

NEWS

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

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

July 1995

Volume 23, no. 1

ERHS ANNUAL MEETING IN SPRING GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA IN OCTOBER

The next Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will take place on October 14, 1995 at Trinity (Roth's) United Church of Christ in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. The society will share in the celebration of the 230th anniversary of Trinity (Roth's) Church.

Two lectures will be presented dealing with important historical subjects in the region. The local pastor, the Reverend Mary Hutchens, will speak on the topic, "Philip William Otterbein and his influence on the York Churches." Otterbein was an important Reformed clergyman in Pennsylvania and Maryland in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The second speaker, the Reverend Phyllis Baum, Interim Minister at Heidelberg United Church of Christ, York, will address the subject: "The Nineteenth Century Liturgical Controversy in the Reformed Church and its Impact on the Congregations of Trinity, Zion and Heidelberg in York, Pennsylvania."

The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with registration and coffee. The schedule is on page 2 of this newsletter. All persons are cordially welcome to come to this meeting.

Block reservations are being held for the meeting under the name of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society at the Days Inn, 865 York Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Tel. 717-334-0030.

ERHS RECEIVES BEQUESTS FROM PEARL M. WETZEL AND ANNAL. BRACKBILL

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society received this spring two bequests, each for \$5000. The first bequest came from the estate of Pearl M. Wetzel, who died on April 21, 1995. She was the widow of the Rev. Dr. Daniel Wetzel, pastor of First United Church of Christ in Reading, Pennsylvania from 1927 to 1958, who died in 1959. She was a member of this congregation. Mrs. Wetzel was a teacher at Jim Thorpe High School and Northeast Junior High School, Reading.

The second bequest was received from Anna Lucille Brackbill, who died on May 24, 1995. Miss Brackbill had been chief cataloguer for the Franklin & Marshall College Library before her retirement in 1955. Earlier she worked in the libraries of Union Theological Seminary, Princeton University archives and Yale Divinity School. After retirement, she did work until 1979 as a volunteer in the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Archives. Among her accomplishments was the cataloguing of the 1400 volumes of the Allen R. Bartholomew Library of Missions. She was a member, former Sunday school teacher and deacon of Trinity United Church of Christ, East Petersburg.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society honors the long lives of service of these outstanding women and is most grateful for their consideration of the society in their wills.

(Cont'd on Page 2)

ANNUAL MEETING, SPRING GROVE, PA (Cont'd from page 1)

The inn is just west of Route 15 on York Road. The cost is \$64.00 for a single room and \$74.00 for a double room. We were unable to obtain accommodations in York because of a Toy Train Convention.

Directions to Trinity (Roth's) Church: Drive west from York on Route 30, pass through Thomasville. At the first intersection beyond the airport, turn left on Labott Road. Continue through the stop sign straight ahead to Church Road. Turn right and proceed to Trinity (Roth's) Church on the left.

Luncheon will be served at the church at a cost of \$5.00. Please send reservations directly to Trinity (Roth's) United Church of Christ using the reservation form on page 7 of this newsletter.

The ERHS Board of Directors will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, October 13, in a room at the Days Inn. The board will meet at the inn about 5:30 p.m. to go to supper next door at the Perkins Restaurant.

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE, OCTOBER 14

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| 9:00 A.M. | Registration and Coffee |
| 9:30 A.M. | Prayer and Greetings |
| 9:45 A.M. | Lecture 1: The Reverend Mary Hutchens, "Philip William Otterbein and his influence on the York Churches" |
| 10:30 A.M. | Lecture 2: The Reverend Phyllis Baum, "The Nineteenth Century Liturgical Controversy in the Reformed Church and its Impact upon the Congregations of Trinity, Zion, and Heidelberg in York, Pennsylvania" |
| 11:45 P.M. | Discussion |
| 12:30 P.M. | Lunch |
| 1:30 P.M. | Annual Business Meeting |
| 2:30 P.M. | Possible Tours of Churches or Gettysburg Battlefield |

FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN CANTON, OHIO (1996), LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA (1997), AND HOUSTON, TEXAS (1998)

The annual meetings of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society are set for the next three years. On October 12, 1996 the society will meet at Trinity United Church of Christ, Canton, Ohio and will share in the celebration of Trinity's 125th anniversary. In 1997 on October 11 the ERHS will meet at St. Andrew United Church of Christ in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and take part in its 100th anniversary celebration. In 1998 on October 10 the society will hold its annual meeting at St. Peter United Church of Christ, Houston, Texas and will join St. Peter Church in the celebration of its 150th anniversary.

Members are urged to put these dates on their calendars and plan to attend these festive gatherings. Future newsletters will contain more information on these meetings.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU GOES WEST

David G. Nussmann, a member of St. Peter UCC, Houston, Texas, where the society will be holding its annual meeting in 1998, has offered to expand the Speaker's Bureau to the West. He is willing to present programs in various forms--sermons at anniversary services, banquet speeches, Sunday School classes--on the following topics: Adolf Baltzer and Louis Nollau (important early leaders of the German Evangelical Synod), H. Richard Niebuhr (noted Yale theologian, former president of Elmhurst College and dean of Eden Theological Seminary), John Robinson (the pastor to the Pilgrims who did not accompany his flock to the New World), and John Cotton the Younger (Puritan pastor in 17th century Massachusetts). Mr. Nussman was commissioned by Eden Theological Seminary to give a talk on H. Richard Niebuhr for Eden's 1994 centenary celebration of Niebuhr's birth and has made presentations on these other figures at various UCC churches and conferences in the Midwest and Southwest. He would be pleased to be called upon for more such presentations. Address: 5844 Valley Forge, Houston, TX 77057; Tel. 713-784-2286.

PEWTER IN PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN CHURCHES ON DISPLAY

"To the Glory of God: Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches" is a beautiful exhibit of pewter in colonial Pennsylvania German churches running until the end of 1995 at the Heritage Center Museum at Penn Square in Lancaster. Featured are examples of outstanding pewter craftsman such as Johann Christoph Heyne of Lancaster and William Will of Philadelphia. The ERHS Archives supplied one item for this exhibit. The guest curator is Dr. Doanld M. Herr, an expert on the subject. Dr. Herr has written a book, Pewter in Pennsylvania German Churches, which has just been published by The Pennsylvania German Society, 440 Daniel Boone Road, PO Box 397, Birdsboro, PA 19508-0397.

SCHLATTER BIBLE GIVEN TO ERHS COLLECTION

In May the Rev. Stanley B. Leiby, retired UCC minister, donated to the library of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society a copy of a "Schlatter Bible" that had been in Leiby's family for many years.

The Bible joins two others which have long been a part of the ERHS collection. Printed in Basel in 1747, these are large folio editions of Martin Luther's translation of the Bible into the German language. The story goes that Michael Schlatter, the Swiss Reformed minister who in 1747 organized the Coetus of the Reformed Ministerium of the Congregations in Pennsylvania under the aegis of the Reformed Church of Holland, brought with him from his 1751-52 trip to Europe hundreds of copies of the German Bible for the benefit of the German Reformed congregations in America.

Undoubtedly many of these Bibles wore out from hard use and disappeared over the years. A recent article in the Penn Northeast Conference newsletter indicated that there are only ten surviving copies. One is in the possession of the Falkner Swamp Church and another belongs to Jerusalem (Western Salisbury) UCC. If readers of this newsletter have information about the location of other copies, please share it with the ERHS so that we can compile as complete a list as possible of these physical remains of the colonial history of the Reformed Church.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society is deeply grateful to Mr. Leiby for his gift.

NEVIN FAMILY LETTERS

A collection of 110 letters written to John Williamson Nevin by family and friends from approximately 1825 to 1841 has been given to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society by the Rev. John R. Weiler, a retired UCC minister who has been conducting extensive research into the Nevin family.

The results of his work have been printed as "Notes on Nevin's Family, I and II," in the Spring 1993 (#13) and Spring 1994 (#15) issues of the The New Mercersburg Review. The articles are essentially biographical sketches of two of Nevin's children: Robert J., who became an Episcopal priest and was rector of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Pa.; and Martha F., who married Robert H. Sayre of Bethlehem and was the only one of John W. Nevin's children to give him grandchildren. One of Martha's sons married Woodrow Wilson's daughter, and a son from this union became Dean of the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Washington, D.C.

The letters, which reveal tantalizing glimpses of the young Nevin, had been in the possession of the family and were given to Mr. Weiler by Faith Sayre Schindler, a great-granddaughter of John Williamson Nevin, through another son of Martha and Robert Sayre. Because there is so little original Nevin correspondence, these letters are a major addition to the Society's Nevin papers.

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

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

President Payne called the Executive Committee meeting to order with prayer at 10:20 a.m.

The October 15, 1994 meeting minutes were approved as printed by consensus.

John Payne reported that \$4,000 has been received from the Arcadia Foundation. Four life memberships were received in the first quarter and additional substantial gifts have underwritten the 1995 budget. He is writing an article on "Nevin's Doctrine of the Eucharist" for a proposed volume, "Mercersburg Theology, Traditional and Trajectory" under the editorship of Theodore Trost, Jr. He reported that Lancaster Theological Seminary has received a copied portrait of John Williamson Nevin through the generosity of the Schellhase and Weiler families. The original portrait is on the Franklin and Marshall Campus. He noted that few seminary students have submitted papers for the UCC Historical Council prize for the best paper in UCC history by a seminarian. He relayed the request of Barbara Brown Zikmund that ERHS consider being a sponsor for the Living Theological Heritage project. Dr. Payne will be leading a cross-cultural tour to Japan for the seminary May 18- June 6, 1995.

Archivist Kay Schellhase reported that Dianne Russell, recently hired staff member, will increase her hours to two and half days a week. Library training and background enable her to work on genealogical inquiries and future special projects. Diane Rimert, whose skills relate to bookkeeping, computers and other detailed tasks, works three days a week during the school year and will work two days a week during most of the summer. Ms. Schellhase shared the restoration of the baptismal certificate of Dr. Charles Schaeffer. This document was in the locked cases which are being inventoried. A second document shared was a 1935 letter to the Rev. Frederick Keller Stamm from President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The budget cuts of the national UCC offices will reduce the hours and salary of the archivist to three quarter time beginning September 1. She will be on sabbatical in the fall and plans to carry out visits to conference offices throughout the United Church of Christ. The job time adjustment means less work on ERHS projects.

Myron Wolf, treasurer, reported that receipts were up for the first quarter. Some funds for salaries will be reimbursed to the society from the national office. Increase in supply expense occurs because archival materials are costly. He reported income of \$7,460.95, expense of \$4,433.57, and a balance on March 31, 1995 of \$3,027.38. United Church Foundation investment is down from \$25,000 to \$23,000 as of April 1. The Wellington Fund has produced an increase.

Banks Shepherd reported for the Southern Chapter which is conducting its 20th Bus Tour to the annual meeting at Spring Grove this year. Begun under the leadership of Frank Snider to visit Falkner Swamp on its 250th anniversary, the project continues with Larry Bolick and Nelson Weller as leaders. The Southern Archives is maintained under the direction of Mrs. Jacquelyn Sims who faces shortages of space and time. Positive changes may come with the arrival of the new librarian, Dr. Plummer Austin Jones, who will be overseeing the automation of the library

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

and connection to Internet. Mrs. Sims may receive a used computer when Catawba College updates its equipment. The successful historical bus tours enabled the chapter to make a contribution to the ERHS. The chapter participated in anniversaries at Corinth, Hickory, St. James, Mt. Pleasant, Bethel (Bear Creek) and will hold its annual meeting at Grace Church, Newton which celebrates 150 years of ministry.

Dr. Lowell Zuck of the Eden Archives reported that \$4,500 was received from the Arcadia Foundation and that \$5,000 income from endowment is available for their budget. Ahme Quist will be retiring June 30. The Eden Archives will be staffed by Zuck as archivist and Bill Kerr as librarian of the archives for two mornings a week. Current funding will continue the present work at the archives but no expansion of program or space is expected. Much time is spent answering correspondence and responding to genealogical questions.

All reports were received by consensus and with thanks.

Old Business: Staffing needs at the Lancaster Archives were discussed and the suggestion was made that Dianne Russell may be trained to process records so that she can then train others. The board also discussed the definition of E&R and UCC materials.

The Fall Meeting will take place on October 14, 1995 at Trinity (Roth's) UCC, Spring Grove, Pa.

Possible presenters were discussed in addition to Mary Hutchens who will present a paper on the Reverend Philip William Otterbein.

In addition, the program for the October 12, 1996 meeting at Trinity United Church of Christ, Canton, Ohio was discussed.

There was no report about the Speakers' Bureau. It was suggested that conference newspapers may be a vehicle for providing information about the Speakers' Bureau.

New Business: Larry Bolick moved, David Rapp seconded, and it was voted that ERHS become a sponsor of the Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ and that the sponsorship be paid over a three year period.

Banks Shepherd proposed that the Annual Meeting in October, 2000 be held at Bethany UCC, Sedalia, NC where the Rev. Bernard Ingram is the pastor. The Afro-American Congregation will be 130 years old. Banks was delegated to seek this invitation with the support of the Rev. George Gay.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Secretary,

Mary E. Hutchens

GENERAL SYNOD XX AND THE UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL

General Synod XX (June 29-July 4, 1995) was held in Oakland, California, the first such meeting on the west coast. The Historical Council sponsored a lunch on Friday, June 30, at which an overflow crowd heard Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund speak on UCC history as it will be represented in Volume 7 of The Living Theological Heritage series under preparation by Pilgrim Press. Her lecture, along with Anthony Szilagyi's address on the Hungarian Reformed tradition, will be printed as the third and fourth Historical Council lectures and will be available to members early next year.

The Historical Council display at Synod was created by the Northern California-Nevada Conference History Committee, chaired by the Rev. Richard C. Norberg. The display depicted the history of our church in California, from the Gold Rush days when Congregationalists came from New England to found churches, through later efforts by both the Evangelical and the Reformed denominations, to the more than two dozen ethnic churches that are now a part of this Conference. The display was a striking one, done on bright red and gold backgrounds and featuring photo blowups of founders of the earliest churches.

UCC structure was the main piece of internal business at the Synod meeting. The delegates accepted the report of the Structure Committee, and their vote sets up a process of transition and constitutional change which is expected to culminate in 1999 in a major restructuring of the denomination on the national level. The Historical Council may eventually be affected in some way, although the responsibility for historical concerns will continue to be lodged in what will be known as the Office of the General Minister and President.

The 1995 meeting of the Historical Council is scheduled to be held on September 8 and 9 at the national offices building in Cleveland, Ohio.

REGISTRATION FOR LUNCH AT ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 1995

TRINITY (ROTH'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RD 4 BOX 4322, SPRING GROVE, PA 17362
(717-225-6041)

NAME -----

ADDRESS -----

Please make reservations for lunch for _____ persons on Saturday, October 14.
The cost is \$5.00 per person. Make checks payable to Trinity (Roth's) UCC.
Please mail form and check to Trinity (Roth's) UCC at the above address.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS for 1995. Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

MEMBERSHIPS

_____ Donor \$25

_____ Student \$ 7

_____ Life \$250

_____ Sponsor \$100

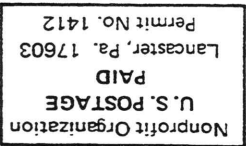
_____ Institution \$50

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.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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