

# NEWS

from the **EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY UCC**

*Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ*

## ANNUAL REPORTS ISSUE

January 1988

Volume 15, No. 2

### 124TH ANNUAL MEETING AT OLD FIRST REFORMED CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society held its 124th Annual Meeting at Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia on October 24, 1987. The meeting was held in conjunction with the celebration of the 260th anniversary of Old First Church as well as the two hundredth anniversary of the United States Constitution. Some one hundred fifty persons were in attendance including two busloads from North Carolina.

Under the theme, "Lifting up our Historical Roots at the Time of the U.S. Constitution," two excellent papers were presented: "The German Reformed Element in the Era of the U.S. Constitution 1785-1815" by Dr. John B. Frantz of Penn State University and "18th Century Martyrs of the Faith: Weyburg, Winkhaus, Hendel" by Rev. David Rapp, St. John's United Church of Christ (Mickleys), Whitehall, PA. This issue of the Newsletter will present a summary of the paper by Dr. Frantz while the next issue will contain that by the Rev. Rapp.

(Cont'd. on page 2)

### SCHAFF CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHURCH HISTORY TO BE HELD APRIL 14-16, 1988 IN LANCASTER

The American Society of Church History will hold its spring meeting at Lancaster Theological Seminary April 14-16, 1988. The meeting will celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the society by Philip Schaff, former professor of the seminary at Mercersburg, 1844-1865 and professor at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, 1870-1893. Born in Switzerland and educated in Germany, Schaff became the most outstanding church historian in nineteenth century America. Two sessions of the meeting will be devoted to his background, work and its significance. Of interest also to members of this society will be a session on Pennsylvania religious groups with a paper by Dr. John B. Frantz, Penn State University on the topic, "Origins of German Methodism." All the sessions which begin on Thursday evening, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. are open to the public. Those wishing more information should write or call the Office of Development, Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, 717-393-0654.

124TH ANNUAL MEETING AT OLD FIRST CHURCH (Cont'd. from page 1)

A delicious lunch was served to the participants in the meeting by the ladies of Old First Church and in the afternoon there was a walking tour of Old First as well as other historic churches in the area which culminated with a visit of the exhibit, "Miracle at Philadelphia" at the Second Bank.

For making this meeting such an outstanding, festive occasion, the participants were grateful to the paper readers, the pastor, the Reverend Geneva Butz, the organist, Mr. Robert Bruce Whiting and the members of Old First Church.

The next meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will be held at Beck's United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina on October 15, 1988. Beck's UCC celebrated its two hundredth anniversary in 1987. Two other congregations in the Lexington area will celebrate their two hundredth anniversaries in 1988 and 1989 respectively; Beulah United Church of Christ and Bethany United Church of Christ. The meeting will honor the two hundredth anniversaries of all three congregations.

MERCERSBURG SOCIETY CONVOCATION AT UNITED METHODIST ARCHIVES, DREW UNIVERSITY, MADISON, NJ MAY 23-24, 1988

The topic of this annual meeting of the Mercersburg Society is "The Sacraments and Children." Persons interested in attending should contact Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, archivist of the United Methodist Church and host for the meeting, General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church, P. O. Box 827, Madison, NJ 07940.

IMPORTANT MATERIALS ADDED TO THE ARCHIVES INVALUABLE TO THE STUDY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST AND ITS WORK.

1. The Wilmington Ten. Introductory papers discussing this historic case and a vast collection of press clippings from the national newspapers covering the case from 1971-1981.
2. Wagner, James E., Co-President of the UCC. Correspondence, discussions, articles, reports from Dr. Wagner's file concerning the Congregational Christian and Evangelical & Reformed Church merger. These files were only opened since his death. Dates covered are 1941-1961.
3. United Church of Christ. Commission on Worship. Louis H. Gunnemann, Chairman. Letters, reports of the Commission, 1961-1973.
4. U.C.C. Office of the President. Seven boxes of files covering all aspects of the Church's life and work, 1977-1985.
5. Schlingman, Edward L., Director Camping & Voluntary Service. Correspondence, reports, programs concerning the camping program of the E & R Church and the UCC, 1963-1974.
6. Evangelical & Reformed Church. New York Synod. Files from the President's Office including parochial reports, Committee reports, Synod meetings, 1947-1963.



"THE GERMAN REFORMED ELEMENT IN THE ERA OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION"  
BY DR. JOHN B. FRANTZ

Three themes stand out in the history of the German Reformed Church in the years that surrounded the compilation and implementation of the Federal Constitution of 1787. One is the church's increasing outward prosperity, especially in southeastern Pennsylvania. This occurred despite serious distractions which constitute the second theme. The third theme is the tension that developed in the church over doctrines and practices, tension that led eventually to departures from the church.

During this period, the German Reformed Church developed from a loose collection of immigrants and congregations to become a distinct American denomination. The quality and numbers of clergymen increased, nine having been added in 1771-72 alone, including John Albert Conrad Helffenstein, the first of his family to serve the Germantown, Pennsylvania, congregation, and John Henry Helffrich who labored in the Maxatawny region of Pennsylvania. Congregations increased in number and size, with new ones organized in settled areas of Pennsylvania, such as at Pottsgrove (now Pottstown) and in the interior at Carlisle, as well as in western Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Philadelphia congregation grew from 165 families in 1765 to 300 by 1772. Congregations constructed new buildings in Pennsylvania towns like Reading in 1761, Trumbauersville in 1769. The Lancaster congregation even installed a pipe organ in its building in 1769. The church's ministers and lay members improved the church's administration through its administrative body known as a "coetus." This body assigned newly-arrived ministers, such as John Theobald Faber to the Goshenhoppen region of Pennsylvania, disciplined disruptive clergy like John Conrad Steiner, and attempted to resolve disputes, like the one that developed in the Baltimore, Maryland, congregation in the early 1770's. It was even beginning to act independently of European church authorities by ordaining candidates for the ministry without their permission. By the time that the "Founding Fathers" assembled in Philadelphia to write the Federal Constitution in 1787, the German Reformed Church had become large and well established in southeastern Pennsylvania.

The age of the "Founding Fathers" was a turbulent time; consequently, the German Reformed people experienced many distractions from their spiritual development in the church. At the outbreak of the War for American Independence, John George Wittner, secretary of the coetus, observed that "People at present think more of arms than of God's word." The Philadelphia Lutheran and Reformed church councils sent an appeal to their reluctant co-religionists in western New York and North Carolina to support the Continental Congress in its resistance to Great Britain's revised colonial policy. Their pastors refused to sign it. Johann Joachim Zubly, German-speaking Swiss Reformed minister in Savannah, Georgia, wrote vigorously against the British parliament's taxation of the American colonists but was castigated by his parishioners and neighbors when he declined to rebel. John Christian Stahlschmidt was forced by a loyalist faction to leave his York County, Pennsylvania, charge because of his rebel sentiments. British sympathizer, John Michael Kern had to leave his Montgomery, New York congregation and go to Nova Scotia in 1778. Some ministerial supporters of American independence marched off to war, Philip Jacob Michael of Berks County,

(Cont'd. on page 4)



"THE GERMAN REFORMED ELEMENT", BY JOHN B. FRANTZ (Cont'd. from page 3)

Pennsylvania, not only left his congregations shepherdless but took a large contingent of his male members with him. Several ministers who remained on the homefront preached inflammatory sermons, Helffenstein at Lancaster quoting the prophet Isaiah (52:3) to Hessian captives, informing them that they had sold themselves "for nought." The warring armies that marched about Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and the Carolinas prevented some congregations from worshipping in their buildings. Because of the bloodshed, some became hospitals, as in East Vincent, Reading, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. As the British army approached Philadelphia in September of 1777, patriots removed the city's bells in order to prevent the British from using the metal for armaments. They took the "Liberty Bell" from the state house (now Independence Hall) to Northampton (now Allentown) where they hid it under the floor of the Reformed Church. Some German Reformed people became active in the new governments that the Revolution required. Michael Hillegas, a member of the Philadelphia congregation, was elected treasurer of Pennsylvania and later of the Continental Congress. Jacob Hiltzheimer, also a Philadelphia churchman, became active in the new government's quartermaster department. Hardly visible in Pennsylvania's pre-war legislatures, German Reformed members comprised 14% of that body in 1777. Concerning the turmoil of the period, Helffenstein, secretary of the coetus in 1779, recognized it as a "special favor of the Lord" that the church had not been "utterly consumed."

This observation was valid not only because of the activities associated with the Revolution and the subsequent need for new governments but also in relation to the polarization in doctrines and practices that was developing within the church. The dichotomy between rationalism and pietism had emerged in Europe and was not new to the church in America. What was new in the "Era of the Constitution" was the extreme expression of these divergent beliefs. Rationalism was entering the church not only through local sources, such as the German colonists' former antagonist and later patron, Deist Benjamin Franklin, but also from newly-arrived ministers who had studied at European universities. Members of the recently-organized synod warned fellow churchmen in 1796 against rationalism's intrusion. Nevertheless, the Frederick, Maryland congregation wrote into its constitution that "sound reasoning alone suffices to teach us that to which the word of God bears witness." At the opposite end of the spectrum was pietism, the belief that God inspires directly and sometimes miraculously also through the emotions every aspect of Christians' pious lives. Some ministers, like Philip William Otterbein expressed this emphasis in their ministries by holding prayer meetings. The lack of ministers in the interior of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania led Otterbein, who by 1774 was serving a Reformed congregation in Baltimore, to adapt the pietistic class system to shepherdless Reformed people. Jacob Albright, originally a Lutheran who professed conversion under the preaching of the Reformed minister Anthony Hautz also organized "classes" among pious people, some of whom were Reformed. In time, Otterbein, Albright, and their associates expanded their efforts by conducting "big meetings" that were held in barns or out of doors where they preached the necessity of repentance and conversion. Albright and his people added the doctrine of sanctification. Large numbers of people responded emotionally, crying aloud and falling. Indeed, evangelists came to believe that meetings were successful

(Cont'd. on page 5)



"THE GERMAN REFORMED ELEMENT", BY JOHN B. FRANTZ (Cont'd. from page 4)

only if they produced such a "melting time." Such behavior alienated some members of the German Reformed Church. The European-trained minister, Christian Lewis Becker charged that the "religion of Jesus knows nothing of the sectarian teaching that only he receives favors who has fought with great difficulty... the repentance fight, who has sprinkled his prayer with feelingful tears." Becker's education had included the German Reformed Heidelberg Catechism's emphasis on salvation as God's gift that could not be earned. Other less profound critics stigmatized the evangelists and their followers as groaners, fanatics, and hypocrites. Because John Ernst's parishioners in York County suspected that he had become one of Otterbein's "New Reformed," they locked him out of the church. Under these circumstances, schism was inevitable. Although Otterbein, himself, never left the Reformed Church, his followers had organized the Church of the United Brethren in Christ by 1815. Albright's people also coalesced into a separate ecclesiastical organization and in 1817 named themselves the Evangelical Association. Both groups attracted significant numbers of Reformed people into their membership.

In summary the German Reformed Church progressed during the "Era of the ... Constitution." Although it did not solve all of its problems, it moved beyond the pioneer stage and became a mature organization. The War for American Independence distracted church members and contributed to tension among them. Tension continued after the war but for ecclesiastical and theological reasons, causing some members to form other churches.

This history is relevant to current concerns of the United Church of Christ. Southeastern Pennsylvania is still the heartland of its self-conscious Reformed constituency. Secular issues, including politics and the threat of war continue to distract the people of God. Tension persists over different approaches to accomplishing the church's mission, such as "social action" or a "Biblical Witness."

\* In writing and presenting this paper, Professor Frantz substituted for Professor William T. Parsons who could not be present because of illness.

Dr. John B. Frantz is Associate Professor of American History at The Pennsylvania State University.

MINUTES OF ERHS ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 24, 1987

The 124th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was held on October 24, 1987, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the Old First Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, Philadelphia, PA with an attendance of about 150 persons. Coffee and registration began at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Church.

The President, Dr. John Payne, called the meeting to order and invited the group to join in the singing of "Praise to the Lord", from the Evangelical and Reformed Hymnal. Dr. Payne then welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Rev.

(Cont'd. on page 6)

MINUTES OF ERHS ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 5)

Geneva Butz, Pastor of Old First Reformed Church who extended welcome from all of the members of Old First Church. She noted that Old First was celebrating its 260th Anniversary in 1987.

Dr. Payne recognized Dr. John Shetler who in turn introduced special guests who were in attendance. Rev. Herman Ahrens of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference office was recognized. Members of the Executive Committee of the E and R Historical Society were introduced to the group. It was noted that Dr. George Gay and Rev. Banks Shepherd, members of the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ were in attendance.

Miss Ruth Parks was recognized and gave a verbal invitation to the Society to have the next Annual Meeting of the Society at Beck's United Church of Christ, Lexington, NC. Beck's Church is celebrating it's two hundredth Anniversary.

There was an organ demonstration by the organist of Old First Church. He closed with the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" in which the group joined in singing.

At 10:00 a.m. the President introduced Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr., of Penn State University, who presented a paper entitled, "The German Reformed Element in the Era of the U.S. Constitution 1785-1815". Dr. Frantz had been asked to substitute for Dr. William Parsons of Ursinus College who had been taken ill. In this paper Dr. Frantz noted an increasing prosperity among the German Reformed people in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He also pointed out that there were more distractions and less attention to spiritual matters in the churches. Some of the tensions in the churches during this period came from differences in theology, worship patterns, and a shortage of pastors in outlying areas.

After Dr. Frantz's paper there was a brief recess.

Dr. Payne then introduced Rev. David Rapp of Whitehall, PA who presented a paper entitled "18th Century Martyrs of the Faith: Weyberg, Winkhaus, Hendel". This paper focused on the ministries of Rev. Dr. Casper Weyberg, Rev. John Herman Winkhaus, and Rev. John William Hendel, Sr. at Old First during the yellow fever epidemic of the 1790's.

Shortly after 12:00 noon the meeting recessed for lunch.

Dr. Payne called the business session of the of the E and R Historical Society to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Old First Reformed Church. There were about 30 to 35 persons in attendance. The opening prayer was led by the Rev. Banks D. Shepherd.

The minutes of the 123rd annual meeting were adopted as they had been circulated in the "Newsletter".

Dr. John Payne presented the President's report in printed form. He highlighted some of the items in his report. He noted the gratitude that all members of the Society have for the fine work of the staff at Lancaster.



MINUTES OF ERHS ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 6)

The Report of the Archivist, Mrs. Florence Bricker, was distributed and Mrs. Bricker called attention to some of the highlights of this report. She noted "that we are here to gather and also to dispense information that has been collected." She noted that this is a growing service with more and more requests for local church history. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept her report with gratitude. The motion carried.

A question was raised about the support from the United Church of Christ. It was stated that the support has remained the same.

The Rev. Banks D. Shepherd made the report from the Southern Chapter. A copy of this report is attached to the minutes. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept this report.

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by Mr. Myron Wolf. It was moved, seconded, and voted to accept this report as presented. A concern was raised about the demise of the "Historical Intelligencer". It was reported that the publishing of this journal has been suspended and it is not totally dead.

The budget for 1988 was presented by Mr. Myron Wolf and was adopted by the Society.

Dr. John Shetler announced that the "Mercersburg Society" will meet at the Methodist Archives at Drew University in New Jersey in May 1988. An announcement of the date will be in "Keeping You Posted."

Dr. Shetler presented the report of the Nominating Committee for Officers and Board of Directors for 1988. The president asked for additional nominations from the floor. It was moved that nominations be closed and the secretary cast a ballot for the nominees as presented by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried. Those elected are as follows:

President -	Dr. John B. Payne
1st Vice President -	Dr. Lowell H. Zuck
2nd Vice President -	Dr. Philip W. Weiss
Executive Secretary-	Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett
Recording Secretary-	Rev. Frank W. Snider, Sr.
Treasurer -	Mr. Myron Wolf
Archivist -	Mrs. Florence Bricker
Directors-at-large -	Mr. Owen Fox, The Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, The Rev. David Rapp, The Rev. Mary Hutchens, The Rev. Mark Steiner, Mr. Frank B. Stearns, The Rev. James D. Mohr

Future annual meetings of the Society were announced as follows:

1988 - Beck's United Church of Christ, Lexington, NC (October 15, 1988)  
1989 - Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
1990 - St. Louis, Missouri (150th Anniversary of the Evangelical Synod)  
1991 - Bethany United Church of Christ, Bethlehem, PA

MINUTES OF ERHS ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 7)

Tim Clemens, Historian for the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and a member of Boehm's Church, brought some concerns which he had, before the group. He encouraged the donations of historical materials to the Archives.

Dr. Payne expressed the Society's appreciation to Dr. John Frantz and the Rev. David Rapp for the papers that were presented. He also thanked the Rev. Geneva Butz and the folks of Old First Church for their fine hospitality.

Announcements were made concerning walking tours planned for the Historical area around Old First Church.

Dr. John Shetler pronounced the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Snider, Sr.  
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OCTOBER 23, 1987

The Board of Directors of The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on October 23, 1987, at 7:30 p.m. at Old First Reformed United Church of Christ in Philadelphia, PA. Those present for the meeting were: Dr. John Payne, Mr. Owen Fox, Mr. Myron Wolf, Rev. Mary Hutchens, Dr. Phillip Weiss, Mrs. Florence Bricker, Rev. Banks Shepherd and the Rev. Frank Snider, Sr.

The Meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. John Payne. It was noted that Dr. Lowell Zuck was in Cambridge, England; Rev. Mark Steiner had two weddings on Saturday, October 25, and would be unable to attend; Rev. David Rapp's wife was very ill but that he would be present for the meeting on Saturday; and that Rev. Geneva Butz's father was seriously ill and that she might arrive later for the meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Phillip Weiss was asked to have the opening prayer. The Minutes of the April 27, 1987 Executive Committee Meeting were approved and adopted as circulated in the summer issue of The Newsletter. Mrs. Florence Bricker distributed a written Report of The Archivist which is attached to these minutes. She pointed out some of the highlights of the report. She noted that more persons are coming to the Archives to do research. A number come with genealogical concerns but an increased number have come for church related research and questions about church anniversaries. She pointed out that the Archives have been able to secure the services of the Rev. Francis (Frank) Daugherty, a professional librarian, to assist with the work there. She underlined her continued concern over the lack of care for history in the United Church of Christ. It was moved, seconded, and voted to adopt the report as given.

The Rev. Banks D. Shepherd presented the report for the Southern Chapter of the E & R Historical Society. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes. It was noted that a bus tour with 68 persons on two buses from the Southern Chapter (NC) will be attending the meeting of the Society on Saturday.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Cont'd. from page 8)

The President, Dr. John Payne passed out printed copies of his report that is to be presented to the Society at the Annual Meeting. Highlights of the report were pointed out by Dr. Payne. He commented on the enjoyable trip in September with a group of seminarians from Lancaster Seminary to Germany. He also noted that the correct amount now in the Archives Fund, after receiving a \$13,000 offering from General Synod, is \$21,000. Dr. Payne reported on the meeting of the UCC Historical Council in the Fall and pointed out some of the concerns there. He spoke of the demise of the "Historical Intelligencer". He reported also that Mrs. Ruth Rasche has been reappointed the chairperson of the Historical Council by the Executive Council. He stated that Dr. Lowell Zuck is being asked to serve on the Historical Council as a representative from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

Mr. Myron Wolf, Treasurer, presented his report for January 1, 1987 through September 30, 1987 in printed form, which is attached to these minutes. It was noted that this was a good report and encouraging. It was moved and seconded to accept this report as it was presented. There was some discussion concerning investments and it was decided to make no changes at the present.

Mr. Wolf then presented a proposed budget for 1988. After some discussion, a motion was made to grant a \$1,000 honorarium to our President, Dr. John Payne, for 1988. (Dr. Payne has served a number of years as president with no remuneration.) A substitute motion was made to make the above motion retroactive to include the calendar year of 1987. The motion was approved.

Plans for future meetings of the Society were discussed. The annual meeting in 1988 will be the weekend of October 14 and 15 at Beck's United Church of Christ, Lexington, NC. The Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, October 15. It was agreed to pay an honorarium of \$200 each for two papers to be read at this meeting. Possible tours to this meeting were suggested. Various persons in Pennsylvania and Ohio will be challenged to arrange tours to the Southland.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society will be on April 14, 1988, at 1:00 p.m. at Lancaster Seminary. This meeting will be just previous to the centennial meeting of The American Society For Church History. That meeting will begin on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. On Friday, April 15, there will be several sessions and papers at Lancaster Seminary as a part of this meeting. On Friday afternoon there will be tours of Lancaster County and a banquet on Friday night at the Brunswick Hotel in Lancaster. There will be additional papers and presentations on Saturday morning. The main focus of the meeting is upon Philip Schaff who founded the American Society of Church History in 1888.

The 1989 meeting of the E and R Historical Society will take place at Lakeland College in Wisconsin. The Rev. James Mohr will be the contact there. Details of the 1989 meeting will be worked out later. The 1990 meeting will be held in St. Louis, MO and the 1991 meeting in Bethlehem, PA at Bethany Church.

Paul Marsteller had written with a concern about securing copies of the Evangelical and Reformed Book of Worship. It was noted that this concern had come up

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Cont'd. from page 9)

in the 1985 meeting of the Society. We will look into the possibility of re-printing the E and R Book of Worship.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Snider, Sr.,  
Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Since our last Annual Meeting the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society has had a busy and productive year. Florence Bricker and I represented the Society at the meeting of the Penn Northeast Conference in Bloomsburg at the end of May. We mounted our three paneled display which shows items and persons from the four traditions of the United Church of Christ, church buildings in Penn Northeast Conference, and past and present officers of the Society. The display seemed to attract considerable interest. Mrs. Bricker and I were also pleased to be present at the General Synod meeting in June at which the Historical Council had such a prominent role. We were most grateful to Ruth Rasche for the splendid display she had prepared at her own expense and for her excellent presentation to the Synod delegates and visitors. We also appreciated all the planning and work that Susan Dickerman and Florence Coppola did which made possible such a delightfully celebrative anniversary dinner. We are indebted to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society for making it possible for us to share in this memorable synod.

This past year is also memorable as one during which closer ties were forged between our Society and friends in Sendai, Japan. Florence Bricker and I represented the Society at a dinner hosted by Dr. Shozu Kodama, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tohoku Gakuin University in connection with Franklin and Marshall College's Bicentennial Celebration. There is a historical link between the two schools as well as between Tohoku Gakuin and Lancaster Theological Seminary because a graduate of F&M and the Seminary, William Hoy was one of the founders of the school in Sendai in 1886. At this banquet a precious coin long held in the Archives was given to Dr. Kodama for return to Tohoku Gakuin. This coin was one of twelve given to Hoy by Kami Chika, a Christian widow for support of the school. Hoy sent them back to the Mission Board with the instruction that they were to be sold to raise more money for the school. To replace this coin, Tohoku Gakuin University has provided the Archives with a replica. The link with Sendai has been further strengthened this summer by a series of visits to the Archives by staff and students from Tohoku Gakuin as well as from Miyagi Gakuin, the girls college. As a further concrete sign of their friendship with us at the Archives, each staff person received a copy of the beautiful centennial history of Miyagi Gakuin College.

I myself took part in strengthening bonds in the opposite direction as I led a group of seminarians to both West and East Germany for a study tour in September. In the Rheinland and in the German Democratic Republic we were hosted by the UCC partner church, the Evangelical Church of the Union. I took part in an ecumeni-



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Cont'd. from page 10)

cal service celebrating the three hundredth anniversary of the Berger Kirche in Düsseldorf, preached in two village churches on the East German border in Hesse, and brought greetings in a service for golden and silver confirmands in Dessau in the German Democratic Republic. Our hosts were most gracious to us. It was a splendid experience for all. We were most pleased to share in the Kirchengemeinschaft (church communion) between our two churches.

Immediately after returning from Germany I attended along with Florence Bricker the UCC Historical Council at the Massachusetts Conference Center in Framingham. We were pleased to learn that the offering at the last General Synod worship dedicated to the Archives Fund amounted to about \$13,000.00 That brings the total amount in the Archives Fund up to approximately \$21,000 still very much short of the goal of \$750,000. We were also delighted to learn of an increase in membership in the Historical Council especially on the part of Conferences. All Conferences now belong to the Historical Council. We were however troubled by the continued budget limitations of the Council which required us to take the unfortunate step of suspending the publication of the Historical Intelligencer which in the last year incurred a serious deficit. Also, work on a possible Union Catalogue or locator file of resources in the various UCC archives cannot take place because of a lack of funds and personnel. In spite of these financial drawbacks we were encouraged by the seeming growing awareness of the importance of the work of the Historical Council as indicated by the response at General Synod and the growth of membership. The next meeting of the Historical Council will be held in Lancaster, September 22-24, 1988. We hope we can involve some of our membership in this area in that meeting.

I received an overture from James Seale of the Disciples Historical Society about possible cooperation with the historical societies of the United Church of Christ. I don't think he quite understood the complicated organization of the historical task in the United Church of Christ. I therefore sought to explain it to him. It would be my wish that the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society as well as the UCC Historical Council seek to develop a relationship of mutual understanding and possible cooperation with our counterpart in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Finally, although I know Florence is including in her report notice of staff change in the archives, I should also like to make note of it and express my appreciation for the ten faithful years of service by Miss Elizabeth Sanders to the Church in her work at the Archives. We shall miss her. We are however pleased that we have been able to secure a most capable person in the Reverend Frank Daugherty. For the work of all members of the staff and especially for that of our able archivist who for no additional remuneration puts in many extra hours of work, we are most grateful.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Payne  
President

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

The archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the United Church of Christ have as their main purpose to preserve church records and important documents. However, the archives exist not only to preserve information, but to be ready to dispense that information whenever called upon to do so. We are there to serve the people of the church. This is a statement repeated, but I do so to emphasize what is happening in the archives. More and more we receive inquiries that have to do with church history, polity, and celebration. Before the last General Synod meeting a phone call from one of the planners of the worship services asked us to search the Minutes of 1957 and find which hymns had been sung at the Uniting Synod Meeting; at another time we were called upon for the Minutes of the Meeting of "The Committee of Nine on realignment of Conferences," Minutes of 1965-67 between the 5th and 6th General Synods. Let me stress here again that it is so important that we receive Minutes and important papers from instrumentalities of the Church, Conferences and Associations, because we can give back only those things that we have received. More and more churches are depending upon the services of the archives to help them celebrate anniversaries as they need information about their local church or ministers who have served it. Others asked about the best way to care for their records. Some inquiries are related only to a particular part of the United Church of Christ - as an example, a minister, not formerly of the Evangelical & Reformed Church asked for an explanation of the Reformed Church escutcheon. What I find encouraging about all that I have mentioned is that people are becoming more aware of the archives as they seek answers to church-related questions. Then of course there is the deluge of genealogical questions. Some of these are quite reasonable and deserve to be answered because the information can be obtained only from church records. There are others that call for patience, sympathy and a good sense of humor. Some forget that we must have detailed information if we are to locate family records. One received recently asked us to help her locate her sister whom she hadn't seen since 1947. Her name was Grace and she was a member of the Reformed Church. I must admit many inquiries like this merit only a polite form letter.

Since our last meeting in Greenville we have had a change in personnel. Elizabeth Sanders, our researcher and cataloguer retired June 30th. Our work would have been impaired considerably if the vacancy would have existed for any length of time. But we were most fortunate to secure the services of the Rev. Francis (Frank) Daugherty, a professional librarian. Mr. Daugherty had worked with my husband in the Seminary library for many years and we knew him to be capable, earnest in his work, and one who knows the operations of the United Church of Christ. He is a real asset to our staff and the work is proceeding very well. We are indeed grateful for all members of the staff who work diligently to promote the work of the archives.

People still come to the archives in great numbers from many states and other countries. During the past year approximately 700 persons have registered as visitors for research. There have been ten tour groups either of confirmation classes, senior citizens, and others to hold their consistory meetings. August was a time to entertain our Japanese friends. On August 3rd six teachers and archivists from our two schools in Sendai, Tohoku Gakuin and Miyagi College spent part of the day researching their schools' histories as they can be found in the archives. August 13th 43 professors and students from the same schools



REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST (Cont'd. from page 12)

came for the same purpose. And so our days are crowded with persons and work that we enjoy, but so full that some days we feel that we shouldn't go home even at closing time.

Now I have told you that the work is going well, and so it is as we try to keep up with all the correspondence and phone calls and boxes and boxes of materials that are sent to us. But if I could be granted one wish for the Historical Society it would be that the work of the Society, the importance of the preservation of the Church's history be taken more seriously by all members of the United Church of Christ. At the meeting of General Synod in June, the chairperson of the Historical Council, in presenting her report, reviewed the thirty years of history of the United Church of Christ. To close her report she had asked several members of the Council to reenact the moment of merger when Dr. Fred Hoskins of the Congregational Christian Church and Dr. James Wagner of the Evangelical and Reformed Church came forward and clasped hands, signifying the union that was being consummated. It was a significant moment and one to be remembered. Following this serious and solemn reenactment a birthday cake was brought forward and balloons were released in the auditorium. A few weeks later I was present when a report of General Synod was given. The reporter spoke of happenings at the Synod and when he reported about the presentation of the Historical Council all he reported to the group was that we had a cake and balloons forgetting altogether the significance of the occasion. Let us ever remember our Church's precious heritage and give to our Society our financial support and devoted interest at all times.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence M. Bricker  
Archivist

REPORT OF SOUTHERN CHAPTER

The Southern Chapter held its annual meeting on Saturday, November 15, 1986 at Bethel United Church of Christ, Hickory, NC in connection with the celebration of the centennial of their building. The program was given by Mr. Neal Wilfong, descendant of a pioneer family in Catawba County, and local church historian.

Our meeting this year will be on Saturday, November 14 at Hedrick's Grove Church, Lexington, NC. The program will be given by the Rev. Aubrey W. Hedrick on the Hedrick family and the beginnings of Beck's Church, which is celebrating its bicentennial this year (1987).

The work at our Archives at the Catawba College Library continues at a slow but sure pace. Mrs. Sims, our Archivist, has a college student assisting her this semester. She is working on a Person-Place file so that historical information from churches can be more readily accessible. She continues to catalog materials according to the Lancaster Archives system. Limited space remains a major problem at our Archives. We moved a number of boxes of duplicates of Classis and Synod minutes (stored by the goodness of First UCC, Winston-Salem in one of

(Cont'd. on page 16)

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
Statement of Income and Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 1987

	<u>INCOME</u>	
Executive Council -- U.C.C.		\$ 4,200.00
Conferences: Penn West	\$ 70.00	
New York	50.00	
Penn Central	1,461.05	
Penn S.E.	300.00	
Penn N.E.	<u>150.00</u>	2,031.05
Associations: Cumberland, Maine	\$ 20.00	
Susquehanna, NY	50.00	
Lancaster, Penn Central	1,500.00	
Hudson Mohawk, NY	<u>25.00</u>	1,595.00
Dues Received Through Lancaster		1,532.50
Life Fees		500.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign		2,675.66
Interest on Investments		3,254.74
Visitor Fees		432.00
Miscellaneous Income		2,505.63
Miscellaneous Contribution		1,500.00
Gifts (not including dues)		
1st Cong. Church, Montclair, NJ	\$ 100.00	
Paul & Erminee Hafer	2,000.00	
Christ Church, Annville, PA	100.00	
Mazeppa UCC, West Milton, PA	50.00	
Arcadia Foundation	13,000.00	
St. Andrew UCC, Lancaster, PA	100.00	
Hebron UCC, Winston-Salem, NC	250.00	
Boehm's UCC, Blue Bell, PA	310.00	
Donald H. Haney	50.00	
Elvin J. Groff	50.00	
Gladys E. Hefty	100.00	
Edith Steinbright	7,000.00	
Shenkel Church, Pottstown, PA	150.00	
Church of Apostles, Lancaster, PA	100.00	
Rev. Dr. Philip Weiss	100.00	
Myron E. Wolf	50.00	
Faith UCC Church, Lancaster, PA	650.00	
Dr. John B. Frantz	300.00	
Ruth B. Frantz	200.00	
Charlotte W. Bordner	200.00	
Others (Less than \$50.00 each)	<u>230.89</u>	25,090.89
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$ 45,317.47</u>

Cont'd. on page 15)



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES (Cont'd. from pg. 14)

	<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Lancaster: Salaries	\$ 14,540.44	
Honoraria	2,511.45	
Supplies	623.01	
Equipment	50.00	
Printing	720.00	
Postage	695.81	
Telephone	549.39	
Miscellaneous	1,953.59	
Meetings & Travel	<u>2,703.38</u>	\$ 24,347.07
Eden Archives: Subsidy		5,340.00
Lancaster Archives		<u>3,917.06</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$ 33,604.13</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>\$ 11,713.34</u>

Note: Contributions include some gifts intended for 1986 which did not arrive prior to the closing of the books for that year. Some gifts have been designated for memorials which are to be decided upon during the coming year. Other gifts have been made to purchase specific items sorely needed. It is planned to proceed with the purchase of those items during the year.

---

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 1987

---

	<u>ASSETS</u>	
Checking Account -- Hamilton Bank	\$ 4,619.91	
Liquid Reserve Account -- Hamilton Bank	51,822.00	
Certificate of Deposit -- Penn Savings	4,402.02	
GMC Memorial Endowment -- C/D Hamilton Bank	1,001.00	
Wellington Fund -- Book Value	1,008.00	
St. Paul's Preservation Trust -- C/D Hamilton Bank	3,000.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 65,852.93</u>	
	<u>LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL</u>	
Liabilities: Accounts Payable	\$ 494.27	
Principal -- 12/31/86	\$ 53,645.32	
Plus Surplus 1/1/87 - 12/31/87	<u>11,713.34</u>	65,358.66
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL		<u>\$ 65,852.93</u>

REPORT OF SOUTHERN CHAPTER (Cont'd. from page 13)

their spare rooms). However, this did not relieve our congestion, since the materials were already in an over-flow area. New buildings are being erected on the Catawba campus, but we have no promise that they will help our situation either.

We have begun oral history gathering through taped voice interviews. The president of the Chapter has interviewed Mr. Thomas Moose, former superintendent of Nazareth Children's Home and former national president of the Churchmen's Brotherhood. Plans are under way to interview the Rev. Dr. Roy E. Leinbach and the Rev. Dr. A. C. Peeler in the near future.

We still have a number of copies of A STORY OF SOUTHERN SYNOD by Dr. Banks J. Peeler (the last history of Southern Synod) for sale at \$5.00 plus shipping. They may be ordered from the Southern Conference office or the Catawba Archives.

We are glad to have approximately 70 people from North Carolina on our Historical Bus Tour to this meeting in Philadelphia. We would welcome such a tour from another section of the Church when we host the national meeting at Beck's United Church of Christ in Lexington, NC in 1988.

We would like to request that Mrs. Jacquelyn Sims, Archivist at Catawba College, be placed on the mailing list for the ERHS News.

Respectfully submitted,

Banks Shepherd

-----

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1988. 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 Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 or the Historical Council UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016.