

A Letter From Rev. William Carpenter

The following letter was written by the Rev. William Carpenter, Hopeful's first pastor, to the trustees of the congregation in May of 1823. In the letter he gives his views on obtaining a stove for the church, and also beginning a Sunday School at Hopeful. The letter was addressed to Ephraim Tanner, one of the three trustees. The only address needed for delivery was Ephraim Tanner, Boone County.

In the letter where he refers to the church obtaining an "oven", Father Carpenter is speaking of a stove, the German word for stove being "der Ofen". When he speaks of the "dutch" language he is referring to Deutsch or German.

To the Trustees of our Congregation, Jacob Raush, Ephraim Tanner, and Jacob Holsklaw, Respected friends and neighbors. After taking the matter of a Sunday School in as much consideration as my present circumstances will admit of, I have come to the following conclusion concerning it. I think it rather unadvisedly if absolute necessity does not require it, to begin too many things at once, and with too much precipitation or hurry. And as we are now about to get an oven into our church, I think that had better be done first and completed before we do anything more about a Sunday School. After that is done we can go to work more leisurely and regularly with the weighty matter of a Sunday School. We can lay it before the members that something of this kind will be taken up at our next annual church meeting, there it can be regularly left to the members whether there shall be a Sunday School among us or not, and if they say there shall, we can leave it to them to decide whether it shall be in both languages dutch and English, if they say it shall, we can leave it to them to choose their Teachers both in dutch and English. It can also be decided whether both languages shall be taught on one and the same day or whether it shall be done alternately one on one day and other on another. This, and more than this, may all be done in one day, with God's mercy, whereas it would be a rather difficult thing to obtain all these objects now and at this present time. These, my friends are my thoughts concerning this matter, after taking it into serious consideration, if they meet with your approbation its well, if not you can but reject them and let me know, in brother love, why you do so. I expect to hear from you on Witsunday morning before we go into church what you think of these matters, and shall then, act, if we live, according to circumstances. I think it would be well to have the subscription paper for an oven at church on Whitsunday and get all the subscribers after church you can. Our great Savior says it is lawful to do good on the Sabbathdays. Your friend and minister, William Carpenter May 16, 1823.

see a copy

of the handwritten letter

by Rev. Carpenter

on page 2 of this document

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May the 16th 1823 } William Carpenter