

N E W S from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, UCC

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

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Volume 13, No. 1

DR. SHETLER AND DR. FRANTZ TO SPEAK  
AT 1985 ANNUAL MEETING AT ST.  
JOHN'S (HAIN'S) REFORMED CHURCH,  
WERNERSVILLE, PA

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will take place at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, October 26, 1985 at St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church (UCC), Wernersville, PA. This meeting will be one of a series of events held at St. John's (Hain's) to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the church. Dr. John C. Shetler, former Conference Minister of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will address the assembly on the topic, "The Reformed Church and Sectarian Divisiveness Eighteenth, Twentieth Century." Dr. John B. Frantz, professor of history at Penn State University will deliver a lecture on the subject, "Reformed What For: Church Life among German Reformed Colonists in the Mid-Eighteenth Century."

On October 27, Reformation Sunday St. John's will conclude its 250th anniversary celebration with a Service of Holy Communion at which the Reverend Frederick R. Trost, Conference Minister for the Wisconsin Conference will be the guest preacher.

The Board of Directors of the Society will meet on Friday, October 25

(Cont'd. on page 2)

THE SOCIETY NOW HAS A BROCHURE

A brochure for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society has just recently been printed explaining to prospective members of the Society and users of the Archives the work of the Society and the Archives. On the front of the 8½ x 11" sheet folded to make a three page brochure is the seal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Inside is a photo of the Lancaster Archives, and on the back is a photo of the Philip Schaff Library, home of the Lancaster Archives. The brochure describes the origins of the Society, the holdings and functions of the Lancaster Archives, related archives such as the Eden and Catawba Archives as well as The Congregational Library and Elon College Library Archives, and the privileges of membership in the Society. Any persons or groups interested in obtaining copies of the brochure should write to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

VISITORS TO THE ARCHIVES

Among many visitors who have come to the Archives recently were the Rev. Christof Karzig and his wife Gudula from the Evangelical Church of the Union (West) in Germany. Rev. Karzig is pastor at the Church of the Cross in Berlin - Schmargendorf. The Karzigs will serve as Ecumenical delegates at the 15th General Synod of the UCC at Ames, Iowa from June 28 to July 2.



(cont'd. from p.1)

at 7:30 P.M. in the Historical Society Library Room on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.

Block reservations will be held for the Board of Directors at Holiday Inn North, 1492 Lititz Pike, Lancaster for Friday evening, October 25 and for persons needing accommodations in the area of the meeting at Wernersville, reservations will be held at the Motel Deska, Wernersville.

All persons are cordially invited to take part in this commemorative celebration.

#### MERCERSBURG SOCIETY CONVOCATION

The Mercersburg Society, a society formed "to commemorate the heritage of the Mercersburg Theology and explore its relevance for the American Church today," held a convocation May 13-15, 1985 at St. John's United Church of Christ, Chambersburg, Pa. on the theme, "Confessing the Apostolic Faith Today." Papers were presented on the following topics: "Reformed - Lutheran Dialogue" - Paul Fries and Eric Gritsch; "Anxious Bench/Evangelical Piety" - Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.; "Eucharist/Liturgical Renewal" - Joseph Basset; "The Importance of Liturgical Studies in Theological Education" - Horton Davies; "Towards a Common Expression of Apostolic Faith" - Deborah Clemens and Harry Royer, and the "Mercersburg Society's Response to B.E.M." - Howard Hageman. The Mercersburg Society is planning to publish some of these papers in a revived issue of the Mercersburg Review. Cassettes of these lectures have been received at the Lancaster Archives.

The meeting began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Mercersburg Academy Chapel. The Rev. Dr. Howard Hageman was the preacher and Brother John and Brother Leonard of the Taizé Brothers led the matin and vesper services with Music from Taizé. Approximately 100 persons attended the meeting. Mrs. Edna Hafer and Mrs. Florence M. Bricker of the archives staff were present.

Next year's convocation will be held on April 28-29 at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. Persons interested in procuring information concerning next year's meeting should write to the Secretary of the Mercersburg Society, the Reverend George R. Geisler, Trinity United Church of Christ, East Petersburg, PA 17520.

#### RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE ARCHIVES

The Preservation League of New York State has produced a 40 page illustrated booklet, How to Care for Religious Properties, which explores solutions to maintenance problems faced by numerous older ecclesiastical structures. The booklet focuses on low-cost maintenance procedures which will prevent the need for costly major repairs. A copy of the booklet is on file in the Archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society or single copies may be ordered directly from the Preservation League of New York State, 307 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210. The cost per copy is \$2.00 each, postpaid.

Church and Confession - Walter H. Conser, Jr., author. In the opening decades of the nineteenth century, as in the closing decades of the twentieth, Walter Conser writes, "Conservatives and liberals in western Europe and North America grappled with one another over the shape of the future." Professor Conser focuses on the "Confessional" Theologians of Germany, England and America. For



three groups of nineteenth century Protestants - neo-Lutherans in Germany, Oxford Tractarians in England, and a disparate collection of Lutheran, Reformed, and Protestant Episcopal Church leaders in America - Confessional theology was a bulwark against the ferment of laissez-faire individualism. As pastors they longed, in the midst of change and upheaval, "for relations securely anchored and strictly defined in time and place." If their vision was anachronistic, Professor Conser concludes, these theologians "nevertheless understood what the twentieth century has been at pains to recover, that human development consists of a balance of intellect and emotions, and that its context is found in community." (Taken from the jacket description of the book).

A limited amount of the material for this book and the portrait of John Williamson Nevin was furnished by the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

Recently a portrait of the Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner was presented to and hung in the archives. For many years Dr. Wagner was third Vice President of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

Mrs. Edward L. Schlingman recently presented to the archives the camp and conference papers of the Rev. Edward L. Schlingman. Rev. Schlingman had served the Nockamixon-Tinicum Charge, and the Good Shepherd Church in Boyertown. He was Director of Camps and Conferences of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1946-1962, Executive of the Department of Specialized Ministries, 1961-1975. He was a world representative for International Christian Youth Exchange.

HOME MISSIONS IN THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA: A NOTE ON THE REVEREND EDWARD HOSTO, GRANDFATHER OF REINHOLD NIEBUHR

In order to understand the missionary turned pastor that helped build the German Evangelical Church, I present a brief biography of my great-grandfather, Edward Hosto.

Born in Westerkappeln, Germany in 1833, in 1851 he entered the Barmen Mission Institute which he left because of ill health. He then became a teacher in the Prussian public schools. In 1854 he joined his mother and sister in Alhambra, Illinois preaching on Sundays and teaching the children during the week. He became a clerk in St. Louis and studied English at night.

His first church was at Greencastle, and he was ordained when he received that call in 1860. He then married Clara Kempfoefner. He served churches in Ridge Prairie, Breese, and Summerfield, all in Illinois. In 1884 he went as missionary to the west coast, organizing eight congregations in California, Oregon and Washington. In 1889 he returned to Illinois as pastor of the church in Maeystown. In 1892 he went to organize churches in the West. In 1897 he came back to New Hanover, Illinois. After serving as pastor of a church in Burksville, he returned a third time as pastor of the church in Ridge Prairie, Illinois. He recruited my grandfather to be pastor of the church in San Francisco. In 1887 Gustav Niebuhr married Lydia Hosto (8 May 1887) daughter of Edward Hosto. (see description of marriage in article by William G. Chrystal, page 419 Church History, Dec. 1980) The marriage occurred in Whitmore, Shasta County, California. Gustav Niebuhr who had come from a farm in Lippe-Detmold was at home in the city. He established hospitals and the Deaconess Homes. Hosto believed that religion must be made relevant to farmers. One of the ironies of the German migration to America was that urban Germans became farmers while many from the countryside



became urban dwellers.

Edward Hosto heard my father, Reinhold Niebuhr's first sermons. He complained that his sermon, like rain, must sink in slowly. Heavy rain like profound sermons is not productive. He claimed that my father would not be a good missionary as he did not know how to make sermons relevant. That became my father's major goal as a pastor in Detroit.

Edward Hosto died in September, 1914. It was then that his work in making a church based on the homes of the members bore fruit, as the Evangelical Church was separated from its benefactors in Germany because of War.

Christopher Niebuhr

#### MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: APRIL 19, 1985

The Executive Committee of The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on April 19, 1985, at 11 A.M. in the Board Room, second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.

The President of the Society, Dr. John Payne, called the meeting to order. Dr. Payne lead in an opening prayer. He announced that Mr. Owen Fox, a member of the Executive Committee, was absent because he was in the hospital in Philadelphia. A card was signed by those present to send to him. It was also announced that Rev. Phillip Weiss was unable to be present because of his duties at the Protestant Home in Philadelphia. Those present were: Dr. John Payne, Mrs. Florence Bricker, Dr. Lowell Zuck, Mr. Myron Wolf, Dr. Herbert Anstaett, the Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, and the Rev. Frank W. Snider, Sr.

It was noted that the minutes of the October 19, 1984 meeting of the Board of Directors in Shelby, Ohio, had been distributed in the December, 1984 NEWSLETTER. Those minutes were accepted as written and distributed. There was a "Thank You!" from the paid staff members for the "bonus" received at the end of 1984.

The Genealogical Society of Utah were to begin microfilming church records in the archives that have not been previously microfilmed. There has been a delay because of a change in personnel. This work will begin soon. It was noted that at the Eden Archives the Mormons have microfilmed 9,000 pages and are microfilming an additional 6,000 pages. Ten or eleven congregations have brought records to be microfilmed. The only expense is a charge of \$9.00 a copy for local congregations desiring a copy of the microfilm. There is no cost to the Eden Archives and they receive one copy of the microfilm.

The President, Dr. Payne, reported on the latest actions of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ in regards to the funding for the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ. Dr. Post, President of the UCC, called Dr. Payne to inform him that the Budget Committee of the Executive Council planned to cut \$9,000 from the Historical Council's \$27,000 budget. This cut represents the amount given by the United Church of Christ to the work of both of the Societies, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the Congregational Christian Historical Society, \$4,500 to each Society. Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund the chairperson of the Historical Council was very concerned about this plan. Dr. Payne distributed a copy of a letter that he had written to Mr. Alfred C. Alspach who is a member of the Executive Council. He has also contacted Dr. Horace Sills



and Rev. Barbara Kershner, who are Executive Council members. Dr. Sills has indicated that \$7,000 was restored to the Historical Council Budget. This still represents a decrease of \$2,000 in funding. There was discussion on how to make the United Church of Christ sensitive to the needs of the Archives for more funding. The decision on the actual allocation of funds will not be made, however, until October.

The Treasurer, Mr. Myron Wolf submitted his report in graph form. It was pointed out that up to this point in 1985 there is a deficit of \$3,055.52. It was noted that there have been ongoing costs for the incorporation of the Society.

A discussion was held on steps to take to raise funds. It was suggested that we need to make individual contacts. It was decided that a brochure or pamphlet will be developed and distributed telling about the Society and the Archives.

Myron Wolf made a motion that we raise dues to \$15 per person to be in line with the national Historical Council appeal. Lowell Zuck seconded the motion and the motion carried. The following would be the cost of memberships: Individual - \$15; Student - \$7; Sponsor or Life - \$250; Supporting \$100-\$499; Sustaining - \$30-\$99 and Institutions \$25. It was noted that we should seek endowments of \$1,000 or more to be earmarked.

Dr. Payne announced that the Annual Fall Meeting of the Society will be held October 26 at St. John's (Hain's) Church, Wernersville, Pa. This will be in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of St. John's Church. Dr. John Shetler and Dr. John B. Frantz will be the featured speakers. The Executive Committee will meet at 7:30 P.M. on October 25 at the Archives in Lancaster.

Future Annual Meetings will be at Zion's Church, Greenville, PA in 1986, Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, 1987, and in the Southern Conference in the Lexington, NC area in 1988. Pastor "Bob" Nace of Zion's Church, Greenville, PA will be asked to serve on the program committee for the 1986 meeting.

Dr. Lowell Zuck reported on activities of the Eden Archives. Mrs. Ahme Quist is serving as Archivist. She works Tuesday and Thursday, one half day each and cataloging of materials is going well. Dr. Zuck mentioned the various types of correspondence being received, including genealogical requests and others. Mrs. Quist desires to do more work with Seminary students and have them become aware of the Archives. There was a seminar last fall on the Deaconess Order of the Evangelical Union. The relationship to the Seminary remains the same.

The Rev. Banks Shepherd reported for the Southern Chapter. He noted that there have been requests for information on "How To" have a local church history room.

Mrs. Florence Bricker reported on the Lancaster Archives. Many boxes of materials have been received from the National UCC offices. Nine boxes of Dr. Reginald Helfrich's materials have been received. The Archives encourage groups from local congregations to come and learn about the Archives and what each can do for the other. Numerous Confirmation Classes come and at least one staff person is in the Archives to tell the story. Elizabeth Sanders has recovered from hip surgery and is back at work.

The Society "Newsletter" was discussed. It was pointed out that cooperation is needed in gathering items for the Newsletter. There was a feeling of a need for



some feedback from those receiving the Newsletter. It was noted that the Newsletter is one of our major costs. There are 1,500 copies per issue mailed out. Members were urged to send some Historical Notes.

After a discussion concerning "Life Memberships" in the Society, Myron Wolf made a motion, seconded by Lowell Zuck, that Life Memberships be \$250. These will be recognized by a plaque or in some other way.

The Bricker Memorial Fund began by the Historical Council was discussed. It was reported that \$2,500 was the total given thus far. Little has been done concerning the fund recently. The Historical Council has discussed what might be done to increase this fund.

It was noted that the 1985 General Synod will be in Ames, Iowa. Hopefully, the Society can be represented at the meeting.

The possibility of asking National Instrumentalities of the UCC for funds to help catalogue and preserve materials that they send to the UCC Archives was discussed. No action was taken.

The Secretary, the Rev. Frank Snider, thanked the group for the confidence placed in him by electing him as Secretary at the Annual Meeting although he was unable to be present at that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank W. Snider, Sr., Secretary

#### THE SOCIETY NEEDS MISSING ISSUES OF "PENNSYLVANIA FOLKLIFE MAGAZINE"

The Society is interested in completing its file of the magazine "Pennsylvania Folklife." We need to secure the following issues:

- all issues v.24, 26, 27
- all issues v.25, except no. 4
- all issues v.48, except nos. 1 & 2
- all issues v.49 to date

If anyone has copies available of the above issues that they wish to donate, the Society would appreciate receiving them.

#### THE E & R HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE

The Society presented a three paneled exhibit which featured churches of Penn Central Conference. The exhibit also displayed some of the highlights and important persons in the history of the antecedent denominations of the United Church of Christ. Available were copies of the new brochure and publications of the Society. Many persons stopped by our table which was located right next to the Lancaster Theological Seminary exhibit. John Payne and Florence Bricker represented the Society at the meeting and were present at the exhibit.



REGISTRATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING, WERNERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA OCTOBER 26, 1985

Please return this form by October 1 to:

Mrs. Connie Witmer  
Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
555 West James Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

- ( ) I plan to attend the Annual Meeting at St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church, Wernersville, PA.  
( ) Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for October 25 and/or 26, 1985 at the Motel Deska, RD1, Wernersville, PA 19565.  
( ) Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for October 25 and/or 26, 1985 at the Holiday Inn North, 1492 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601.

Please indicate the size and number of rooms you wish. \_\_\_\_\_

	<u>Motel Deska</u>	<u>Holiday Inn North</u>
Single	\$32.00 + tax	\$47.00 + tax
Double	\$40.00 + tax	\$61.00 + tax

- ( ) Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for the luncheon October 26 at \$4.00 per person.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1985. Enclosed is my check.

Memberships

_____ Individual (\$15)	_____ Supporting (\$100 to \$499)
_____ Student (\$7)	_____ Sustaining (\$30 to \$99)
_____ Sponsor or Life (\$250)	_____ Institutions (\$25)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please detach, return and make payable to either the Historical Council UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 OR the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.