

# NEWS

from the EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY UCC

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

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## 127th ANNUAL MEETING TO SHARE IN 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BETHANY UCC, BETHLEHEM, PA

The 127th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will be held Saturday, October 19, 1991 at Bethany United Church of Christ, 600 W. Market St., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. While celebrating the 100th anniversary of Bethany United Church of Christ, the meeting will also give attention to the Reformed beginnings in the Lehigh Valley and the relations between the Reformed and the Moravian Churches. In this way the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will share also in the 250th anniversary of the Moravian settlement in Bethlehem.

On Saturday morning, October 19 at 9:00 A.M., two papers will be presented on the topic of Reformed and Moravian relations in the eighteenth century: "Religious Politics in the Eighteenth Century: Boehm vs. Zinzendorf and his Reformed Followers," by the Reverend David H. Rapp, pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ (Mickleys), Whitehall, Pa., and "A Frustrated Vision: Zinzendorf's Plan for the German Reformed Church," by Dr. David Schattschneider, dean and professor of church history at Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, Pa.

On Saturday afternoon after lunch at Bethany Church and the annual business meeting, there will be a tour of famous Reformed sites in the area.

(Cont'd. on page 3)

## UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL TO MEET AT UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF THE TWIN CITIES

The United Church of Christ Historical Council will hold its next meeting September 19-21, 1991 at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, Minnesota. The meeting is being jointly sponsored by the seminary and the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The program will include business sessions from Thursday afternoon, September 19 through Saturday morning, September 21, a panel discussion on the teaching of history in seminaries on Thursday evening at 8:00 P.M., a trip on Friday afternoon to the Minnesota Historical Society to view the Conference Archives, and a banquet on Friday evening at 6:30 P.M. The banquet will feature an address by Professor Arthur Merrill on the history of United Theological Seminary and its antecedent institutions, Mission House Theological Seminary and the School of Theology of Yankton College.

The public is invited to attend business sessions of the Council, the panel discussion on Thursday evening, September 19, and the banquet on Friday evening, September 20. Reservations for the banquet can be made through the Minnesota Conference office, 122 W. Franklin Ave., Rm. 323, Minneapolis, MN 55404, (612) 871-0359.

IN MEMORIAM

The Reverend Philip W. Weiss, D.D., 1913-1991

With his former parishioners and his many friends, the Board of Directors and members of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society mourn the death of our beloved second vice-president, Dr. Philip W. Weiss, a devoted pastor and warm-hearted friend to many, a dedicated officer of this society who loved the heritage of his church.

Dr. Weiss received the B.A. degree from Lakeland College, the B.D. from Lancaster Theological Seminary, the S.T.M. from Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, and the D.D. from Ursinus College.

Ordained May 12, 1938 in his home congregation, Karmel Evangelical and Reformed Church (U.C.C.), Philadelphia, the Rev. Dr. Weiss served the Schwencksville Charge (1938-1940), St. James Church, Limerick (1940-1946), and Bethany Church, Philadelphia (1946-1977). Fluent in German, he conducted at Bethany the last weekly German language services held in any UCC church in Pennsylvania. In recent years he had served as the chaplain of the Philadelphia Protestant Home and in various positions as interim pastor. A former member of the Conference Board of Directors, he was the first moderator of the Philadelphia Association. He had been a member of the Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society since 1968, serving faithfully first as third, and then as second, vice-president.

Dr. Weiss is survived by his wife, Thelma, two daughters, Charlotte and Valerie, and a son, Philip Jr.

A Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held at Bethany United Church of Christ on April 15, 1991.

We shall remember Philip Weiss for his dedication to this society and its work of preservation of the church's heritage, for his warmth of spirit and good-natured humor, for his deeply grounded faith and love of people which made him such a beloved pastor of the church.

Elizabeth Clarke Kieffer, 1900-1991

Librarian, genealogist, biographer, church school teacher, Miss Kieffer served as archivist of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society from 1959 to 1966. Previously, she had served as reference librarian at Franklin and Marshall College and then as librarian of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Born in Frederick, Maryland, she attended Goucher College and took her library training at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore.

In the latter part of her life Miss Kieffer was concerned especially with questions of genealogy. She carried on a wide correspondence with genealogists whom she helped with translations from the German script, in which she was an expert. She also contributed to several genealogical publications.

She was the author of biographies, including one on Dr. Henry Harbaugh, pastor at Lancaster and Lebanon, Pa., and professor at the theological seminary at Mercersburg, Pa.

(Cont'd. on page 3)



IN MEMORIAM (Cont'd. from page 2)

A member of First Reformed (U.C.C.) Church in Lancaster, she taught adult classes there and wrote the "Annals of First Reformed Church."

She will be remembered as an expert reference librarian and genealogist, as a devoted member of her church, knowledgeable about its history and eager to share that knowledge, and as a kind, gracious lady always ready to be of help to the researcher in family and church history.

SECOND EDITION OF "CHURCH AND PASTORAL RECORDS"

A second edition of the booklet, "Church and Pastoral Records in the Archives of the United Church of Christ and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society," has been prepared by Mrs. Florence M. Brioker, with the help of the archives staff.

The first edition, compiled and edited by Florence on the suggestion of her husband, the late Dr. George H. Brioker, appeared in 1982. Since her retirement as archivist, Mrs. Brioker has worked at making additions and corrections to the first edition.

The information for the second edition was entered on the archives' new computer by Diane Rimert, with assistance from Judith Witham and Kay Schellhase. Data has been printed out from the computer, and several copies of the print-out are available in the archives. The material is arranged by state, county and city, and then by local church or pastor. Persons requesting information will be sent copies of relevant pages.

As was the case with the previous edition, the booklet is an attempt to draw together information that may be of special use to persons tracing family histories.

127th ANNUAL MEETING TO SHARE IN 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BETHANY UCC, BETHLEHEM, PA (Cont'd. from page 1)

On Friday afternoon, October 18 there will be a tour of Moravian sites for all persons able to come early to the meeting. The tour will begin at 2:00 P.M. at the Moravian Museum, 66 W. Church St., next door to the Central Moravian Church.

Block reservations are being held at the Red Roof Inn, US 22 at Airport Road South, tel. no.: 215-264-5404 or 1-800-843-7663. Single: \$44.95; Double: \$49.95. Members may make their own reservations by calling directly the Red Roof Inn. One should register by October 1.

Reservations for lunch may be made by using the form found on page 7 of this Newsletter.

The meeting of the Board of Directors will take place on Friday at 7:30 P.M. at Walp's Restaurant, a short distance from the motel. They should meet at the Red Roof Inn at 6:00 P.M. to go together to dinner.

All persons are cordially invited to what should be another festive meeting.

SWISS FRAKTUR TO BE DISPLAYED

1991 marks the 700th anniversary of Switzerland. In order to commemorate that anniversary, a major exhibition of Swiss folk art is being assembled for display at the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City.

What possible connection could these events have with the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society? We happen to be the owners of a small piece of Swiss folk art that is the oldest known fraktur from the American south and that we will be loaning for this special display.

This tiny fraktur (approximately 4 x 6 inches) was done in 1745 by David Zubly, a man of Swiss origin, living in Purrysburg, South Carolina, for his son, John Joachim Zubly, a Reformed minister. The fraktur appears on one page of Zubly's autograph book.

The Zubly, or Zublin, family were residents of St. Gall, Switzerland, since at least the time of the Reformation. John Joachim's father and grandfather, both named David, were weavers by trade and were men of influence and social position in their town. In 1736 the younger David Zubly emigrated to South Carolina in the company of 250 other Swiss-Germans.

John Joachim, who was born in St. Gall in 1724, remained in Switzerland to complete his education. A precocious young man, he studied theology and was apparently ordained in the German Church in London in 1744. He then joined his father in South Carolina and became an itinerant preacher among the German Reformed people in the South. In 1746 he was married to Anna Tobler.

Zubly served churches in Charleston and Savannah. He was a powerful preacher, using German, French and English with equal facility, and was the author of numerous published sermons and addresses. In 1756 Christopher Sauer of Germantown printed Zubly's The Real Christian's Hope in Death, probably the first English language work by a Reformed theologian in this country.

On visits to Pennsylvania and New York Zubly became acquainted with Michael Schlatter, Conrad Weiser, Conrad Beissel and Henry M. Muhlenberg. In 1770 the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, conferred on Zubly the degree of Doctor of Divinity, for which he wrote a Latin thesis. By this time Dr. Zubly was the most eminent Reformed minister of the colonial period.

In Savannah Dr. Zubly was both a civic and a religious leader. He publicly denounced acts of violence on the part of the British as the Revolutionary War drew closer, and in 1775 he was among the delegates from Georgia to the Continental Congress. Once in Philadelphia, however, he tried to steer a middle course and work out a compromise with Britain. He found to his surprise that his mood did not suit that of the other delegates or his constituents at home, and he left the Congress and was even banished from Savannah.

Although his congregation in Savannah eventually invited him to return, he died in 1781, a broken man. He had misjudged the temper of the times and missed his opportunity for fame as a German signatory of the Declaration of Independence. And the congregations he founded did not continue with the Reformed Church.



SWISS FRAKTUR (Cont'd. from page 4)

From this rather disappointing end to his life, we turn back to the little autograph book that was his and that is now in the possession of the ERHS. The book contains more than 70 autographs written in Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German, French or English between the years 1743 and 1766, and including signatures of Muhlenberg and Schlatter.

The fraktur consists of a central drawing and surrounding German inscriptions as well as the date (1745), place and Zubly name. The drawing depicts a chariot of fire and horses of fire and Elijah ascending in a whirlwind into heaven. (II Kings:2) The inscriptions, which include a divine declaration and a fatherly exhortation, urge the young minister to remain true to his calling so that he, like Elijah, will have a heavenly journey prepared for him. The fraktur shows a touching concern on the part of the father as his 20-year-old son begins his ministry. Thirty years later John Joachim might have looked back ruefully at this page in his autograph book.

The Swiss Folk Art exhibit will be at the Museum of American Folk Art, New York City, from September 26, 1991 through January 1, 1992, and will continue to other locations in this country and to Zurich and Neuchatel in Switzerland.

Kay Schellhase, Archivist

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Bouwsma, William J. John Calvin: A Sixteenth Century Portrait. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. A lively, subtle treatment of Calvin, the human being in the context of the sixteenth century, the best biography of Calvin available.

Oberman, Heiko A. Luther: Man between God and the Devil. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. A fresh, lucid, and perceptive portrayal of Luther in all his humanity, the most outstanding account of Luther today.

Philip Schaff: Historian and Ambassador of the Universal Church. Selected Writings. Edited and with introductions by Klaus Penzel. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 1991. A judicious selection of important writings of Schaff showing the range of his scholarly and ecumenical interests with illuminating introductions to each piece and an excellent general introduction on Schaff's life, thought and career in their European and American contexts.

Dunn, David et al. A History of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Introduction by Lowell H. Zuck. New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1990. A republication of the 1961 book with a useful new introduction and updated bibliography by our first vice-president.

**Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, October 19, 1991  
Bethany United Church of Christ, Bethlehem, Pa.**

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - APRIL 5, 1991

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met at 1:00 P.M. on April 5, 1991, in the archives at Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Most of the group had met at about noon for lunch in the dining room at Lancaster Seminary. Those present were: Dr. John Payne, Mr. Myron Wolf, Mrs. Kay Schellhase, Mr. Frank Stearns, Mrs. Florence Bricker and Rev. Frank Snider.

Dr. Payne reported on those missing from the meeting, noting that Dr. Philip Weiss had just undergone open heart surgery in Philadelphia, Dr. Lowell Zuck was on sabbatical in Germany and Rev. Banks Shepherd was unable to attend because of a wedding in his parish. Dr. Payne led in an opening prayer.

The President, Dr. John Payne, presided and made a report on his activities. He had recently attended a meeting of the Board of Editors of the seven volume publication, A Living Theological Heritage: The United Church of Christ. Mrs. Kay Schellhase also attended this meeting. The materials for the publications are due in August of 1991.

He reported on the concern of Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr., that the "Harbaugh Manuscripts" be moved from St. Louis to the Lancaster Archives. These are a part of the James I. Good collection at Eden. Mrs. Schellhase reported that a microfilm of these materials is at Lancaster.

Dr. Payne also reported that he had been in a meeting during the morning with a group from the E.K.U. (Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany) and with representatives from Penn Central Conference about mutual concerns.

Mrs. Kay Schellhase reported on her work as archivist for the United Church of Christ and for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. She noted that most of her time had been spent as archivist of the U.C.C. It has involved a great deal of travel during her first year in this position. About 45 days have been spent in travel. Some changes in the archives at Lancaster include the securing of a new range of compact shelving and a new computer that has just been put into use.

She reported that the Historical Council appeal was mailed later than usual to former contributors to the Council appeal. She recently received a list of contributors from the denominational offices in Cleveland. Membership in the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will be based on the calendar year. There was some discussion on how to keep a membership list. A question was raised as to whether the Newsletter is a good reminder about sending in membership dues, or if a separate reminder might be preferable. There are about 1200 on the mailing lists.

She reported on her work with Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia concerning the large amount of valuable historical material stored in a vault there. She is working with a large committee in that congregation in organizing and listing their materials. It is hoped that this project at Old First will also serve as a model for other local churches.

Mrs. Schellhase's report was accepted with appreciation.

(Con't on page 7)



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -APRIL 5, 1991 (Cont'd from page 6)

Mr. Myron Wolf presented the treasurer's report for the early months of 1991. He pointed out that major expenditures thus far for the year included \$7,496.00 for shelving and \$1,839.00 for the new computer. He reported that the balance is running about the same for the treasury as last year.

A report from the Southern Chapter of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, prepared by the Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, President, was read by Rev. Frank Snider. Mrs. Jackie Sims continues as archivist for the Southern Chapter in the archives at Catawba College, Salisbury and is preparing duplicate cards of holdings to be sent to the Lancaster archives. The Southern Chapter is planning to sponsor a Historical Bus Tour to the annual meeting in October in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Plans for the annual meeting of the Society to be held at Bethany Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on October 18 and 19, 1991, were discussed. The Board of Directors will meet on Friday evening, October 18, at 7:30 P.M. in connection with the annual meeting. The annual meeting will be on Saturday, October 19, with two papers by Rev. David Rapp and Dr. David Schatzschneider. A tour of historical Reformed churches in the area is planned, and the meeting will tie in to the Moravian celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Bethlehem.

It was noted that there is a need to publicize the annual meeting.

Dr. John Payne announced an invitation from Rev. Robert Anderson to hold the 1992 annual meeting in York, Pennsylvania for a joint celebration with Zion, Trinity and Heidelberg churches of that city. That meeting is scheduled for October 16 and 17, 1992.

The meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Snider, Sr.  
Secretary

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REGISTRATION FOR LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING, BETHEHEM, OCTOBER 19, 1991

Please return this form with your check by October 1, 1991 to:

Bethany United Church of Christ  
600 West Market Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18018

( ) Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_ persons for the lunch on Saturday, October 19. The cost will be \$5.00 per person.

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

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

Please make check payable to Bethany U.C.C.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1991. 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, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

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THE WOMEN'S HISTORY COLLECTION: A GUIDE TO ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Historical Council of the United Church of Christ, in conjunction with the Coordinating Center for Women, has launched a project to produce a listing of women's records in the various repositories of UCC archives. Materials on file at the Lancaster Central Archives and the Eden Archives will form a major portion of this list, or guide, highlighting Reformed, Evangelical and E & R women's organizations. Records of CCW and its predecessors will be included.

This guide is the first step toward the production of a "union catalog" for the holdings of United Church of Christ related archival collections. 1995 is the target date for the completion of this guide, with others to follow.

One component of the project is the identification of undiscovered materials by and about women. Diaries, letters and other records that document women's relationship to our denomination are being sought for inclusion in the guide.

If you have information about such resources, or wish to contribute to the project or learn more about it, please contact Kay Schellhase, UCC Archivist, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.