



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

November 1978

Volume 6 No. 1

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the first issue of the NEWS published during the current year. This does not mean that the Society is "out-of-business." On the contrary it has been busier than ever. The President's report to the 115th annual meeting held at Salisbury, N.C., which is published in this issue, lists all the activities. The delay in the NEWS has been caused by the editor's disability. Since March 6 he has suffered from Bell's palsy which has affected the sight in his left eye. He is assured that there will be complete recovery but that it will take about a year. In the meantime he can read or write with any satisfaction only several hours a day. He has maintained his regular schedule of work. It just takes longer and some things had to be postponed.

It is his plan to publish one more issue of the current volume which will carry the date December 1978. You should receive this issue during January 1979.

THE 115th ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN NORTH CAROLINA

The 115th annual meeting of the Society was held at Salisbury, N.C. October 7, 1978. The host of the meeting was the Southern Regional Chapter of the Society and was held in conjunction with a Heritage Festival which celebrated the organization of the Classis of North Carolina of the German Reformed Church on May 21, 1831. Only three of the seventeen founding congregations are no longer in existence and one, Grace Lower Stone Church, near Rockwell, founded in 1745, continues to worship in the same building that they did in 1831.

The business meeting was held in First Church, Salisbury and was followed by a bus and car tour of three of the founding congregations. At Grace Lower Stone an historic worship service using the Reformed Liturgy of 1866 was conducted by the pastor, Rev. William A. Jones and the Rev. Dr. Lonnie A. Carpenter. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Marlin Schaeffer. Following a luncheon at Grace Lower Stone, the roll call of the original congregations of the Classis of North Carolina and an historical presentation was made at Mt. Zion Church, China Grove and a visit made to New Gilead Church, Concord where Rev. Banks Sheperd, president of the Southern chapter, presented a characterization of the Rev. Samuel Suther who in 1786 was appointed chaplain of the Rowan and Mecklenburg battalions by the governor of North Carolina.

At the business meeting the annual reports were received and are published in this issue of the NEWS. The following officers were elected for the coming year: Dr. George H. Bricker, president; Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, first vice-president; Dr. Philip W. Weiss, second vice-president; Dr. James E. Wagner, third vice-president; Dr. Rudolf G. Schade, secretary; Mr. Myron E. Wolf, treasurer; Dr. George H. Bricker, librarian and archivist, and Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, executive secretary.

There were 111 official registrants at the meeting but at least twice that number attended the meetings at the churches that were visited.

The Southern Chapter under the leadership of Rev. Banks Shepherd, president, Rev. Frank Snider, tour director, Rev. Dr. Lonnie Carpenter, pastor of First Church, Salisbury, and Rev. Edwin M. Alcorn, Associate Conference Minister for the Western North Carolina Area, had set up an excellent and meaningful program for the day. The historical exhibits in the churches and the presentations of historical sketches were both informative and dramatic. The 115th annual meeting was a rich experience and revealed the rich heritage of our tradition.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

As in years past I find it difficult to make my report to the Annual Meeting because I serve the Society and the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ in three capacities. Since the work is so intertwined, I am not sure which hat I should put on when I report. This year I shall try to do it under three headings, Office of the President, Office of Librarian and Office of Archivist.

Office of President

Last year at St. Louis I reported that plans were underway to organize an auxiliary of the Society that would involve members of congregations in our work. I am sorry to say that these plans did not materialize. I do not know if we can accomplish this or not.

Yet there was progress in our desire for regional and local involvement. The Eden Archives organized a local committee to have oversight of their work. My congratulations to them. I am recommending that all our archives do this. The enthusiastic work which is being done in Nebraska as well as work done at Catawba College is heartening. Many conferences have committees on history that are very active. I do not believe that all archival work should be closely related to the Society but I do believe that we should encourage it.

There is some interest in the formation of regional groups that are interested in historical matters. We will explore this during the coming year.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Executive Committee it was decided that the Society should begin the process of incorporating the Society as a not-for-profit organization. Before the merger of 1957 we were considered as incorporated under the charter of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. We are now advised that we should request incorporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We hope by the time of our next annual meeting the necessary changes will be made in our constitution and legal requirements fulfilled that will result in incorporation.

Our Society has a long history of supporting historical interests, whether it be archival work, publication, or meetings of local groups. The future of historical interest dare not be hampered by the formal organizations that we have had in the past. New days may call for new forms of expression. Let us support them. If you have an idea how your interest can be expressed, please write to us and we will help you if we can.

Our mailing list increases each year. There are over 1400 names on it now. The publication and mailing of the newsletter is a major task for our small staff. Yet I am determined to publish two more issues this year.

Many times our quarters are crowded with researchers. There were 692 persons who signed our guest register. Two groups visited us from Japan. We had visitors from England and Germany. A tour group came from North Carolina. No record was kept of the number of confirmation classes that toured our quarters. The guest records names of visitors from CA, CT, DE, DC, FL, ID, IL, KY, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, NE, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OH, PA, TN, TX, UT, VA AND WI. Most of these were professional or amateur genealogists but a goodly number were seeking information on the history of local churches, former pastors, boundaries of synods, deeds of colonial congregations, settlements of German immigrants, and etc.

A word of thanks needs to be given to the small part-time staff at our headquarters; Dr. Anstaett, the Executive Secretary; Miss Lucile Brackbill, cataloguer; Mrs. George H. Bricker, assistant archivist; and Miss Mary Margaret Rupp, a volunteer worker. The Society also wishes to thank the Historical Council who sponsors our work officially in the United Church of Christ and the officers of the Society who served faithfully during the past year.

Office of Librarian

It is really impossible to separate the work of the Librarian of the Central archives of the Society and the work of the Archivist of the United Church of Christ. Since the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957 our Society has had as one of its main objectives the collection and preservation of the documents of the United Church. Yet for the purpose of reporting and for budget making we attempt to separate them.

As librarian at our headquarters I establish the policies and procedures for the collecting, cataloging, calendering, shelving, displaying, and storing of the materials we receive. Since the Evangelical and Reformed Church no longer exists all materials received comes from the United Church of Christ constituency, although it may deal with periods before the formation of the United Church.

We do not purchase books or other historical material. We do subscribe to a few journals and occasionally purchase a book which we cannot beg from the author. Our accessions come to us as gifts. A selected list of our accessions is published annually in the newsletter.

The physical arrangement of our archival collection and the housing of it occupies a considerable part of my time. During the past year 702 lineal feet of new shelving was installed and the whole collection moved.

The book catalog of all the church and pastoral records that we hold in either the original manuscript, in transcription, or in microfilm has been compiled and is now in the process of revision. We hope to publish it in the near future.

The Society has another librarian, Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, who is responsible for the Eden Archives. He will give you a separate report on their activities.

Office of Archivist of the United Church of Christ

This office was established by the Executive Council of the United Church some years ago and is responsible to the Historical Council of the United Church,

Office of Archivist - cont'd

Two years ago a separate budget was established for the United Church archival work although the amount of money received from the Executive Council does not nearly cover the costs of the work. Our Society continues to finance the work of the United Church archives.

Funds from the Executive Council to the Historical Council have provided a full-time secretary, a microfilm reader-printer, the additional shelving mentioned above, and supplies. This has been a great help to us and allows us to better serve the United Church.

An inventory of our holdings of the official minutes of all the conference and associations of the United Church has been made and these bodies have been most cooperative in helping us secure the minutes that are missing from the archives.

Many of the instrumentalities are sending historical materials dealing with their work to the archives. The Secretary of the Church is planning to have the minutes of the Executive Council since 1957 microfilmed and placed in the archives. An oral history project is underway.

The Society rejoices that the United Church is beginning to take its history seriously and is beginning to see the need for the preservation of its official records. The fact that it is supplying funds for this work and that official and historical material is being sent to the archives from all sections of the United Church in large quantities is very significant. It means that foundations are being laid in which the future will rejoice.

Mrs. Phyllis Gerhart serves the archives as full-time secretary and Miss Elizabeth Sanders as researcher. However the staff of the library and the archivists work as a team to do the work at Lancaster.

The great increase in the amount of material we are receiving and the need to process it quickly and make it available to researchers means that additional persons soon must be added to our staff. This will be done as soon as funds are available.

Respectfully submitted,
George H. Bricker

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Society has received annual grants since 1972 from The Arcadia Foundation. These were made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Edith Steinbright and her daughter Marilyn L. Steinbright, officers of the Foundation. Over this period sums totalling \$59,000 have been contributed. The last four grants were for \$10,000 each. Without this continuing substantial aid the activities of the Society would have been greatly curtailed.

The report of Myron Wolf, the Society's Treasurer, shows the amount received through the Historical Council Appeal, for the period from the Fall of 1977

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - cont'd

through June 1978, as \$2,208.36. The promotional and mailing expenses for this last appeal were not charged to this account. The net amounts received by the Society for the three previous appeals were: \$1,343.29(1976-77), \$1,278.77(1975-76), and \$1,837.56(1974-75).

A one hundred dollar Memorial Membership contribution was made by Dr. George H. Bricker, President of the Society, in memory of his mother, Erma Rebuck Bricker. Added to other sums given by him for the same purpose, annually since 1970, this Memorial now totals six hundred dollars.

In the last bulk mailing announcing the current annual meeting and program a sizeable number of envelopes were returned to the Society with address changes noted, as has been so in earlier mailings. While attempts are made to keep the mailing stencils up to date, this is not completely possible without the full cooperation of persons who receive mailings from the Society regularly. An appeal is therefore made to persons in this category to be diligent in reporting address changes to the Society. The Society address can be short - E.&R. Historical Society, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA. 17603.

In the News from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, September 1977, Volume 5, No.2, a listing appeared on pages 7 and 8 entitled BOOK SALE OF OUT-OF-PRINT REFORMED LITERATURE. Quite a number of items were sold, totalling nearly two hundred dollars, but many still remain to be sold. This list can be supplied to those interested in purchasing items now available.

Respectfully submitted,
Herbert B. Anstaett
Executive Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER for the PERIOD, January 1, 1978 - September 30, 1978

	<u>INCOME</u>	
Executive Council, U.C.C.		\$ 3,000.00
Conferences:		
Penn Central Conference		450.00
Associations:		
Hudson Mohawk Association - NY Conference	\$ 25.00	
Lincoln Association - Neb. Conference	25.00	
Susquehanna Association - NY Conference	<u>50.00</u>	100.00
Dues Received Through Lancaster		131.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign		2,208.36
Interest on Investments		1,867.37
Miscellaneous Income		625.22
Memorial Gifts and Other Gifts:		
Arcadia Foundation-Pa SE Conference	10,000.00	
Jacksonville Charge-Pa NE Conference	356.00	
Others	<u>195.30</u>	10,551.30
Historical Council--Archives--Reimbursed		<u>3,727.82</u>
		<u>\$22,661.07</u>

REPORT OF THE TREASURER - cont'd

EXPENSES

Lancaster:

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	\$ 5,703.64	
Supplies	182.18	
Binding	-0-	
Postage	71.20	
Telephone	-0-	
Miscellaneous	680.95	
Equipment	28.40	\$ 6,666.37

Eden:

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	3,356.54	
Supplies	38.53	
Equipment	490.00	
Binding	-0-	
Postage	15.00	
Miscellaneous	17.33	3,917.40

General:

Salaries and Payroll Taxes	2,056.86	
Meetings and Travel	622.96	
Honoraria	-0-	
Printing and Postage	403.14	
Miscellaneous	521.67	3,604.63

Historical Council--Archives

	7,965.72
	<u>\$22,154.12</u>
Surplus	<u>506.95</u>

ASSETS

Checking Account -- National Central Bank	\$ 618.50
24 Hour Statement Savings Account -- National Central Bank	22,194.17
First Federal Savings and Loan Association -- Savings Account	29.13
First Federal Savings and Loan Association --Certificate of Deposit	4,400.00
National Central Bank -- Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00
Wellington Fund (Book Value)	1,008.00
St. Paul's Preservation Fund--National Central Bank Certificate	3,000.00
	<u>\$41,249.80</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

Liabilities:

-0-

Principal -- 12/31/77

\$40,742.85

Plus Surplus 1/1/78-9/30/78

506.95

\$41,249.80
<u>\$41,249.80</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Society met on Friday evening, October 6, 1978, in the parlor of First Church, Salisbury, N.C. Those present were George H. Bricker, Owen L. Fox, Rudolf G. Schade, Banks D. Shepherd, Frank W. Snider, Philip W. Weiss, Myron E. Wolf and Lowell H. Zuck. Fraternal guests were Harold F. Worthley, executive secretary of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, who is an ex officio member of the Executive Committee and Edwin M. Alcorn, Associate Conference Minister of the Southern Conference for the West North Carolina Area.

It was pointed out that the president shall appoint members-at-large to the Executive Committee rather than be elected by the Annual Meeting. He was instructed to do so.

The budget for 1979 shall remain the same as it was in 1978. However it was voted that the fee for rental of microfilms of church records be increased from \$2.00 to \$5.00. The increase was justified because of the increased cost of postage and cost of handling. Also we need to recover the cost of replacement film for those damaged or lost.

Most of the evening was spent in discussing the procedures for incorporating the Society as a not-for-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Formerly as an official organization of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the Society held its status under the charter of that denomination. Although the Evangelical and Reformed Church still exists as a legal entity, our situation is ambiguous. The president was instructed to gather the information and to initiate the procedures necessary and report to the next Executive Committee meeting.

A visit was made to the archives maintained by the Southern Regional Chapter at the library of Catawba College. This collection deals specifically with the history of the German Reformed Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in North Carolina. At the present material dealing with the United Church of Christ is being added. A part-time archivist is in charge of the work. There were general expressions of appreciation for the work being done and support pledged.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 1979 at 11:00 a.m. in Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

EDEN ARCHIVES SEEKING EVANGELICAL SYNOD MATERIALS

The Eden Archives, depository of records and books of the former German Evangelical Synod of North America, are interested in obtaining all material relating to the Synod's history. Especially desired are books, manuscripts, sermons and other related materials by pastors. Congregational records, pictures and artifacts are also sought, as are old Eden Seminary lecture notes. Any individuals or churches wishing to make contributions are encouraged to contact the Eden Archives, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 E. Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119.