richly in the work of His Kingdom. May He continue to bless you and the work to which you have given so many years of faithful service.

Very sincerely,

WILLIAM H. KEPLER,

Minister, Catonsville Presbyterian Church.



Altoona, Pa.

My dear Brother John:

We are always glad to hear of the substantial work you are doing. Mrs. Kline joins me in wishing you a long and very happy pastorate in Catonsville.

MARION J. KLINE,

'93 Class President.



Carlisle, Pa.

Dear John:

Mrs. Diffenderfer and I reached home after another pleasant visit with you and your family. It was inspiring to preach to a congregation that filled the Church at the Wednesday evening Lenten service.

GEORGE M. DIFFENDERFER,

'93 Class Historian.

# Acknowledgments

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In the compilation of names and registering of events there may be errors. We are sorry for any that may be found in our booklet.