His Excellency, Governor Herbert H. Lehman  
State House  
Albany, New York  

Dear Governor Lehman:

I wonder if you would be kind enough to send a letter of greeting to be read at a religious service which is to be held on Wednesday evening, October 11th.

This service will celebrate the 85th anniversary of the dedication of the Marble Collegiate Church, Fifth Avenue and 29th Street, New York City. This church is the oldest church on Fifth Avenue and is the oldest Protestant church organization in America, having been established on Manhattan Island in 1628 by the Dutch settlers. For three hundred and eleven years not a Sunday has passed without a service being conducted by this church organization. When the church building was erected in 1854 there were many people who were opposed to the proposition, on the grounds that the location would be too far out in the country!

You will note that the date of the establishment of this church - 1628 - is eight years following the location of the church at Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our church, however, is the oldest organization of a Protestant church in America having a continuous ministry from the date of its establishment until the present period.

A message of greeting from you, as the Governor of the State of New York, will add much to the interest and impressiveness of this significant occasion, and I sincerely trust you can grant us this favor.

Thanking you, and with respectful regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Norman Vincent Peale, D.D.

minister

September 29, 1939