The Work of the German Baptist in Chicago

Forward

The members of the German Baptist Churches of Chicago have the privilege of hosting the General Conference for the fourth time since the founding in 1865, namely: In 1874, the fourth; in 1892 the tenth; in 1904, the fourteenth; and in 1919 the nineteenth conference. During this time our city of Chicago changed a good deal, about which an interesting story could be told. Also in our work many changes have taken place. With the Lord’s help, our eight German churches stand together in the service of the Lord, and bid hearty welcome to the nineteenth General Conference taking place in the metropolis of the west. It would not have been difficult for us to plan a souvenir rich in the pictures of Chicago into the hands of our worthy guests, but we believe we should use this opportunity to give to you an insight into the work in this area by means of an open report, especially since the home for the aged and the home for the deaconesses serve the general field of our denominational work. In connection with this report we are including a number of pictures of our area churches and also pastors who are serving them at this time, and also pictures of those who form councils who are managing our institutions. There are also other brothers and sisters whose pictures we cannot include in this report, but who are nevertheless doing a noble work in the positions which they fill. Their service is held in worthy esteem by the Lord and by us. J. Meier

The First Church:
The first church was organized in 1858 with sixteen members. The worship services were held in a Presbyterian church. In 1866 the church built their own house of the Lord. Here they served the Lord until 1888 experiencing abundant blessing and success. At this time the present church and parsonage were built at the corner of superior and Paulina St. During the course of these years the church had ten pastors, of which Brother J. Meier had the privilege of serving for 28 years. He lived through the glowing period of the church’s history, but also had heavy burdens to bear. There was the flow of immigration; the spirit of mission and the readiness to sacrifice were great. Mission stations could be founded in all directions, of which later some grew to be strong churches. By the Lord’s leading a good number of missionaries co-operated in the ministry. Among those, special mention should be made of Sister Glesina Schmidt. To Him be honor and praise in eternity.

Pictures:
1. F Freidrich
2. The First Church
The Second Church:
The Second Church was organized in 1886. The church and parsonage are located at the corner of Willow and Burling Street, near the south end of Lincoln Park. It is a daughter church of the First Church, which transferred 91 members for the purpose of organizing the new church, and also made a contribution of $4,500 for the building project. Serving as pastors of the church were: Brother F. Friedrich 1882-1887; F. A. Licht 1887-1889; J Fellman 1889-1893; Christian Dippel 1894-1909; R Stracke 1909-1915; and since 1915, G H Schneck. During the years a number of ladies worked as church missionaries in the church. Their church is located in an area settled largely by Germans and Hungarians. The Second Church is the mother church of the Gross Park Church, and also gave a goodly number of members in transfer to the newly organized Irving Park Church. Today the membership is 220. During the last years the church produced Brother F. A Baier, pastor; Brother W[illiam] L. Schoefel. the pastor in Wilmington, DE and Sister Emma Siegwart, missionary of the First Church in Philadelphia; Prof. G Berndt, the director of our Chicago Association choirs, has been a member for years now of the Second Church, and the director of their choir. G.H. Schenck

Pictures:
1. G H Schneck
2. Edifice of the Second Church

The South Chicago Church
In 1882 the First gave letters of transfer to 80 members, who became organized as the South Chicago and Colehour Church. Brother G. Mengel was the first pastor. In this time of first love the members unfolded themselves as very active in keeping up the worship services and Sunday school at two locations. The various societies contributed a great deal to the building up of the work. As self-supporting church we put special gifts on God’s mission altar, and we had the privilege of baptizing a goodly number of people. However, the majority of them are not walking with us anymore. During Brother A Friederichsen’s period of service the South Chicago Church near 92 Street became solvent – the building going to the Swedish Baptists and the further development of the present building on 107 Street was carried out. Since the city has finally decided to install the lower sewers, a great building activity is expected, and we hope that this will open up a fertile mission field for us.

Ph. Lauer

Pictures:
1. Ph[il]. Lauer
2. The South Chicago Church

The Oak Park Church
The beginning of this work actually dates back to the middle of the past century, during which time several settlers gathered together as a station of the church of the city. Already in 1867 a church was erected, but because of unholy matters, it had to be sold in 1874. After several years of inactivity, near the end of the 70’s, the few remaining members were encouraged by Brother J. Meier to begin the work anew. They met in their private homes. The work took on a steady and thriving pattern so that, in 1888, even
before the organization of the church, they were able to move into a new edifice, which served the membership as a meeting place until 1903. In 1904 we were able to take over our church which stands at the corner of Harlem Avenue and Dixon Street to serve as its ordained purpose. In 1890 the formal organization of the church took place. The following pastors served our church as subordinate shepherds, so that it grew from 86 members at the time of organization to the present number of 316. The following brethren served our church as shepherds; Brother F Hoefflin from 1890-1894. Brother J Fellmann followed who remained until 1900. Then came Brother Pistor who served until 1911 during which time the church grew from 175 – 268. From 1911-1916 Brother O R Schroeder served the church. During this time the 25th anniversary was celebrated. Since 1917 the church is under the leadership of Brother S Blum. Under his circumspect leadership, Brother Blum through God’s help was able to keep our church unsinged through various adverse circumstances during the last years. PG
Pictures
1. S Blum
2. The edifice of the Oak Park Church

The Engelwood Church
In order to do right by its missionary calling in the south side as well, the First Church established a mission on Wentworth Avenue. Thanks to faithful work which developed this project to become the Fifth Avenue-now Engelwood Church - in 1902. Brothers C. Homan, B. Graf, P. Geissler, and O. R. Hauser served as pastors. In the course of years the German speaking people always moved farther from the vicinity, and so it became necessary to also change the location of the church. The next new church at 1049 W Marquette Road was built in 1915 under Brother Hauser’s leadership. The church never grew to be large, but thus far overcame all obstacles and difficulties that came her way courageously. Nor are we obsessed with being a large church, but rather far moreso with retaining the character of a good German Baptist Church, and remaining true to these principles. H Steiger
Pictures
1. Hans Steiger
2. Englewood church edifice including the parsonage

The Immanuel Church
The edifice of the Immanuel Church is on the corner of Newport Avenue and N. Robey Street, in the Northwest part of the city.

The beginnings of the church are possibly not much different than those of the other churches. Some of the members of the Second Church who lived in the area, then known as Gross Park saw the possibilities of a good work. These people united, and they carried on a mission in connection with the Second Church. They rented a hall and took as a project the starting of a Sunday school, which proved to be successful. Some of the members of the First Church lived farther west in Irving Park. These, together with the members of the Gross Park mission, felt the need of an organization. They met on Sunday, August 25, 1907 and became organized as a church. On Sunday, October 13, the public celebration of the recognition of the church took place. Brother Adam Waldvogel was called as pastor. He began his ministry at the close of 1907 and ended it at the close
of 1917. The church is small, the membership being 75, but it has a large Sunday school. The work of the Sunday school and the Youth is carried on in the American Language. The undersigned is the pastor since May 1918. L B Holzer

Pictures
1. Louis B Holzer
2. The edifice of the Immanuel Church

The Irving Park Church
In the summer of 1913 the tent of the Youth Society of Chicago was set up at the corner of Byron and 50th Avenue, and the Word of the cross was preached to the German folk by the Evangelist brethren R Vasel and student J R Matz of the School in Rochester. The Lord blessed the sown seed so that through the members living here and the appreciated help of the mission society, the present church at the beautiful corner of Bernice and Le Claire Avenue could be dedicated that same year. The members took care of their own expenses. The Lord also led that our mission society and the General Mission Society regarded it as good to provide for us Brother Vasel as pastor, who served us faithfully and in an edifying manner with Word of the cross. The Lord blessed this work richly, adding to the church those who were saved. On Thursday, November 8, 1917 there were 61 members who were examined by the council and were organized as the Irving Park German Baptist Church. The Sunday school, Youth Society and Women’s Society, which already had their beginning in the ministry, were recognized as worthy branches of the church upon its organization. Brother Vasel served the church until May 15, 1918, to follow the call to Kyle TX. The church gave a unanimous call to Brother J H. Ansberg, pastor of the Northside Church in Pittsburgh, PA. The Lord led Brother Ansberg to accept the call, beginning his service the first Sunday in August, 1918. In him we received a loving pastor who preaches the Word of the cross in the American language as well as in German. We too, can speak about the blessings of the Lord. After three weeks of extended meetings with the co-operation of Evangelist Schulz of Pittsburgh, Brother Ansberg was able to baptize five men on April 13, and on Easter Sunday a couple. At the occasion of the Lord’s Supper which followed, he was able to extend the hand of fellowship to ten persons. B. Tuleweit, Church Secretary

Pictures
1. J Ansberg
2. The edifice of the Irving Park Church

The Humboldt Park Church
The Humboldt Park Church was started in the summer of 1893. The reason for this is that the number of members lived in this area. After five years 133 members were given letters of transfer and the church was organized with 133 members as a self-supporting church. The property next to the home for the aged at the corner of Spaulding Avenue and Courtland Street is the second location, and the church on the property likewise since the edifice became too small. Seven years ago a modern parsonage was built, which is likely the lovelyest among those of our German churches, and gives the property a worth of $15,000.
The Brothers Val Forkel, Jacob Fellman, H W Wedel and F W Keese were the pastors during these 25 years. They accomplished great things. Circumstances asked for a change. The church saw it was necessary, now after its celebration of 25 years of existence, because of their strong and aggressive youth, to pay more attention to the English. Therefore half of our services are now conducted in English. E G Kliese

Pictures
1. EG Kliese
2. Humboldt Park Church
   Four of our pastors in Chicago who are not directly in the pastorate
   J Meier, A Pistor (deceased at the time of this document) H Wernick, H Schroeder

The Three Societies in Chicago
In the course of years our churches in Chicago have arranged themselves into three societies as a result of the development of the work.

The Old People’s Home
It happened in the fall of the year 1896 that there were three Sisters who had become widows, and now had to be cared for. These sisters had earned their livelihood by doing the hard work of laundering, and supported the church financially as they were able. But now because of their age and health they could no longer continue working. There was no other opening for them than the county poor house, where they would have to spend their last days with the great variety of people that can be congregated in a large city. This would be a sorry lot for them. These three Sisters were the reason for the founding of the home for aged German Baptists in Chicago.

The Lord moved the heart of Sister Katharina Lindner to do something for the well-being of her fellowman. When she was informed of the need of a home for the aged, she was immediately willing to donate $2,000 for this cause. With these funds we bought a small house on Spaulding Avenue. This was the beginning of the home for old people. The first Brother to be received into this small home was Jacob Unholz from Topeka, KS who was now together with the three sisters who were freed from the county poor house. The happened on September 15, 1896. There were so many requests for admittance that we were compelled to build bigger at various times. The present building - it has a 96 foot front and is 35 feet deep, it is three stories and has a basement, and an added wing 60 by 35 feet and the same height was built and added to three times. It has all the modern facilities, gas and electric light, hot and cold water, with toilet and bath on every floor, and is steam heated. Including the use of two small homes built of wood and connected to the main building, we are able to care for 85 persons. For the past several years we are filled to capacity. There are so many requests for admission that we have to refuse many and let others wait. The work needs another addition to meet the demand. But we must exercise the greatest caution in this matter because of the cost of building, and the care of so many old people who will stay in the home for the rest of their life. For some people of means this would be their opportunity to do a good work pleasing to God. For the past 23 years the home served many Brothers and Sisters as a last place of refuge at which they could complete their pilgrimage. Many were thankful. This made the work easier. Not all could be satisfied which is always the case in this world. But before the Lord and
our conscience, our churches have done a noble work in this home for the aged. Folks from all over our conference have been taken care of here.

Picture
The Old People’s Home

The Home for the Deaconesses
It was also in 1896 that two German deaconesses came to Chicago from the deaconesses’ hospital in Dayton, OH. This provided the possibility for us to start a work for these sisters in Chicago. A society was organized, and the sisters started caring for the sick. But after a short while both sisters married. The Society, however, was not discontinued, even though it had no worker until Sister Anna Lohr (now Umback) came to us from the Lutheran home for deaconesses in Indianapolis, IN. Now the Society could function further, and several other sisters came. It now came to the point that if the work was to remain in existence, a home would have to be provided for the sisters. To build a hospital for the sisters right away would have been the best and could have combined their work with the home. The problem was the lack of money. We had to be satisfied with a very modest home. Ten sisters came forward, members of the First Church, each loaning the society $100 interest free for five years. The Society borrowed further funds in the form of notes and bought property next to the First Church for the sum of $4,000. This became the first home for the deaconesses of the German Baptists in this country.

The Society sent the deaconesses to the Moody Bible Institute for training and into the Union Hospital and the deaconess’ hospital of the Lutheran church. We saw from the very beginning how important it would be to have a hospital for the furtherance of this work. The Society will have to keep this goal before their eyes constantly until it is finally achieved. Our old building was no longer fit as a home for the deaconesses of the German Baptists. The Lord provided a way. By means of bequests from the Sisters Schaufler and Worman and Mr. and Mrs. Nielen of Baileyville, IL (the parents of Judge Nielen of Milwaukee) and Mr. and Mrs. Seedorf of Kankakee, IL, and also a goodly number of brethren and friends, whom we had addressed on our trip to the churches in the west, the society was in the position to buy the present home for deaconesses including a building site for a hospital. It is located on the southwest corner of Spaulding Avenue and Courtland Street. The lot is 150 by 177 feet. It is on the east end of the brick building which now serves as the deaconess home. It has all the modern facilities. The property has a value of $24,000 and is debt free. Since the society also provides the opportunity to offer training as church missionaries for the past several years, their members have increased. Today this home offers young women the opportunity to get the necessary and proper training as church missionaries and as nurses. Employment in missionary service is available on the same basis for the sisters as for the young brethren of our school, that is, through the church in connection with the mission society. The training time for a sister for church missionary service is two years of study in the seminary and one further year in the hospital. To be thoroughly trained for hospital service as a deaconess, three years are required in accordance with the law in the state of Illinois. Because much time and hospital service is involved, one can easily calculate what a great benefit our denomination could have through the work of the sisters if we had our own hospital, especially considering the fact that we already have an ideally located building site. Besides the instruction in the seminary and in the hospital our
sisters also get training by the pastors in the deaconess’ home in practical mission work such as is required in the church. The Deaconess Society provides our sisters with free room and board during their training and also $7.50 per month pocket money to cover clothes and transportation on the street cars. This is considerable expense for the society, because it does not require repayment, just as our pastors do not have to repay the school for their education. Without the support of the churches and the women’s societies, the deaconess Society would not be able to continue its noble work. Because this is an open door for a well expanded mission effort involving the women, carried on throughout our churches and on the total mission field, we request your support of this cause through donations, and by the faithful prayers of believers.

The Mission and Benevolence Society of the German Baptist Churches of Chicago

It was in May of 1906 that a number of business people, with Brother Ed. Alswede as leader, took special notice of the conditions of our work in Chicago. Both the institutions, the home for the aged and the home for deaconesses, were present, representing a considerable worth. The property of both was in the hands of the societies. The society for the aged numbered 120 members who had limited means. There were 85 residents in the home for whom they had lifelong responsibility. A burden of debt rested on the home. These brethren realized that this responsibility was too much for the society. Also, the financial foundation for the work with the deaconesses was too weak to assure these women, who had dedicated their lives to service, a guarantee of a lifelong support. The only reliable prospect the sisters had was to resort to private nursing. Further, this work needed a better organization and stronger backing. At that time there were eight German Baptist churches, five of which were self supporting, but three needed help. From the Baptist city council they received only as much as they paid in. In addition, our churches had to give mission collections that were not connected with our denominational program. These circumstances led to the necessity of founding our Mission and Benevolence Society, partly to support our two homes – for the aged and for the deaconesses – and partly for the mission work of Chicago. Because of this society, the churches of Chicago own both these institutions, and take an interest in them. Mission and welfare are closely related through the Gospel. The mission in the city is carried out jointly. The churches have the privilege of appointing brothers as missionaries, and recommending them for financial support. They support each other to the point in which the churches all together represent the German Baptist church of Chicago. As long as our churches continue to exist, we need this organization as a society, because if the churches want to live they have to remain active. In our day it is becoming more and more difficult for individual churches to start mission projects and then build them up successfully, since almost the whole field is divided up amongst the churches. But things are much more possible by working together. The alliance strengthens the spirit of the churches: the stronger churches support the smaller as should always be the case in a larger city. The concentration of inner strength in God’s Kingdom comes about by expanding activities. When the first church in Jerusalem centered upon its goal, the Lord allowed the storm of persecution to come upon them, whereby the Kingdom of God was expanding according to His determination.

Pictures of Members of the Council of the Old People’s Home Society
Our Three Societies in Chicago

Our eight churches in Chicago have a membership of about 1,700. There are quite a number of German extractions from our number in the American churches; who are almost without exception members of considerable size. Although we miss them, it is gratifying to know that they are faithful workers in the American churches. The German churches have organized three societies which have emanated from the work, namely: The Old People’s Home Society, The Deaconess’ Home and Hospital Society, and the Mission Benevolent Society.

The Old Peoples’ Home Society

There are now 85 old people who have come from all parts of our country, occupying this home. They receive here the necessary care and are waiting peacefully the evening of life. This home has been a place of comfort for many of our people in their reclining years.

This institution is mainly supported by an entrance fee which is required from those who are able to pay it. According to the constitution, the amount of this fee is $500. Some are unable to pay this, while others can pay more. We are guided by the principle that those who have the means with which to support themselves should not be dependent upon the benevolence of our denomination. Because of the fact that some have paid more than the constitution demands, the society has been able to care for those who could not pay the required fee. In order to support 85 old people to the end of life, we ought to have a guarantee fund. Although every effort is being made to do so, up till the present time we have not been able to accumulate such a fund. We are therefore impelled to look in faith to God, our helper and provider, trusting that he will lead us. He can touch the hearts of His people and cause them to willingly support the Old People’s Home with their offerings. The home is under the management of a board, the members of which are representatives of all churches in Chicago. So many applications have been received that it will be necessary to enlarge our building before we can accommodate all. Here is an opportunity for some of our members who are financially able, to assist the society in this project.

The Deaconess’ Home and Hospital Society

The object of this society is to minister to the sick in the spirit of Christian love; to carry on mission work in the churches of our denomination; to train deaconesses for their vocation and provide their support; also to provide a home for working girls who are in need of a helping hand, extended in the spirit of Christian love.

At present there are 13 sisters in connection with our deaconess work. Seven of these are in training for church missionaries and the rest for nurses. The period of their training extends over three years, during which time our society provides free board and lodging and $7.50 a month for additional expenses. This is quite a large sum of money which The Deaconess’ Home Society appropriates annually for general work. Had it not been for a bequest received from Judge Neelen’s parents of Baileyville, ILL., and from others
like Sister Schauffler and Sister Wahrman of Chicago and Brother and Sister W. Seedorf of Kankakee, IL, the society would not have been able to carry on this noble work with the young sisters for the benefit of the denomination. In comparison to other denominations, our deaconess work is not very extensive, but we have laid a good foundation. If the ladies’ societies in our churches were better informed in regard to this work, no doubt they would support it more generously.

With the help of our Lord, a number of sisters who have received their training in the Deaconess’ Home will go out to do good work in our churches, since they will receive their appointments through out General Mission Society, like the young brothers from Rochester who are called by the churches. The sisters receive their education at the Northern Baptist Seminary where Professor J. Heinrichs is an instructor, also at the Deaconess’ Home where they live, and at the hospital of the Evangelical Association. The course of instruction is so arranged as to meet the theoretical and practical requirements of their work. Had it been possible to make this arrangement sooner, we would have had a larger number of sisters at work in our mission field today. Great blessings from the Lord are hidden in this work, which will be revealed to us when we consider what the Lord has done through the deaconesses in other protestant denominations.

Twenty-one ladies and the ministers of our eight churches in Chicago constitute the board of managers of the Deaconess’ Home and Hospital Society. For financial support, this work is dependent upon donations from the churches and ladies’ societies. Of the sisters who have left the home and are engaged in mission work in our churches, we can expect very little financial support. Because the sisters devote their service to the mission work of our denomination, the denomination should justly bear a part of the expense in connection with the Deaconess’ Home Society, through which they receive their education.

The Mission and Benevolent Society

This is the third Society which the churches of Chicago have organized. The two societies previously mentioned have made this one necessary. The Mission and Benevolent Society became the connecting link of the entire work. Of our eight churches in Chicago, five are self-supporting while three are in need of partial support. Our connection with the Baptist City Council was such that we received as much from their treasury as we paid into it, but still it was the City Council which directed our work. The situation made it necessary for us to affiliate ourselves with our own General Mission Society which could take care of our institutions, The Old People’s and the Deaconess’ Home, which heretofore were controlled by only about 100 people, which organization was not sufficient in comparison to the valuation of the property.

The Mission and Benevolent Society has also become an organization through which the spirit of unity is promoted, because all mission work in this field is taken under co-operative council.
The business of this society and of the Old People’s Home Society is transacted by a joint board consisting of 28 brethren who serve for both societies. All our churches are represented in this board. Every year seven members are elected to this board to serve for a term of four years. The ministers form an executive committee which has to bring all business in regular form before the board, which acts upon it. Very important business which involves the whole work is brought from the board of ladies before this joint board, for final decision.

The three societies represent the German Baptist Churches of Chicago. So far the organization of these Societies has been a blessing to us. We therefore commend ourselves and the whole work to the earnest prayers of all our fellow churches.

Pictures
1. Marg. Wagner
2. Auguste Schroeder
3. Mary Stobbe

This picture presents to us three sisters who preside over the important work in the Old People’s Home. In the center is Sister Auguste Schroeder who has supervised the functioning of the kitchen for 22 years. By God’s grace, wise distribution, and frugal household management she has become a rich blessing to this home. Even though she is nearing old age, she is vigorously performing her duties. May the Lord keep her for a long time! To the left of Sister Schroeder is Sister Margarete Wagner, the superintendent of our Old People’s Home. On January 6 of this year Brother and Sister Hugo and Gesina Schmidt resigned as superintendents after nine years of blest service due to the ill health of Mrs. Schmidt. It is with deep regret that we see them go. A blessed memory of them remains present. We had to look around for someone who would serve as manager of this Old People’s family. Soon our attention was drawn to Sister Margarete Wagner who had proven herself a deaconess and had an extensive good record. She accepted the position and has already earned a good reputation here through her being diligent, circumspect, and friendly. The elderly are already affectionately inclined toward her. May the Lord keep her in the work for long time to come! On the right of Sister Schroeder is Sister Mary Stobbe, one of our deaconess sisters, who manages the care of the sick in the home. In this respect she is the assistant of Sister Wagner. By her noble effort in serving the sick, her gentle manners and friendly countenance, she has become indispensable in the home. God has fashioned three sisters for the positions they hold here through His providence.

A list of names

These churches and individuals gave special gifts directly for the Old People’s Home, whose donations are herewith acknowledged. During the past two years we received gifts of produce from the churches of Baileyville and Kankakee, IL; North Freedom and Ableman, WI; Gladwin, Beaver, St Joseph and Benton Harbor MI; Anamoose, Goodrich,
and Tyndall, The Dakotas; Marion and Stafford, KS. During the past two years we received special gifts from the following members:

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Other gifts were sent to us through the general secretary.

For the first time in the history of our German work in this country we are able to represent the work of our deaconesses in a worthy manner. It is peculiar to our female gender to esteem the worth of the bonds of fellowship. Therefore we cannot forget the home of our deaconesses. The Supervisor, Sister Johanna Langhorst, does as much as possible to maintain a Christian atmosphere in the home and to impart mother’s advice to the sisters.

Pictures:
1. Our deaconesses and those who plan to be in the future (Names are in English)
2. Johanna B Langhorst

Financial Reports

Statement of Mission and Benevolent Society for year ending May 1st. 1919

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<td>Humboldt Park S. S.</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Flournoy Chapel</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Ladies Aid Society</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Oak Park G B Church</td>
<td>110.00</td>
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</table>
Nov 7  Immanuel Baptist Church  35.00
Nov 7  Humboldt Park Ladies Society  15.00
Nov 9  1st German Baptist church  90.75
Nov 13 Englewood Baptist  5.62
Nov 18 Humboldt Park Church  100.00
Nov 20 Flournoy Chapel  60.00
Dec 10 Irving Park Church  13.75
Dec 26 Deaconess Society  100.00
Dec 30 1st German Baptist Church, Chicago  42.00
Jan 3, 1919 South Chicago  10.00
Jan 4  Humboldt Park S S  7.50
Jan 8  Humboldt Park Church  63.51
Jan 20  Aug. Pizarro, 1st Church  3.00
Feb 19  Second Church  50.00
Feb 20  Ladies Aid Society  16.40
Apr 9  Oak Park German Baptist  99.34
Apr 23  Proceeds Union Picnic  28.91
Apr 23  Old Peoples Home  400.00
May 7  South Chicago  33.50
May 7  South Chicago Ladies Aid Society  5.00

Total  $1,956.60

**Disbursements:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 14, 1918</td>
<td>J. A. Schulte  General Treasurer, payment on mortgage</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 5,</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  May services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  June rent, 22nd Street</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 10</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  July rent 22nd Street</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  June services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  Aug rent 22nd Street</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  Postage stamps</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  Aug Services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Rev. E G Kleese  Services  H. P.</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  Sept rent 22nd Street</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Rev. Cassel  Oct Rent 22nd Street</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  September Services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 25</td>
<td>J. A. Schulte  Treasurer</td>
<td>296.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  October services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>J A Schulte  Payment on mortgage</td>
<td>107.50</td>
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<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  November services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>Mrs. Anna Stracke  Int</td>
<td>13.75</td>
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<td>Dec 27</td>
<td>J A Schulte  Treas.</td>
<td>162.50</td>
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<td>Feb 4 1919</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  January services</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Irving Park Church  Revenue Stamps</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Joseph F Haas  Recorder</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Rev. Cassel  February rent 22nd Street</td>
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<td>Dec 28.1918</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  December Services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 11 1919</td>
<td>Rev. Jacob Meier  February services</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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Western Baptist Old Peoples Home Society
Financial Secretary’s Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Disbursements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Provisions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>$3,064.45</td>
<td>$4,792.38</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Entrance fee</strong></td>
<td><strong>Salaries</strong></td>
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<td>2,640.50</td>
<td>2,759.38</td>
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<td><strong>Interest</strong></td>
<td><strong>Light &amp; Fuel</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>701.54</td>
<td>1,882.38</td>
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<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
<td><strong>Funerals</strong></td>
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<td>363.00</td>
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<td><strong>Trust Fund</strong></td>
<td><strong>Forest Home Cemetery</strong></td>
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<td>8,400.00</td>
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<td><strong>Bazaar</strong></td>
<td><strong>Freight and Cartage</strong></td>
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<td>652.65</td>
<td>93.76</td>
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<td><strong>Sale of Property</strong></td>
<td><strong>Telephone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5,372.74</td>
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<td><strong>Union Choir Chicago 1918</strong></td>
<td><strong>Repairs</strong></td>
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<td>75.00</td>
<td>547.95</td>
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<td><strong>Union Choir Chicago 1919</strong></td>
<td><strong>Insurance</strong></td>
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<td>125.00</td>
<td>89.07</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>German Church Oak Park</strong></td>
<td><strong>Taxes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>136.42</td>
<td>367.81</td>
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<td><strong>Donation Day 1919</strong></td>
<td><strong>Refund</strong></td>
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<td>111.00</td>
<td>1,139.94</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Receivable</strong></td>
<td><strong>Interest</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>2,404.30</td>
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</table>

Largest individual donations:
- Household: 282.31
- Deaconess Society 1918: 300.00
- Deaconess Society 1919: 583.50
- Mission and Benevolent Soc. of Chicago: 400.00
- Liberty Bond: 1,000.00
- Bill Receivable: 6,000.00
- Miscellaneous: 136.74
- Cash on hand May 1st, 1918: 5,936.00
- Received of Financial Sec.: 24,630.20

$23,280.81
$30,566.20

The balance on hand may seem to be a large sum, but in the light of taking care of 85 persons until their end during our inflated times this provision is indeed trifling. O E Spring, Treasurer.
Deaconess' Home and Hospital
Financial Secretary’s Report

Receipts:
Donations and Collections $773.33
Donation Day 111.00
Bazaar 652.65
Deaconess Service 1,200.00
Rents 1,186.50
Miscellaneous 36.00
Interest 118.18
Total $4,077.66

Disbursements
Salary for Deaconesses $720.00
Salary for deaconesses in Training 375.00
Clothing for Deaconesses 102.32
Educational Fees 32.50
Christmas Gifts 43.00
Medicine & Physician fees 38.03
Provision in Home 609.91
Labor in Home 201.00
Repairs 186.94
Telephone 43.96
Household Expenses 130.59
Light & Fuel 426.26
Taxes & Insurance 261.50
Traveling Expenses 132.00
Interest 36.57
Printing 36.57
Commonwealth Edison Co. 572.06
Liberty Bond 250.00
Mission & Benevolent Society 100.00
Miscellaneous 58.24
Cash on hand May 1, 1918 $1,538.83
Total $4,077.66

GUSSIE E. BENNING
Financial Secretary

Cash on hand May 1, 1918 $1,538.83
Received from Financial Sec $4,077.66
Total $5,616.49

S. I. Meier Treasure

The Choral Society of our German Baptists of Chicago and Surrounding Area
The choirs of our churches of Chicago and area became organized as a choral society.
The presidents of the various choirs formed the business committee and the directors
formed the music committee. Every choir belonging to the society sends a contribution
to it in proportion to its membership. The officials of the society are elected in September
for one year. Members and friends of our churches who are gifted with a good singing
voice are always welcome.

The purpose of the choral society is: Firstly: to uplift music and song in our churches to
the honor of God. Secondly: to support our benevolent societies; the orphanage, the
home for the old people, and the home for the deaconesses financially. Thirdly: to
further the social spirit in our churches. Proofs of the effectiveness are the well attended
social evenings that take place in spring and fall, and the annual picnic.
The director of the music is Professor Gustav Berndt who has masterful ability. At his
side is Brother William J Kroman as organist. Both are doing their best to transport us to
the higher spheres of music. The following verse is taken from a little poem: “We have
chosen two competent leaders in Brothers Krogman and Berndt. Whoever has not
learned to sing under their instruction, for them all hope is lost.” May the Lord’s blessing
rest upon the endeavors of our music society also in the future. H. Siemund

Pictures
1. Professor G Bermdt, director
2. Wm. J. Krogman, organist

The General Work of the
German Baptists of North America

Mission Work:

As German Baptists we practice our mission work through the general mission society. This extended work required $150,000 last year. It is many sided and offers members opportunity for participation through prayer, donations and service.

Our home missions
No other is more important. Our whole work depends upon this. We are supporting almost 100 missionaries. We need $40,000 from our churches this year.

Our Jewish mission
We are searching for the lost sheep of Israel. Missionary O. P. Gruen carries on this work in Newark, NJ. Friends of Israel, do not forget!

Our women who are missionaries
We have sent four. The fifth follows in this fall. We require $2,000 for their salary this year.

Foreign missions
We participate in the great world mission. Last year we donated more than $20,000.

Among the German speaking in Europe
During the war this mission was almost repealed. God might be entrusting this mission especially to the German Baptists of North American. We will contribute great amounts with willing hearts.

Missions in Russia
We have sent Brother and Sister Wiens out as scouts. Russia has an open door for a blest mission work. The Lord bids us work there. We obey.
Ministers’ pension
It is the goal of the minister’s pension to ensure the pastors by a modest annual sum when they reach 70 years of age. All ministers should join. Every church should assist.

Finances
A young business man recently sent $500. in Liberty bonds. He designated $400 for home missions and $100 for pastors’ pension. Give your Liberty bonds to missions.

Pastors feeble by reason of age
We need $5,000 this year for our veterans. We are not presenting alms.

Church building
Right now many churches are being built. A gift from our treasury makes this building possible.

Help for the needy
Brothers and sisters have sent $9,000 for financially depressed foreign countries. In Europe the need will become indescribable. At home there are always isolated cases of needy.

Ask the general mission Secretary
During the past years about $30,000 was given in the category of interest-bearing mission gifts. The society pays high annual interest to the donors as long as they live. Since April 1 we again received $15,000 in such donations. Do have money to invest? An interest-bearing gift helps both you and the Lord’s work. The investment is absolutely sure without effort. Speak to the General Mission Secretary: William Kuhn, 3944 N. Seventh Street Philadelphia, PA.

Mission monies are to be sent to the conference treasurer.

Pictures
1. P.O. Gruen
2. J. J. Wiens
3. W[illiam] Kuhn, General Mission Secretary
4. J. A. Schulte, General Treasurer

Our Seminary
The beginnings of our Seminary dates back to 1852, and is interestingly amalgamated with the history of the English school, under whose protective wings our institution has been since that time. It was at that time that some German brethren perceived an irresistible urge to proclaim the Gospel – which can free and gladden the heart – to the many religiously neglected fellow country men here in America. They were men for the people, sticking with prominent personalities, such as Heinrich and Haselhuhn, Bickel Bodenbender and Gubelmann – yet without any preparation for this high and holy call. Zenas Freeman, the first Secretary of the English Seminary founded years earlier, encouraged these brothers to go to Rochester, with the assurance that they would be
offered every help toward equipping them for their specific mission project. Many followed suite. In 1858 Prof. August Rauschenbusch was called to the institution as a teacher. Slowly a German department evolved. After fourteen years a second teacher in the person of Prof. H. M. Schaeffer was called. He concerned himself with the material development. Immediately he took it upon himself to assure the brethren of an appropriate home. His energetic and heroic efforts succeeded in providing the means in 1873 to purchase first and old, and later in 1890 secure a new home for the students. To him also goes the honor of engendering the greater part of the necessary $100,000 fund for the financial security of the institution. The faculty had to increase from time to time to correspond with the growth of the work. In 1884 Prof. J.S. Gubelmann D. D. was added and in 1890 due to the resignation of Prof. August Rauschenbusch Prof. A[bert] J. Ramaker, D.D. and L. Kaiser were installed. In 1897 Prof. W[alter]. Rauschenbusch D.D. replaced the deceased Prof. Schaeffer. In 1907 and 1908 professors H. von Berge and G.A. Schneider joined the faculty as pre-Seminary instructors. In 1915 Prof. Gubelmann resigned and was replaced by Prof. F.W.C. Meyer. The course was gradually extended from 3 to 6 years. In the last decade there were an average of 62 students in the school, and about 8 were discharged annually as pastoral recruits.

“The future is as bright as the promises of God” was the statement of Adoniram Judson as a response to the question regarding missionary prospects in Burma. Actually, this cannot be said of our institution as our future depends on the missionary zeal of the churches. The school in Rochester is a register of the mission energy and the enthusiasm of our denomination. If the spirit of missions is fostered and unfolds powerfully it will be realized by the number of young men who have the vision and realize the call of God. “Who will be our messenger?” and answer: “Here am I, send me, send me!” “When he saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples: “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.” This Word of the Lord is still in effect. Frank Kaiser

Pictures
1. Our pastor’s Seminary in Rochester
3. H. C. Ross Treasurer

The Publication Society
The publication society of the German Baptists of North American was established at the very first general conference which convened in Wilmot, ON [Canada] in 1865. “Der Sendbote” (The Messenger) had already come into being in 1853 in Philadelphia through Brother Fleischmann and in 1859 it became the possession of the Eastern Conference. In the west Brother P. W. Bickel had produced the “Muntere Saemann” (Cheerful Sower) and the “Singvoegelein” (Little Songbird) for the Sunday School years ago. In 1859 the Western Conference resolved to publish publish “Die Biene” (The Bee). In 1863 the Eastern Conference organized a publication society and in the same year the Western Conference did likewise with the purpose of printing and distributing Christian literature.
During the above mentioned general conference the interests of the two publication organizations were united and a general publication society was founded. The purpose was to produce and distribute Christian periodicals, tracts and books to be edited according to the spirit and intent of our churches, and also to make available Christian materials from other publishers.

The first location of the establishment was in Cincinnati, OH and Brother P.W. Bickel was both, the editor and the business manager. In 1870 the society changed its location to Cleveland, OH where it has remained. In 1871 the first publication house was built on Forest Street, a simple, modest wood structure. In 1874 the general conference elected an editor and also a business manager. In February of 1878 the move was made into the second publication house on Payne Avenue-a brick building-which was built with the help of the American Baptists of Cleveland. Because of the Lord’s blessing, the publication business grew so rapidly that the building had to be enlarged several times until 1905 at which time it reached its present size.

During the course of years, not only the regular periodicals were processed, but also a great many tracts, brochures, and books, all with the purpose of distributing the Christian truths to our German people in North America.

At this time the society publishes the following periodicals, etc:
1. “Der Sendbote” (The Messenger) our weekly denominational organ.
2. “Der Vereins-Herald” (The Society Herald) our monthly for societies.
3. “Der Wegweiser” (The path marker) our monthly tract.
4. “Der Muntere Saeeman” (The Cheerful Sower) our monthly Sunday School leaflet.
5. “Lektionsblaetter” (Lesson Helps) our lesson quarterly.
6. “Der Kleine Anfaenger” (The Small Beginner) the leaflet for small children’s classes in Sunday School. In addition, there appear the annual Christian peoples calendar and the conference reports.

Another mission enterprise of our publication society is the special division for free distribution of Bibles and Christian literature, and the ministry of the colporteur. Unfortunately, because of the war situation this had to be temporarily discontinued. It is hoped that it will be resumed shortly.

The publication society operates a bookstore and also has a warehouse. It is prepared to deliver Bibles, books, Sunday School requirements, wall plaques, etc. of its own, and products of other publication houses as well, in German and also in the English language.

The publishing house also does job printing according to order.

The publishing society is one of the most important branches of our general work, and it appeals to the churches for their loyal support.

The Lord be thanked and praised for all the blessings and help the publication society has been since its inception through the printing and distribution of Christian leaflets, books,
and periodicals not only in North America, but in the entire world. May He cause the society to be a great blessing in the future as well.

Pictures
1. The first publication houses Two of them
2. G. Fetzer
3. H P Donner
4. German Baptist Publication Society

Our Orphans and widows

From the very beginning it was a work of compassion. It was compassion that moved Prof. Horn in 1867 in Louisville KY to donate $50 and others did so as well until they had $200 for the cause of orphans. It was also compassion that touched Brother A Heinrich, at that time the pastor in Louisville, to found the Bethesda Society. In German Bethesda means “house of compassion”. The first orphanage was a house that Brother Burghardt offered in 1871 for five years rent-free with an additional $500 to take care of the children. That was a work of compassion. Also the later home with its four acres of land on “Cove Hill” which has served the denomination for 40 years as orphanage was a work of mercy. The founders, Horn Heinrich, Burghardt, Siegel, Ulrich and others were moved by mercy for the orphans. Everyone in Louisville and other parts of the country who served the home on its committee or as an officer was moved to do so by love. Our lovely new home which is situated on 5 acres on a magnificent hillside in St. Joseph MI surrounded by woodlands is a true monument to compassion. We are so thankful that we could dedicate this wonderful home debt free on January 26, 1919. However, we owe a debt of heartfelt thanks to the churches Sunday Schools, societies and individual friends. They did it out of compassion. A special thanks and acknowledgement goes to the master-builder, Brother M. Stock, and the up-right committee for the wise, frugal, and tactful leadership in construction in these difficult times. At present there are twenty-two children in the home, as healthy as fish in water. There are good prospects of growth for the family. Our Superintendent, Brother Goergens and his competent wife, are doing a noble work of compassion. Praise God for everything!

Our work is three fold:
1. To provide a home for the orphans and children in which support, maintenance, and Christian up-bringing are preserved.
2. To provide accommodation for children in a Christian home and assure them of the privileges of parents and family. We have accommodated a goodly number of children in a Christian home since our move to St. Joseph, MI and will continue to do so in the future.
3. To support widows and their children in their families and homes. In this branch of our work we have supported 77 widows with 297 children. Presently there are 24 widows with 109 children on our support list. This small support is a true gift from God, in a limited sense, a pension for Mothers. Since the last general conference the number has decreased by thirteen, partly because of the
remarriage, and partly renouncing support because the children have reached maturity.

There are two societies side by side, but they are under one leadership, and the officers are elected at the general conference.

At the time of the conference everyone will want to take a short excursion to ST, Joseph to see our new home in person.

May the Lord let His blessing rest on this work of compassion in the future!

C A Daniel, Corresponding Secretary

Pictures
1. Our Orphanage and Children’s Home in St. Joseph, MI
2. R T Wegner, President
3. C A Daniel, Secretary
4. J E Rocho, Vice President
5. The playground behind the orphanage

The Old People’s Home in Philadelphia

We became very much aware of the need of this Old People’s Home when one of our old sisters was provided accommodation in an English institution were, because she did not know the language was most unhappy.

In 1896 a plot of land with a large house was purchased and arranged so as to be suited as a home for the elderly. The building had long since become too small when the step in faith was taken, and a new solid and comfortable home was built at the cost of $38,000. The Lord provided for faithful leaders and willing donors. By His help and through their cheerful giving, we managed to repay the debt with so often depressed us and caused us grief. Now we can take care of our dear old ones with a lighter heart. Nevertheless, we should provide a sure basis for this work through establishing an endowment fund.

This home with its suitable facilities and good management offers a great service to the people of our denomination. We are able to provide a lifestyle with less worry and more sunshine to many of our church family on the eve of their earthly sojourn.

Charles Bauer, President
Albert Kaiser, Financial Secretary
E A Voegelin, Secretary
Reuben Windsch, Treasurer

The Girl’s Home in New York

The Girl’s Home was founded by the Women’s Society of New York and surrounding area to meet an urgent need such as only a large city can generate.
It was opened on February 7, 1895. As it seemed advisable to buy property, the girl’s home society was incorporated on June 25, 1900 and a suitable house was bought in 1903. On June 5, 1911 after eight years, it became debt free by means of savings through the economical operation and generous help of friends.

In order to deal with the constant lack of space either by enlarging the facilities, or by the purchase of a larger building the board of directors resolved to set up a building fund which now totals $8,229, and awaits the opportunity to meet its purpose.

During the 24 years of its existence, 11,434 girls found lodging in the home, of which, during the past year 495 girls spent 7,224 days and 118 nights as guests. Of these 495 girls 231 were protestant, 162 Catholic and 102 Baptist.

At the time of its inception, the purpose of the home was given as:
1. To provide a place for girls to congregate socially in a Christian Spirit.
2. To provide lodging for girls when they were out of work.
3. To provide a centre of spiritual life and moral influence for the girls of our churches to help train them for greater efficiency in the female calling, to be there to advise and protect them.

The aspiration for this cause is expressed in a poem dedicated by a friend at the 11th anniversary celebration, and reads as follows in the last verse:

“Oh home for girls, a gathering place for many
Such as you are during these numbered years,
Remain true to the very high goal
To be home for body and soul.
May love and harmony always dwell within you
And the Spirit of Christ be the very atmosphere
Then your prosperity will reward them
Who gave to you their hearts as well as their gifts.”

The officers of the girl’s home society are:
President:  Mrs. L. Maeder
Vice President: Mrs. F. Rueseler
Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. R C Hoefflin
Directors:  Mrs. O Hoppe, Mrs. F A Licht, Mrs. E Weber, Mrs. Wm. Schmidt.
Honorary Members:  Mrs. G A Schulte, Mrs. H Trumpp

Mrs. R E Hoefflin reporter of this material
Pictures
The Girl’s Home in New York
On overleaf:  The Youth Society Banner.