

HISTORY MINUTE

Presented by Linda Heffern

July 19, 2015



Women's Missionary Society of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

Under Pastor Miller's Guidance (who was Pastor here from 1876-1888), the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society was organized on September 9, 1883.

Eighteen women served as presidents of the society over the years. Mrs. Sara Fry was the first president and served as a delegate to the second synodical convention at Christ Church in Baltimore, Maryland on October 4-6, 1883. At each successive convention, the society was represented.

When the society was organized in 1883, dues were \$.35 per year and remained that until 1915 when they were increased to five cents per month; and then four years later in 1919 they were increased to ten cents per month. However, since 1957 dues have been eliminated.

Beginning in 1890, and continuing into the 1900's, many different articles that were made in the sewing circle were sold. Members also contributed their birthday and Sunday egg money. They also sponsored an annual public supper and bazaar in December of 1920 which continued until 1951.

With these funds, contributions were made to benevolence work and special remembrances were sent to the Hebrew Lutheran Mission of Baltimore, Maryland, to Rocky Boy Chippewa Indian Mission in Montana, the mission at Konnorock, Virginia (which was a Lutheran training center that still exists today and is in the process of being renewed), and to churches in India and to girls' schools of Japan.

Many furnishings for the church were purchased, such as the book racks on the back of the pews; the first hymnals which were purchased in 1907 at the price of \$33.00 and the lectern in 1910 at a cost of \$22.00.

Christian concerns for the community caused the society to support the religious education in Lovettsville School. They purchased fifty sets of silver and china for the P.T.A., aided the April 1936 Potomac River flood victims, and collected clothing for the needy.

What can we say about this important segment of our heritage, the women of the church? As long as there is a People of God, there will always be the Ruths, Lydias, Marys, Dorcas and Marthas here at New Jerusalem.

The society used a missionary benediction in the closing of each of their meetings. It is from Psalm 67: vs. 1-2 as written in the Lutheran Study Bible today. "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.