

NEWS

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

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

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OCTOBER 2000 MEETING AT EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

On October 14, 2000 the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society held its Annual Meeting at Eden Theological Seminary and thus participated in the seminary's 150th anniversary celebration.

Two papers were presented by two pastor-scholars who are Eden graduates. The Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, pastor of St. Peter's Reformed UCC, Perkasié, Pennsylvania, spoke on the subject, "*Die brennende Frage*: The Evangelical Synod of North America and International Missions." The Rev. Dr. John C. Helt, pastor of First Congregational UCC, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, lectured on the topic, "Family Squabbles: the Niebuhrs and the Evangelical Synod." Both presentations were excellent and were well received by the members present. A summary of Dr. Blaufuss's paper is contained in this newsletter. A summary of Dr. Helt's lecture will be presented in the July Newsletter.

During the luncheon period President David Greenhaw reported on Eden's 150th anniversary celebration and set forth his vision for the future of the seminary. Following lunch Bill Kerr, Eden Archivist, conducted a most interesting tour of the archives for the meeting participants.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING IN SALISBURY AND LEXINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting on October 12 and 13, 2001 at Catawba College, Salisbury and at First Reformed United Church of Christ in Lexington, North Carolina. Present plans call for a banquet on Friday evening, October 12, at Catawba College, Salisbury with a program on the history of Catawba College which is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. On Saturday morning, October 13, the Society will meet at First Reformed UCC, Lexington, which is observing its 100th anniversary this year. There will be a presentation on the life and work of Dr. J.C. Leonard, the founding pastor of First Reformed Church and of a number of other congregations in North Carolina. On Saturday afternoon there will be a tour of historic churches.

Block reservations have been made with the Hampton Inn, 1001 Klumac Road, Salisbury, NC 28144. Tel: 704-637-8000. Cost per room: \$62.00. Since mid-October is a very busy time of the year for this area of North Carolina, it is recommended that persons planning to attend the meeting make their reservations as far in advance as possible. When making reservations, one will need to use the code, ERHIST at Hampton Inn. There will be further details concerning this meeting in the July Newsletter.

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EDEN ANNUAL MEETING (continued from page 1)

After the Annual Business Meeting of the Society in the early afternoon a tour of historical sites took place. The bus group from Southern Conference, joined by a few additional members, visited Marthasville, Missouri, the former location of Eden Theological Seminary and the present location of Emmaus Homes, and Femme Osage Church, Augusta, Missouri, the oldest former Evangelical Synod congregation in the country.

About eighty persons attended the event including, we are pleased to report, a group of forty-seven people from Southern Conference.

FALL HERITAGE TOUR TO ANNUAL MEETING FROM PENNSYLVANIA

A bus tour from Pennsylvania to the October Annual Meeting in North Carolina is being projected. The tour will depart from Lancaster early in the morning on Wednesday, October 10 and visit Monticello and the University of Virginia campus in the afternoon. After an overnight in Charlottesville, the tour will visit on Thursday morning the nearby home of James Madison, Ashlawn. In the late morning the tour will continue along the Blue Ridge Parkway to view the beautiful fall color and then proceed to Natural Bridge, called "The Bridge of God" by the Monacan Indians. After an overnight stop further south along I-81 the group will travel to Winston-Salem in time for lunch and a tour of Old Salem before proceeding in the afternoon to Salisbury for the Annual Meeting. After the morning meeting in Lexington the group will join other participants for a tour of historic Reformed churches in the area. After worship in a local congregation on Sunday morning, October 14, the tour will return to Lancaster, Pa. arriving in the late evening.

The anticipated cost for travel and accommodations is \$300 per person for a double room and \$420 for a single. These figures do not include meals. A Friday evening banquet at Catawba College and a Saturday luncheon at First Reformed United Church of Christ will be provided at reasonable cost.

If you are interested in taking part in what promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable trip, please call or e-mail one of the following persons as soon as possible: Glenn Rader (717) 898-7099, krader@epix.net; Robert Hunsicker (717) 394-3311; John Payne (717) 290-8735, jpayne@lts.org.

FALL HERITAGE TOUR TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MEETING FROM ST. LOUIS

A bus tour from St. Louis to the October Annual Meeting in North Carolina is also in prospect. Present plans call for a seven day trip, departing on Tuesday, October 9th, and returning on Monday, October 15th. Places to be visited along the way include New Harmony, Indiana; the Mammoth Cave area in Kentucky; the Uplands Retirement Community in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, who promise a historical pageant for the tour group; Cherokee, North Carolina; the Biltmore Estate in Asheville; overnight at Black
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DIE BRENNENDE FRAGE: THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION

by Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss

There is nothing like a good metaphor to help us reflect on the work of God in the world in new ways. Our forbearers in the Evangelical Synod of North America recognized the powerful image of fire as they debated the role of the church in mission in the 1880s. *Die brennende Frage*, "the burning question," burst into flames between individuals and in publications of the Evangelical Synod 1880-1883. It presented itself in discussions and decisions of the districts and of the General Conference. "The burning question" directed itself as to whether the Evangelical Synod should pursue international mission work independent of the European mission societies which had trained their own first pastors, or should continue to support foreign mission through these established societies. Having just added new associations and changed its name from the German Evangelical Church Society of the West to the Evangelical Synod of North America in 1877, "the burning question" of mission in the early 1880s, branded the Evangelical Synod with an identity as an independent denomination, ministering in its time and place. It brought this mission church full circle to a church doing mission.

The Evangelical Synod of North America was a church created through the imperative of mission. Officially, it was not considered a mission church, but many of the first pastors of Evangelical Synod churches were trained in the mission houses of various German mission societies. A money trail also connected churches on the North American frontier with churches in Germany.

The founding of the Seminary at Marthasville in 1850 (later to be called Eden Theological Seminary) illustrates some of the monetary connections that kept the German Evangelical churches in North America connected with Germany like a mission church. The shape of the curriculum and style of instruction at the Seminary in Marthasville was copied from the Basel Mission House. In 1852, Rev. Georg Wall traveled to Germany to request permission of King Frederick William IV of Prussia for churches in Germany to collect an offering for the Marthasville Seminary. This offering resulted in contributions of \$10,000.¹

The churches of the Evangelical Synod, from the beginning, recognized the importance of their own participation in mission. They expressed their gratitude, through continuing financial support, for the mission efforts of the mission societies which had been instrumental in forming them and strengthening their ties with Germany. In his dissertation on the Basel Foreign Mission Society in America, David Gelzer documented that a much higher percentage of giving went to foreign than to home based missions.² By the 1880s, however, conversations surfaced within the Evangelical Synod about whether the Synod, as a denomination, should engage in foreign mission work of its own, rather than only supporting the work of the European societies.

The spark that lit this discussion publicly was a paper delivered by Conrad Bechtold in 1879: "What Right and Duty Does Our Synod Have to Support an Independent Mission?" In this paper, Bechtold insisted that the duty for engaging in foreign mission was not only

DIE BRENNENDE FRAGE: (continued from page 3)

the role of interested individuals through voluntary societies, but of the church as a whole. Bechtold believed that the Evangelical Synod was at a point in its history to assume and exercise that identity as a whole church doing mission. He called this "the burning question."

The politics of "the burning question" led to a period of turmoil for the Evangelical Synod. From 1880 to 1883, "the burning question" filled the pages of two competing newspapers created specifically for the purpose of debating "the burning question." Bechtold published the *Missionar*, while his opponents who wanted to continue supporting the mission efforts of the European Mission Societies, published *Der Evangelischer Missionsfreund*.

The most detailed treatment of the actual issues involved in the controversy were published periodically in the *Theologische Zeitschrift*. Both sides agreed that mission was important and that the missionary zeal of the early years of the Evangelical Synod seemed to be lagging. On his side, Bechtold believed passionately that "the right to be an independent church body brings with it the right and privilege of engaging in an independent foreign mission enterprise."³ Bechtold's opponents contended that finances would be better used to do work "abroad" through the European societies, rather than to duplicate administrative structure in the United States.⁴

"The burning question" was resolved at the 1883 General Conference where the mission controversy was slated as a major item of business. Theodor Hermann Dresel (1822-1887), a leader in the non-denominational voluntary society called the German Evangelical Missionary Society (GEMS), played a significant role in facilitating compromise within the Evangelical Synod. The GEMS had been started in 1865 by the Rev. Oscar Lohr, a former missionary to India with the German Gossner Mission. Two years later, the GEMS commissioned Lohr and his family to return to India where they started the Central India Mission among the *Santanami jati* in the Chattisgarh division of the Central Provinces. With financial help from the British District Commissioner, Colonel Balmain, the Lohrs founded the Christian village of Bistrampur "the village of rest."⁵

Through the years, Dresel had promoted the GEMS and the Central India Mission at Bistrampur to the Evangelical Synod. By 1883 though, with North Americans' decreasing involvement in voluntary societies as a whole, the GEMS suffered from lack of financial resources and needed to transfer its work to another body. Because of the involvement of so many individuals from the Evangelical Synod, this seemed a likely body to take over the work in Central India. At the 1883 General Conference meeting, the president of the Evangelical Synod, Johannes Zimmerman, presented the GEMS' offer to transfer its work. After extensive discussion, the Conference voted to accept the transfer of this mission.

CONCLUSION

In actuality, Conrad Bechtold did not enjoy the support of the majority of people in the Evangelical Synod. When the Mission Society he established in conjunction with the *Missionar* finally dissolved in 1884, the total sum surrendered to the Synod was \$653.22,

DIE BRENNENDE FRAGE: (continued from page 4)

hardly enough to pay for outfit and travel of one missionary.⁶ But Bechtold's passion had brought "the burning question" into public consciousness. And through efforts of leaders like Dresel and Zimmerman, "the burning question" was channeled from a blaze that threatened to singe the bonds between churches of the Evangelical Synod, into a public debate that forged participation in foreign mission into a symbol of the Evangelical Synod's independent denominational identity.

Notes

¹ Carl Schneider, *The German Church on the American Frontier*, (St. Louis, MO: Eden Publishing House, 1939), 309.

² David Geor Gelzer, "Mission to American Being a History of the Work of the Basel Foreign Missions Society in America," Ph.D.diss., (New Haven: Yale University, 1952,) 312.

³ Ibid., 329; quoted *Theologische Zeitschrift* (September 1880), 202ff.

⁴ Ibid., 330.

⁵ Herbert Hans Feierabend, *Life of a Jungle Missionary, Herman August Feierabend: a Biography* (United States of America, 1999), 45. See also Emil Menzel, *I Will Build My Church: The Story of Our India Mission and How It Became a Church*, (St. Louis, Philadelphia: Board of International Missions, Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1943), 159.

⁶ *Missionar*, (December 1883), 92

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCTOBER 14, 2000, EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Registration and refreshments began at 8:30 a.m.

At 9:30 a.m., President John B. Payne welcomed the members and introduced Dr. David Greenhaw, president of Eden Theological Seminary. Dr. Greenhaw greeted the assembly and led the opening devotions.

The Rev. Ralph Quellhorst introduced the Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss who presented "*Die brennende Frage: The Evangelical Synod of North America and International Missions.*"

Dr. David Greenhaw introduced Dr. John Helt who presented "Family Squabbles: The Niebuhrs and their Evangelical Synod". Discussion followed the presentations.

The group gathered for lunch. Dr. Greenhaw offered thanks. After the meal, he shared the vision and work of Eden Theological Seminary. Several persons then toured the Eden Archives under the guidance of Bill Kerr, Archivist.

The ERHS Business Meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by President Payne. Rev. Robert Hunsicker gave the opening prayer. Ralph Quellhorst moved, James Mohr seconded

MINUTES OF THE 2000 ANNUAL MEETING (continued from page 5)

and it was voted to adopt the minutes of the October 1990 Annual Meeting as printed in the January 2000 newsletter.

President Payne presented a written report.

Archivist Richard Berg presented a written report and a listing of acquisitions since last year. President Payne added that it is hoped that through the UCC website there will one day be links with all major archives within the denomination (UCC, Cleveland; E & R, Lancaster; Eden, Catawba, and Congregational Christian Historical Society, Boston) The UCC Archives is moving to larger quarters in Cleveland.

Southern Chapter: Banks Shepherd presented a written report, noting there were three congregations honored at their meeting and 45 members were on the Fall Bus Tour.

Archives at Eden: Lowell Zuck sent a printed report. Dr. Greenhaw added that he understood the need to raise funds and endowments for all the archives of the UCC and that he was willing to work with others on the issue.

President Payne expressed the appreciation of the Society by saying "Thank you David for hosting ERHS and so graciously providing for our meeting."

Treasurer's Report. President Payne reported for the treasurer, Kenneth Zimmerman. His end of the year report is presented in this newsletter.

Lavon Baylor moved, Herbert Schafale seconded and it was voted to accept the reports.

Richard Crusius gave the nominating Committee report for Carl Bade and Glenn Rader.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President:	Dr. John B. Payne
Vice-President	Dr. Lowell H. Zuck
Secretary:	The Rev. Mary Hutchens
Treasurer:	Mr. Kenneth Zimmerman
Archivist:	The Rev. Richard Berg

DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

The Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss	The Rev. Lawrence R. Bolick
The Rev. Linda Gruber	The Rev. Robert G. Hunsicker
The Rev. James D. Mohr	The Rev. Ralph C. Quellhorst
The Rev. Scott M. Sanders	The Rev. Banks D. Shepherd
Mr. Frank Stearns	The Rev. Mark P. Steiner

Richard Brueseke moved, Carl Rasche seconded and it was voted to accept the nominations and elect them by acclamation.

President Payne announced that a committee has been named to develop a proposal for

MINUTES OF THE 2000 ANNUAL MEETING (continued from page 6)

terms of officers and board members of the society. A report is expected to be presented at the next annual meeting.

Banks Shepherd, president of the Southern Chapter, invited everyone to the next annual meeting at First Reformed UCC, Lexington, NC, October 13, 2001.

President Payne closed the meeting at 2:30 with a benediction.

Respectfully,
Mary E. Hutchens, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,
WEBSTER GROVES, MO ON OCTOBER 13, 2000

President John B. Payne called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., in the Press Building. The Rev. Ralph Quellhorst led the convening prayer.

Present: Richard Berg, Mary Schaller Blaufuss, Lawrence Bolick, David Greenhaw, Robert Hunsicker, Mary Hutchens, James Mohr, John Payne, Ralph Quellhorst, Banks Shepherd.

Dr. Payne announced that Lowell Zuck is currently in Romania on a Fulbright teaching appointment, Kenneth Zimmerman is receiving medical treatment and David Rapp has resigned on account of his health. Several others sent their regrets.

Dr. Greenhaw, President of Eden Theological Seminary was introduced. He highlighted anniversary events at Eden. A master plan to meet the physical plant updating and educational programming is in process. Dr. Michael Kinnamon has been named to the Allen and Dottie Miller Chair of Mission and Peace. An endowment from James I. Good provided for a trip to Halle-Wittenberg, Basel Mission, Zurich and World Council of Churches in Geneva during June for the entire faculty. A consultant's review of Archives at ETS resulted in a strategic plan 1) to develop a collection policy, 2) to form a materials policy and 3) to move toward electronic cataloguing. Funding and endowment for the Archives is being sought. He gave each board member a copy of "Heritage Moments" which Archivist Clifford "Bill" Kerr had prepared for the Eden Seminary Board of Directors.

The Executive Committee Minutes for May 2, 2000 were received as written.

President Payne distributed a written report. He added that a grant is being sought from the Arcadia Foundation for software to support archival work.

Archivist Richard Berg presented a written report and shared a three page listing of acquisitions in the past year.

Southern Archives: President Banks Shepherd presented a written report.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (continued from page 7)

Eden Archives: Lowell Zuck sent a brief report.

The treasurer's report was presented by the president. It was suggested that the United Church Foundation be contacted for a quote on rates. It was also suggested that a percentage of interest income be re-invested for capital growth. The president and treasurer will confer on these items. The report was received by the Board.

The budget for 2001 was reviewed. Ralph Quellhorst moved, James Mohr seconded and it was voted to adopt the budget.

2000 ERHS Annual Meeting. Richard Berg and Mary Hutchens will do registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. A walking tour of Eden Theological Seminary will be available for Southern Conference People during the business meeting.

2001 ERHS Annual Meeting. October 12 and 13, Catawba College, Salisbury, NC and First Reformed UCC, Lexington, NC. Program components will include presentations on Dr. J. C. Leonard, the founding pastor and on the a History of Catawba College by William Palmer. A schedule for the meeting will be presented at the Spring 2001 Board of Directors Meeting.

2002 ERHS Annual Meeting will be held at St. Luke's UCC, Trappe, Pa. Dr. John Shelter and possibly a Lutheran will be presenters.

The Board members were asked to advocate support for the Society: through individual and institutional memberships.

- *Develop a brochure which lists ways to contribute to the Society.
- *Cooperate with the Eden and Southern Chapter archives to develop funding and endowment
- *Seek grants for Society's work
- *Planned Giving participation by individuals. An article to be included in next newsletter.

Terms for Board Members. The board agreed that limited terms of service for officers and board members is a good idea. John Payne, Mary Schaller Blaufuss and Ralph Quellhorst will develop a proposal for Spring 2001 Executive Committee Meeting. Some items to consider are:

- *How long shall terms be?
- *Are they renewable? How often?
- *Are there permanent members? i.e. archivist, treasurer
- *Geographical representation considerations.
- *Size of Board membership. (Currently 15 members)

A change in procedure will need ratification by members and perhaps by-law changes.

Respectfully,
Mary E. Hutchens, Secretary

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

After having held its previous meeting on October 16, 1999 in the German Reformed heartland of southeast Pennsylvania, the Society will hold its next annual meeting on October 14, 2000 at the place where the Evangelical Synod took its origin, St. Louis, Missouri. While last year's meeting celebrated the Reformed roots of the United Church of Christ with addresses on the Heidelberg Catechism and "the Reforming Power of the Reformed Church" by the Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens and the Rev. Martha Kriebel, this year's meeting will honor the Evangelical heritage of the church and the 150th anniversary of Eden Theological Seminary with lectures on the international mission work of the Evangelical Synod and the Niebuhrs' relations with that Synod by the Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss and the Rev. Dr. John C. Helt. Next year on October 13, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will celebrate the Southern Reformed tradition when it meets at First Reformed UCC in Lexington and Catawba College Salisbury, North Carolina.

The Society continues to seek to serve individuals, churches, associations, conferences and the national church whenever inquiries come to us by mail, phone, e-mail, and visits to the archives. We are also visited on our website: <http://www.lts.org/erhs/erhs.htm>. Many of the individual requests concern genealogy although there are also church related research inquiries as well. We are called upon to assist with church anniversary preparations. Confirmation classes visit the archives to learn about the history of their congregation and about that of the larger church. Every summer Japanese young people studying at Ursinus College come to the archives to view some of our documents and pictures concerning the Japan mission of the former Reformed church.

We provided assistance to the editors of the series, The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ. Materials concerning the Reformed heritage were taken from our archives for each of the last three volumes in that series. We can rejoice that this now ten year massive project is finally about to reach its conclusion with the publication of volume 4, Consolidation and Expansion (edited by Elizabeth Nordbeck and Lowell H. Zuck), last year, and volume 5, Outreach and Diversity (edited by Margaret Lamberts Bendroth, Lawrence N. Jones, and Robert A. Schneider), this year. It is hoped that the remaining volumes, 6 and 7, will be out in 2002.

Along with our representative, the Reverend Timothy Dugan, I attended the UCC Historical Council meeting on September 22-23 at the national headquarters in Cleveland. The members of the council met over lunch with the new executive officers, the Rev. John Thomas, President; the Rev. Jose' Malayang, Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries; and Mr. Dale Bishop, Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries. The Historical Council had a fruitful discussion with these officers about matters of mutual concern. Both President Thomas and Associate General Minister, Edith Guffey, met with the Council for a while in the afternoon. Among items that were discussed were plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary in 2007 with the possibilities of the production of a book and a video and a youth essay on the history of the United Church of Christ. The council discussed plans for the Historical Council's participation in the joint UCC General Synod-Disciples General Assembly meeting July 13-17, 2001 at Kansas City. The Historical Council will hold a luncheon at which Professor Mark Toulouse, professor of church history at Brite

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (continued from page 9)

Divinity School, will speak. With the assistance of churches and persons in the region of the synod, the council will mount a display featuring local church history while at the same time lifting up treasures from some of the archives of the United Church of Christ. George Hing, the United Church of Christ Archivist, reported that the archives will be moving soon into a larger and more suitable space. He was pleased to report that he now has a half-time assistant, Gina Caughlin. Along with members of the UCC national church staff, members of the Historical Council heard Dr. Paul Sherry, the previous president of the church, present this year's UCC Historical Council lecture, "Looking Backward and Forward," in which he treated four themes which have shaped the United Church of Christ from the beginning.

Our archivist, Richard Berg, along with his able staff and helpful volunteers, are engaged in a number of important projects for the better preservation and usability of the archives collection. Among these projects is the reorganizing and reprocessing of local church records and the manuscript collections of individuals. We received a \$5,000 grant from the Century Fund, Allentown, Pa., for reprocessing the records of the United Church of Christ Churches of Lehigh County. The inventories of the various record groups into which these local records are being gathered will be posted on the ERHS web site. We plan to apply for other grants to assist us with the reprocessing of other church records in our collection. Another project has been the organization and identification and better preservation in acid-free folders of many photographs heretofore scattered in various parts of the collection and in many cases not clearly identified. Finally, the archivist and staff have been seeking with some success records of the former Reformed and Evangelical and Reformed churches now closed or merged which have not made their way to the ERHS Archives.

As you notice from the treasurer's report, our budget is rather tight. Our financial situation was helped by the bequest from the Graeff estate last year and the donation from the Century Fund this year. We are grateful for the support we have received, but we are in need of still greater financial support from individuals, churches, associations and conferences. We urge our members to try to recruit new members and to request support from individuals, churches, associations and conferences.

Respectfully submitted,
John B. Payne, President

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

It has been a busy year for our loyal, dedicated ERHS staff: Diane Rimert, office manager, collection processor, research assistant; Dianne Russell, genealogical researcher; Eunice Mosingo (funded by the Lancaster County Office of Aging), office assistant. These three staff members are to be commended for their hard work, courteous service to the public, and dedication to the mission of the ERHS.

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST (continued from page 10)

Our work has concentrated on the two areas of collections and public service. With the collections we are working on several projects simultaneously: 1) reprocessing records and manuscripts into archival records groups; 2) locating and collecting where possible, local church records; 3) preserving the Unger genealogical collection; 4) re-classifying the book collection.

1) Reprocessing records and manuscripts involves gathering these items from several places in the collection into individual records groups, arranging them in a logical order, preparing a list of items in each archival box, writing a detailed inventory for each record group (an inventory includes the name of the collection, a note about the contents of the collection, a history of the church agency or biography of the individual, an itemized list of folders). To date over 100 manuscript collections and four church agency collections have been reprocessed. When inventories are completed, they will be posted on the ERHS web page making them accessible to a wide audience.

2) Local church records are important sources for genealogical and historical information. We have found that in many cases the records of a closed church have disappeared, perhaps destroyed, perhaps in a box in someone's attic. Through perseverance and a little detective work, we have located and received the records of several churches. In many cases, local church records were donated to historical societies and we have secured from them a listing of their holdings. Some Conference and Association offices also have local church records and we have offered to be the permanent repository for them. Local church records are also organized into record group, the records organized, and inventories prepared. A grant from the Century Fund has enabled the reprocessing of the local church records from Lehigh County. The reprocessing has been completed, writing the inventories will be done from October-December. If you have or know the whereabouts of local church records please call the Society and let us know. In this way these valuable historical records can be preserved.

3) The Unger genealogical collection fills two filing cabinets and contains a wide range of materials from random notes to family charts to clippings to correspondence on many family names. Much of this material is on paper which has become so brittle that it literally falls apart when touched. In order to preserve this information much of it is being photocopied onto acid-free paper. A listing of the family surnames will be created and eventually put on the Society web page.

4) The Society's book collection which contains Bibles, church history, liturgies, hymnals, genealogies, etc. is being re-classified into the Library of Congress system and added to the on-line catalog of the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary. This will make the book collection available through the Seminary's web site and through the international OCLC bibliographic database. To date, the collection of family histories has been completed, approximately 500 titles.

Service is provided by responding to research and genealogical inquiries which come to us by phone, e-mail, mail, and personal visits. A majority of inquiries are for genealogical

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST (continued from page 11)

information, however, we do receive a number of research questions which require use of manuscript and record group collections. It is my hope that when the inventories of the various collections are available on the Society's web page, research questions will increase. This past year we had people working on the E & R Church in Honduras, Mercersburg Theology, the Reformed churches in western Virginia, Reformed worship in the mid-19th century, the Reformed Church and the anti-slave movement. The staff also provides help to local churches working on anniversary celebrations and histories. This information may include a listing of clergy who served the church, photographs of the clergy, and access to original church records. In return, we request that the church send the Society a copy of their history. Through the Society web page we hope to be able to provide more detailed information about the collections, providing a service to prospective researches and genealogists.

Gifts of local church records, papers of former Reformed and E & R clergy, and material related to the Reformed and E & R Church are encouraged. Another gift which is appreciated is that of time. We are always looking for volunteers to help with various projects. If you are interested in contributing money, materials, or time please call the Society office (717-290-8734). We are grateful to those individuals, churches, Associations, and Conferences who made contributions of money and materials during the past year. If anyone is interested in knowing the kinds of materials donated, please request a copy of the 1999/2000 accession list from the ERHS office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Berg, Archivist

SOUTHERN CHAPTER REPORT

The Southern Chapter of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on November 6, 1999 at Ursinus United Church of Christ, organized in 1899 and located in Rockwell, NC. There were approximately 50 persons in attendance. The program for the day included a presentation on the history of Ursinus UCC, a slide presentation on the fall bus trip to Washington, DC and to the E & R Historical Society Meeting on October 16, 1999 at Trinity UCC, Telford, PA.. and a tour of the Rockwell Historical Museum.

Officers elected for a two year term were as follows:

President	The Rev. Banks Shepherd
Vice-President	The Rev. Lawrence Bolick
Secretary	The Rev. Harold Holste
Treasurer	The Rev. Richard Cheek
Librarian	The Rev. Nelson Weller

These officers will retain office through 2001 when the Southern Chapter will host the Annual E & R Historical Society Meeting at First Reformed UCC, Lexington, NC. The

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suggested topics for this meeting are a biographical sketch on Dr. J. C. Leonard, founding pastor of First Reformed, Lexington which is celebrating its centennial in 2001 and Catawba College which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. This meeting is scheduled for October 12-13, 2001.

Mrs. Jaquelyn Sims continues to serve as our Southern Chapter Archivist at Catawba College. She has developed a brochure on the archives which has been distributed to Western North Carolina Association Churches and other historical societies in North Carolina. These will also be made available to the E & R Historical Society. Even though there are a few walk-in requests, most are coming via e-mail and telephone. One hundred and sixty-seven books have been re-catalogued so far into the same system used by the library so that the titles can be retrieved via the library's OPAC (online public access catalog). These titles can be viewed by accessing the Catawba College home page at <http://www.catawba.edu/dept/library/index.htm>. At the Library's home page click on the link for Pleiades, the online catalog. Once in the local catalog, do a keyword search using the letters "charch" (without the quotes) and this will retrieve all 167 books. The cataloguing is a continuing project. Mrs. Sims attended a class this summer to learn how to create web pages and will be attending the fall meeting of the Society of North Carolina archivists in October at which the focus will be on church archives.

Four churches were congratulated and recognized at the fall meeting of the WNC Association on October 3. They were Congregational UCC, Greensboro (100 years), New Emanuel UCC, Charlotte (100 years) and Shinnsville, Troutman (100 years).

There will be a special Founder's Day Celebration at Grace Reformed UCC, Newton by Catawba College on December 3, 2000 to kick-off Catawba's 150th Anniversary year. This is the location of Old Catawba, organized in 1851.

Extra material from the Catawba Archives was delivered to the E & R Archives in Lancaster at the spring board meeting.

There are 47 persons on the 2000 Fall Bus Tour to Branson and St. Louis, MO. Special appreciation is extended to Ruth Parks for planning and coordinating this year's bus tour and to Eulene Shepherd who has served as treasurer for the tour.

The annual Southern Chapter meeting will be Saturday, November 11 at Congregational UCC, Greensboro, which was organized in 1900. We will have a historical overview of the Congregational Church and reports on the Fall Bus Trip and annual ERHS at Eden Seminary on October 14, 2000.

Respectfully Submitted,
Banks Shepherd, President

EDEN ARCHIVES REPORT

The Eden Archives has had a fruitful and difficult year. The Rev. Dr. Clifton W. (Bill) Kerr brought his several years of excellent leadership in the archives to a beautiful close before his death from pancreatic cancer on Dec. 8, 2000. He was able to welcome a group of visitors to the archives on October 14, during the ERHS annual meeting in St. Louis, happily explaining the work of the archives. Since Aug. 2000 Mrs. Valerie Detjen, who formerly worked in the Development Department at Eden Seminary, has been serving effectively as assistant archivist. Dr. Lowell Zuck has been at the Reformed Theological Institute of the State University in Cluj, Romania between October 2000 and March 2001, lecturing on European and American church history, as a Fulbright Scholar Lecturer.

Bill's presence and work is evident immediately to those entering the archives. The materials have all been checked and reshelfed, and file cabinets have been re-arranged and relabeled. The ministers' file is far more accessible and useful. Bill moved ahead by processing a new cataloguing system, allowing it eventually to replace the outdated Schneider categories. All materials received by the archives have been carefully Catalogued according to proper archival methods. Dr. Zuck has aided Bill and answered much correspondence.

The Archives Committee, chaired by Mrs. Dee Ban of the Eden Board, has worked effectively, along with a semi-official Heritage Committee of the UCC Missouri Conference, caring especially for ministerial and congregational recognition occasions at conference meetings.

Many inquiries continue to arrive, many by e-mail, and visitors, though not numerous, are important, including many appreciative confirmation young people with their leaders. We anticipate the visit of another German academic researcher from Bochum, coming to work in the United States on a university thesis.

Dr. Zuck is pleased that volume four of the UCC Living Theological Heritage series concerning the four 19th century UCC traditions has been published, and is being used.

Respectfully yours,
Lowell H. Zuck, Senior Research Consultant

CLIFTON WILLIAM (BILL) KERR, 1936-2000 IN MEMORIAM

By Lowell H. Zuck

Eden Theological Seminary celebrated for the whole denomination the life and work of the Rev. Dr. Clifton William (Bill) Kerr in a memorial service in the seminary's chapel on December 16, 2000. As Mrs. Val Detjen, the assistant archivist, remembers, "These last days were painful for Bill, but he met them with deep faith, his distinctive dignity, and a great deal of courage," It is appropriate that at their regular meeting on October 18-19 Eden's Board of Directors acknowledged his contributions by presenting him with a specially bound copy of their publication of a collection of his "Heritage and Moments"

IN MEMORIAM (continued from page 14)

concerning Eden's history, which he had regularly presented to the Board.

Dr. Kerr was a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University and of Eden Theological Seminary which bestowed upon him three degrees, Bachelor of Divinity, Master of Sacred Theology and Doctor of Ministry. He carried on a significant ecumenical ministry at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, 1961-1974. He served as pastor of Evangelical Church, Booneville, Missouri, 1975-82, and of Zion United Church of Christ, Florissant, Missouri, 1982-86. From 1986 until his death he served Eden Theological Seminary in several capacities: Director of Admissions, Registrar and Archivist.

He is survived by his wife, Sibyl Marie, a daughter, Koren Leigh Kerr, Washington, Missouri, and a son, Brynn William Kerr, Norman, Oklahoma.

PLANNED GIFTS FOR THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In recent months the Historical Society has been the recipient of different types of planned gifts, bequests through wills and a gift annuity through an agreement with the United Church of Christ Financial Development Office. A UCC Gift Annuity is an irrevocable agreement by which one transfers assets to the United Church Foundation in return for a lifetime income of a fixed amount. The agreement also includes the designation of the congregation, conference, national ministry or other UCC related entity one wishes to benefit with one's gift after death. A person is entitled to take a Federal Income Tax deduction for a charitable contribution in the year that he or she makes the gift and part of the annual lifetime income is tax free. We encourage members to remember the Society in their wills and to consider such Gift Annuity Agreements and the naming of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society of the United Church of Christ as a beneficiary of such an agreement. For further information on this and other forms of Planned Giving by which one could guarantee lifetime income for oneself and at the same time receive a tax deduction while also benefiting the E & R Historical Society or other UCC related entity of your choice, write or call Lynne Hansen, Gift Administrator, UCC Financial Development Office, 700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115-1100; 800-846-6822 or (216) 736-2103.

FALL TOUR FROM ST. LOUIS (continued from page 2)

Mountian or Montreat Conference Center; and Old Salem in Winston-Salem. Besides attending the meeting on the weekend on October 12-13, the group would plan to attend a worship service at one of the historic churches in the area on Sunday before returning home that afternoon.

It is estimated that the cost of the trip would be about \$650 for transportation, meals and lodging. Persons interested in joining this tour should call as soon as possible either Barbara Greer 314-965-5049; Betty Tope 314-426-0503; or Lolly Wehrli 636-861-0287.

THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UCC
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
JANUARY 1, 2000 - DECEMBER 31, 2000

		INCOME	
Executive Council -- UCC			\$2,656.00
Conferences:			
	Illinois	50.00	
	Indiana-Kentucky	50.00	
	Nebraska	50.00	
	Northern Plains	50.00	
	Ohio	50.00	
	Penn Central	750.00	
	Penn West	100.00	
	Wisconsin	<u>500.00</u>	1,600.00
Associations:			
	Cumberland, ME	25.00	
	Hudson-Mohawk, NY	50.00	
	Lancaster, PA	1,500.00	
	Susquehanna, NY	<u>50.00</u>	1,625.00
Memberships			3,917.00
Life Fees:			
	Dale & Lucille Bennett	250.00	
	Kenneth Sell	250.00	
	Mark P. Steiner	<u>250.00</u>	750.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign			2,356.06
Interest on Investments			10,082.99
Visitor Fees			559.00
Misc. Income: Copies, Rentals, Books, Etc.			119.40
Gifts: (exceed membership amount)			
	Others (less than \$50 each)	828.00	
	Church of the Apostles, Lancaster, PA	500.00	
	Salem-Zion UCC, Philadelphia, PA	500.00	
	St. Andrew UCC, Lancaster, PA	340.00	
	Faith UCC, Lancaster, PA	280.00	
	Richard Berg	125.00	
	Richard Beam	100.00	
	John B. Frantz: Rev. John B. Frantz Memorial	100.00	
	Elizabeth Sanders	100.00	
	William Bessmer	75.00	
	John B. Payne	75.00	
	Robert Steward	75.00	
	Elvin J. Groff	50.00	
	Jeri Haynes	<u>50.00</u>	3,198.00
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME			26,863.45
Grants			
	Lehigh Valley	5,000.00	
	Expenses	(\$467.78)	
	First & St. Stevens UCC, Baltimore, MD	<u>2,000.00</u>	6,532.22
TOTAL INCOME			<u>\$33,395.67</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES (cont'd)

EXPENSES

Payroll and Payroll Taxes	\$17,480.59
Supplies	2,301.46
Equipment	45.00
Printing	1,429.68
Postage	1,068.24
Telephone	803.20
Miscellaneous	395.04
Meetings and Travel	3,039.97
Insurance	<u>1,478.03</u>

TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	<u>28,041.21</u>
NET ORDINARY INCOME 12/31/2000	<u>(1,177.76)</u>
NET TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$5,354.46</u>

BALANCE SHEET
JANUARY 1, 2000 - DECEMBER 31, 2000

ASSETS

Checking Account: Farmer's First	6,055.79	
Prudential Money Market	19,054.45	
Petty Cash	40.00	
Certificates of Deposit: Union National Community Bank	15,000.00	
Lehman Brothers Bank	10,000.00	
Pearl Wetzel End. (Northwest Savings)	5,000.00	
Northwest Saving Bank	2,688.21	
Vanguard Wellington Fund	1,008.00	3,554.46
United Church Foundation	55,000.00	74,152.87
Zweig Total Return Fund	15,000.00	11,169.00
High Income Opportunity Fund	<u>34,240.63</u>	<u>32,775.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>163,087.08</u>	

LIABILITIES

Payroll Liabilities	88.82
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EQUITY

Opening Equity Balance	102,836.96
Retained Earnings	54,806.84
2000 Income	<u>5,354.46</u>
Total Equities	<u>\$162,998.26</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$163,087.08</u>
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NOTE: Ordinary income/expense & Net Ordinary income is from our day to day operations
Total income & Net Total Income is Ordinary Income/Expense plus
income/expense from grants/bequests
income/expenses that are not received on a regular basis

Respectfully submitted,
K.R. Zimmerman, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS for 2001. Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

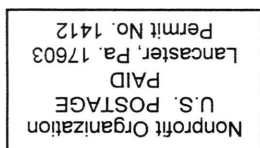
MEMBERSHIPS

_____ Donor \$25	_____ Sponsor \$100
_____ Student \$ 7	_____ Institution \$50
_____ Life (Individuals only) \$250	

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Please include check made payable to: Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and mail to: ERHS, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603-2830.

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



The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society UCC
555 West James Street
Lancaster, PA 17603-2830
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED