

# NEWS

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

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

July 1994

Volume 22, no. 1

HUNGARIAN REFORMED TRADITION TO BE  
CELEBRATED AT JOINT ANNUAL MEETING WITH  
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
IN BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will hold its next Annual Meeting on October 15, 1994, at First United Church of Christ, 717 Clinton Ave., Bridgeport, Connecticut, beginning at 9:00 A.M. This meeting will be held jointly with the Congregational Christian Historical Society and will honor the Hungarian Reformed heritage while also celebrating the 100th anniversary of First United Church of Christ. Two addresses will be presented on the theme of the meeting: the first, by the Very Reverend Dr. Lorant Hegedüs, Bishop of Budapest and the Presiding Bishop of Hungary, on the topic, "The Hungarian Reformed Tradition;" and the second, by the Rev. Anthony Szilagyi, Pastor of First United Church of Christ, on the subject, "Years of Transition: A Brief History of the American Reformed Churches from 1918 to the Tiffin Agreement." All persons are cordially invited to attend this festive meeting.

Lunch will be served at the church at the cost of \$5.00. After lunch each society will hold its business meeting. Please make luncheon reservations directly with the church office by phone (203-334-5443) or by mailing in the reservation form at the end of this newsletter.

On Friday afternoon preceding the meeting members of the United Church of Christ Historical Council who will be in attendance will hold a short meeting.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY ANNOUNCES A SPEAKERS' BUREAU

The Board of Directors of ERHS at its last meeting in April decided to establish a Speakers' Bureau with the intention of making available informed persons to address and entertain church groups (congregations, associations or conferences) with interesting information, anecdotes and demonstrations about the Evangelical and Reformed heritage. The speakers promise to be not only informative but lively in their presentations so that church members will become both more knowledgeable and more excited about the faith of their fathers and mothers. The plan is to initiate such a program in eastern Pennsylvania and then to expand it to other regions of the church.

Here is a list of persons who would be delighted to speak to church groups on the topics which are in parenthesis behind their names, addresses and phone numbers. Please feel free to contact them directly to make arrangements for topic, schedule and fee for service.

Rev. Deborah Rahn Clemens  
309 Main Street  
Souderton, PA 18964  
215-723-1005  
(Reformation Roots, Mercersburg Theology)

Rev. Dr. Martha B. Kriebel  
532 Main Street  
Collegeville, PA 19426  
215-489-4223  
(Immigrant Waves, Colonial Neighbors)

(Cont'd on Page 3)

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT (Cont'd from page 1)

On Friday evening at 7:30 the members of the ERHS Board of Directors will meet at the Fairfield Motor Inn.

Block reservations are being held for the nights of October 14 and 15 for members of the Board of Directors and of the Society at the Fairfield Motor Inn, 417 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430; (203-255-0491). Please make your reservations directly with the motor inn. Payment is by cash or credit card.

Directions to Fairfield Inn: Coming from New York, take I-95 North to Exit 22. Make a right at the bottom of the exit ramp, cross under a railroad bridge, and at the traffic light make a left on to Post Road (Rt. 1). After the next traffic light the inn is on the right.

Coming from Boston, take I-95 South to Exit 22. At the end of exit ramp make a left and drive to first traffic light and take a left on to Post Road to reach the inn.

Directions to First United Church of Christ, Bridgeport: Coming from New York, take I-95 North to Exit 25. At the end of ramp turn left and pass under I-95. At Dewey Street turn left. Continue on Dewey Street until reaching a light. At light turn right onto North Ave. Continue on North Ave. until Clinton Ave. Turn right on to Clinton Ave. and travel two blocks to First United Church of Christ.

Coming from Boston, take I-95 South to Fairfield Ave. exit. At end of ramp turn right. At the fountain turn left to Dewey Street. At Dewey Street turn right and then follow the above directions as coming from New York.

From Rt. 15 (from either direction), take Park Ave. Exit and head south, passing by Sacred Heart University, until reaching the North Ave. light. Turn right onto North Ave. and at Clinton Ave. turn left. Travel on Clinton Ave. for two blocks to First United Church of Christ on the right.

**SCHEDULE FOR ERHS AND CCHS ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 15 AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00 A.M.  | Registration and Coffee                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9:30 A.M.  | Greetings<br>Lecture by the Very Reverend Lorant Hegedüs, Bishop of Budapest and the Presiding Bishop of Hungary: "The Hungarian Reformed Tradition"                                                                 |
| 11:00 A.M. | Lecture by the Reverend Anthony Szilagyi, Pastor of First United Church of Christ, Bridgeport: "Years of Transition: A Brief History of the American Hungarian Reformed Churches from 1918 to the Tiffin Agreement." |
| 12:30 P.M. | Lunch at First United Church of Christ                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2:00 P.M.  | Annual Business Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                              |



SPEAKERS' BUREAU (Cont'd from page 1)

Rev. Dr. R. Howard Paine

762 Tamarack Trail, Reading, PA 19706, 215-777-0679 (Church Mergers, Worship Life of our Church)

Rev. David Rapp

4332 Truman Street, Whitehall, PA 18052, 215-262-0944 (John Philip Boehm, Church Leader in Eighteenth Century)

Rev. John R. Weiler

325 Carver Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017, 610-867-7930 (Nevin Family, General Reformed History)

1994 UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 1994 meeting of the UCC Historical Council was held on March 4 and 5 in Cleveland, Ohio. Meeting with President Paul H. Sherry and Archivist Kay Schellhase, the Council heard reports from the archivist and the two historical societies and agreed to concentrate its energies on three projects.

The Council will sponsor an annual lecture on a historical topic and have the lecture printed. The first two lectures have appeared in a small booklet (see page 4).

The Council established an annual award of \$200 for the best essay on an aspect of UCC history. The contest is open to UCC students who are active candidates for the M. Div. degree in seminaries of the UCC and historically related seminaries (see pp. 3 and 4).

The third project is one that has been frequently discussed by the Council. It is the creation of a Union Catalog of all archival holdings related to the UCC and its predecessors. In light of the size and complexity of such a project, it was agreed that outside funding would need to be sought. The Amistad Research Center has offered its expertise in contacting foundations, and a committee of the Council will pursue these possibilities.

The new structure being proposed for the denomination was discussed at some length in the Council meeting, with much emphasis on the need to take historical and identity concerns seriously. It appears that the Council will continue to be lodged in the President's Office.

Members of the Historical Society who attend the joint CCHS/ERHS meeting in October in Bridgeport will meet briefly together. The next regularly-scheduled meeting of the Council will occur on September 8 and 9, 1995, in Cleveland, Ohio.

UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL ESTABLISHES PRIZE COMPETITION FOR THE BEST ESSAY ON UCC HISTORY BY AN M. DIV. STUDENT

The United Church of Christ Historical Council has announced the 1994-95 competition for the best essay on the history of the United Church of Christ and/or any of its antecedent traditions. That essay which, in the opinion of the judges, shows the best grasp of its subject matter as well as maturity of interpretation will be awarded \$200 by the Historical Council and will be

UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL PRIZE COMPETITION (Cont'd from page 3)

considered for possible publication. Only essays written by active candidates for the M. Div. degree or its equivalent will be considered. The essay must not have been previously published. It should be no more than 4,000 words in length, not counting footnotes and bibliography, and should be submitted in typed or computer-printed double-space format.

Entries should be sent to the Archivist of the United Church of Christ, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. They must be received by the Archivist no later than May 1, 1995 to be considered for the 1994-95 competition. The winner will be announced at General Synod XX during the summer of 1995.

THE FIRST UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL ANNUAL LECTURES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED

The United Church of Christ Historical Council published this spring the first two addresses of its Annual Lecture series in a booklet entitled United Church of Christ Historical Council Annual Historical Lectures. The First Annual Lecture, "Reinhold Niebuhr in His Time and Ours," was presented by the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Sherry at the Historical Council meeting at UCC headquarters in Cleveland, Ohio on September 18, 1992. The Second Annual Lecture, "Philip Schaff: Christian Scholar and Prophet of Ecumenism," was presented by the Rev. Dr. John B. Payne at the Historical Council meeting at Phoebe Home in Allentown, Pennsylvania on September 17, 1993. These lectures have been distributed to current members of both the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the Congregational Christian Historical Society. A limited number of additional copies at a cost of \$5.00 each are available from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, and from the Congregational Christian Historical Society, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

E. V. GERHART PAPERS REPROCESSED

The Rev. Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart (1817-1904) was an influential figure in the Reformed Church in the United States, serving its educational interests during almost his entire ministry. President of Heidelberg College (1851-55), first president of Franklin and Marshall College (1855-66), and Professor of Systematic Theology in the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church (1868-1904), Gerhart was also author of the two-volume Institutes of the Christian Religion (1891, 1894), editor of and prolific contributor to the "Reformed Church Review," and chairman of the committee that published the Tercentenary edition of the Heidelberg Catechism in 1863.

The E and R Historical Society is fortunate to have a large representation of Gerhart's papers in its collection. The materials include notebooks, diaries, letters, sermons, manuscripts and classroom lectures. Among the letters are 49 written between 1843 and 1864 to J. H. A. Bomberger. Examples of Gerhart's sermons begin in 1839 while he was a student and continue through every decade until his death. There are sermons preached in the F & M chapel while he was president of the college, and the complete manuscript for The Institutes of the Christian Religion occupies one archives carton. Some of his lectures exist not only in his own handwriting but also in the form of notes taken by his students.



E. V. GERHART PAPERS REPROCESSED (Cont'd from page 4)

This significant collection had been scattered among the holdings of the E and R Historical Society, having been classified according to type of material. Sermons were in one classification number, diaries in another, and lectures and correspondence elsewhere. A more appropriate way to treat such documents is to draw them together into a single set of personal papers, created by one person. Under the supervision of the archivist, this reprocessing has taken place. The materials were collated, listed, repaired and placed in acid-free containers by one of the three Lancaster Seminary students working in the archives in the spring semester of 1994. A complete inventory of the Gerhart papers was produced at the same time and is available at the archives.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Present: John Payne, Myron Wolf, Banks Shepherd, Larry Bolick, Deborah Rahn Clemens, Lowell Zuck, Florence Bricker, David Rapp, Kay Schellhase and Mary Hutchens.

President Payne called the Executive Committee meeting to order with opening devotions.

The Minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting were approved upon the addition of "Treasurer-Myron Wolf" and "Board of Directors-Banks Shepherd and Robert Hunsicker" to the list of elected persons.

President Payne reported that he and Lowell Zuck have completed articles for the Dictionary of Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America to be published by InterVarsity Press. Larry Bolick was welcomed as a new board member.

Dr. Payne reported on the UCC Historical Council meeting March 4-5, 1994, in Cleveland. An article on this meeting appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Rev. Robert Rezash has again encouraged the ERHS to hold its annual meeting at St. Peter's UCC, Houston, TX in 1998. He asked the Society to inform him of possible monetary needs the society may have in conjunction with the meeting. By consensus the Executive Committee requested President Payne to write Robert Rezash and affirm our intention to meet at St. Peter's in 1998 and to submit a cost proposal for the meeting.

Dr. Payne further reported that new locks have been placed on the archives doors because of unauthorized entry. The dues reminders have been fairly successful. Of 135 members, 39 have renewed their memberships. New brochures are needed and will soon be prepared.

On the other hand, archivist Kay Schellhase reported that only 15 have responded to the membership renewal form in the newsletter. The Historical Council will have a membership appeal in October. The CCHS and ERHS will follow up the appeal in November. The smallest number of visitors to the archives was recorded in the first quarter of 1994.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont'd from page 5)

Ms. Shellhase reported that Kathleen Chesnut moved to a pastorate in Iowa at the end of 1993. Two LTS Seminarians employed on a part time basis are doing the genealogical work. One will continue through the summer. Diane L. Rimert continues as a part time employee. The Archives are open to the public Monday through Thursday. More work is being done on the collection because less time is now required for genealogical research. Rebecca Payne has completed work on the Japanese Collection and missionaries to Japan. A third LTS student, Pat Minnich, is working on the Emmanuel Vogel Gerhart Collection. An index to the materials and a description of Gerhart has been prepared.

Treasurer Myron Wolf presented his first quarter report.

Banks Shepherd presented the Southern Chapter report. Ownership of materials at Catawba is unclear and needs to be determined for insurance purposes. Since all the Reformed Church materials are in the Archives at the Lancaster site, the Chapter was encouraged to concentrate on the North Carolina materials. At one time Mr. Thomas Moose, former superintendent of Nazareth Children's Home, had offered some scrapbooks. He recently died in a fire. Rev. Shepherd will contact Mrs. Moose regarding the materials.

The Executive Committee recessed for Lunch.

Deborah Clemens reported on the Speakers' Bureau. Deborah will compose a letter with names of speakers and topics to be sent to churches in the mid-Atlantic region. Respondents will correspond directly with the speaker who will be asked to report date, place, names and addresses to the Archives for additions to the mailing list. The same information will be included in the July ERHS Newsletter.

Deborah Clemens will participate in a forum at Faith Works and Kay Schellhase will lead a workshop.

Lowell Zuck, of the Eden Archives, reported that although he is retiring from full-time teaching he will teach part time. He will continue his work in the archives. A grant from the Lilly Foundation has enabled two students to work on the personal collections in the Eden Archives. One student is using the computer given by the Eden Development Office. A possible outgrowth of the Chicago 1993 meeting may be a historical conference organized by Gerald O'Connor. An event is planned to honor the memory of H. Richard Niebuhr. Limited space and public hours of the archives are current concerns. A brochure prepared by Ruth Rasche for the Missouri Conference was shared.

By consensus the above reports were received.

The 1994 ERHS and CCHS joint annual meeting will be October 15, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The two speakers will be Rev. Anthony Szilagyi, pastor of the First UCC Church, Bridgeport and the Presiding Bishop of Hungary, Dr. Lorant Hegedüs. The Board of Directors will meet on Friday evening, October 14, at the Fairfield Motor Inn. The Historical Council will meet on Friday afternoon.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (Cont'd from page 6)

The 1995 ERHS Annual meeting will be October 14 at Trinity Roth's UCC, Spring Grove, R. D., PA. Possible speakers are Deborah Clemens on Martin Bucer or Mary Hutchens on Philip William Otterbein.

The 1996 Annual Meeting will take place at Trinity United Church of Christ, Canton, Ohio, where the Rev. David Schoen is the pastor. Other future meetings are planned in 1997 for St. Andrew UCC, Lancaster, PA; in 1998 for St. Peter's UCC, Houston, TX; and in 1999 at a North Carolina site.

After a request for newsletter items, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Secretary,

Mary E. Hutchens

ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE FIRST AND SECOND HISTORICAL COUNCIL LECTURES TODAY

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REGISTRATION FOR LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 15, 1994  
FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please make reservations for lunch for \_\_\_\_\_ persons on Saturday, October 15.  
The cost is \$5.00 per person. Make checks payable to First United Church of Christ.

Enclose form and payment and mail to: First United Church of Christ  
717 Clinton Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS for 1994. Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

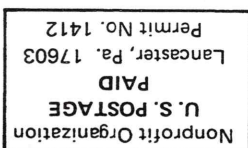
<u>MEMBERSHIPS</u>	
_____ Donor \$25	_____ Sponsor \$100
_____ Student \$ 7	_____ Institution \$50
_____ Life \$250	

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please detach, include check made payable to: Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and mail to ERHS, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

If you wish to be a member of both the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Societies, make your check payable to the UCC Historical Council and mail it to: UCC Historical Council, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.



The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society UCC  
 555 West James Street  
 Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603  
 ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED