

News from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society



***Thanks to all who attended the ERHS
Annual Meeting on September 24, 2016.
Attendees enjoyed a thought-provoking
keynote speech given by the
Rev. Dr. Linden DeBie.***

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The 2017 Annual Meeting of the ERHS will mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a presentation by Dr. Lee Barrett.

The date and location of the 2017 meeting has yet to be determined.

Missionary Education in the Reformed Church

by Charles E. Schaeffer, edited by Richard R. Berg

While processing the records of the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church, I discovered a paper written by Charles E. Schaeffer titled “The History of Missionary Education in the Reformed Church.” Schaeffer uses the term missionary not to denote the people sent to the Reformed Church mission stations in Japan and China, but rather to discuss the means of educating church members about the mission efforts, both national and international, of the Reformed Church. He traces the history of these efforts from the eighteenth century to the 1934 merger with the Evangelical Synod of North America to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Charles Edmund Schaeffer (1867-1966), D.D., S.T.D., served the Reformed Church as local church pastor in several parishes, was active in many denominational and ecumenical activities and, from 1908 to 1941, was General Secretary of the Board of Home Missions. During his tenure as General Secretary he wrote several books, pamphlets, many articles, and gave many addresses and sermons on the mission efforts of the Reformed Church.

Because of its outline of the mission education efforts and the insight into how the Reformed Church promoted both national and international missions, the paper is worth republishing here, although I have edited it for length, language, verb tense, and content.

“The History of Missionary Education in the Reformed Church” by Charles E. Schaeffer

To present anything like an adequate survey of the development of Missionary Education in the Reformed Church, one must look at its early history. The Reformed Church was formally established in America in 1725 when the first communion service was celebrated at Falckner Swamp, Pennsylvania. The number of German Reformed churches had grown enough to necessitate a formal organization. In 1747, under the leadership of Michael Schlatter and with the oversight of the Synod of Holland of the Dutch Reformed Church, the Coetus was established bringing together pastors and lay persons from each of the Reformed Churches. In 1793 the German Reformed Church declared its independence from the Synod of Holland and established the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States.

Even before becoming an autonomous body, the Reformed Church sent missionaries to the wilderness of late eighteenth century western Pennsylvania to minister to the small groups of Germans who had settled there. By 1803 the first missionary was sent to Ohio and from there to beyond the Mississippi River. Other missionaries were sent south to Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Kentucky. In 1819 the Synod appointed a Missionary Committee “to examine into the fitness of those who wanted to be missionaries, to direct them where to

work, to pay their necessary travel expenses, and to give Synod a summary of their reports” (Proceedings of the Synod). Here is the first intimation of anything that might be construed as missionary education, the reports of the missionaries. The Committee presented its report to the Synod of 1820 advocating the creation of two important organizations: a theological seminary and a missionary organization. The Seminary (now Lancaster Theological Seminary) was opened in September 1825 and the missionary organization, “The American Missionary Society of the German Reformed Church” was formed on September 26, 1826. In addition to missionary efforts to expand the Church, the Society was also to provide money for scholarships for students entering the Seminary and also to assume responsibility for the publication efforts of the Church.

If the Society was to function effectively, it needed the moral and financial support of the Church. This could not be obtained without imparting necessary information about the importance and needs of the mission efforts. Some kind of missionary education was essential. Consequently, in 1828 the first periodical, titled “The Religious and Missionary Magazine of the German Reformed Church” was published. The title was soon changed to “The Reformed Church Messenger” which became the main publication of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church until 1959.

In 1824, the Ohio Classis became an independent synod and in 1844 established a Board of Missions. To inform and educate its members, the Ohio Synod began publishing “The Western Missionary” in 1847 changing the name to “The Christian World” in 1868. Both “The Messenger” and “The Christian World” developed first as missionary publications but soon became the major news publications of the Reformed Church. With this transition, the Church felt the need of a distinctive missionary publication through which it might speak and develop interest in the missionary efforts. As a result, “The Missionary Sentinel” was begun in 1879 in Tiffin, Ohio by the Ohio Synod and in 1880 “The Reformed Missionary Herald” was published by the Eastern, Potomac, and Pittsburgh Synods. In 1890 “The Guardian”, which was begun by Rev. Henry Harbaugh in 1849 as a magazine for young people, was merged with “The Reformed Missionary Herald” to form “The Missionary Guardian”. It was published monthly and included articles and information about both national and international missions. Not neglecting the German language speaking members of the Church, “Der Missions Bote” began in 1885.

For three years, 1896-1899, the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Foreign Mission published “The Reformed Church Tidings” containing news about the work and programs of the two Boards. In September 1903, the Board of Home Missions published “The Home Missionary Bulletin,” a monthly sheet which was sent to all pastors to be distributed free to church members. The Woman’s Missionary Society, which had been organized in 1887, began publishing “The Woman’s Journal” and “The Mission Helper” again containing news,

articles and program ideas promoting missions. The Board of Foreign Missions began publishing “The Outlook of Missions” in 1909. In 1910 “The Home Missionary Bulletin”, “The Woman’s Journal”, and “The Mission Helper” were consolidated into “The Outlook of Missions”. This periodical, published until 1943, was the voice of the Department of Missionary Education of the Reformed Church and spoke to the whole Church about missions and mission education.

In addition to the above mentioned periodicals, mission education was carried out through the publication of books, pamphlets, maps and other forms of publicity and promotion. An important aspect of mission education was a series of conferences held under auspices of the Department of Missionary Education. The conferences grew out of the work of such inter-denominational organizations as the Student Volunteer Movement, the Young People’s Missionary Movement, and the Woman’s United Study of Missions, all based in New York. These organizations had been publishing textbooks and other resources for the study of missions for a number of years and held conferences in which a number of Reformed Church people participated. Experiencing those conferences, the Reformed Church felt the need to hold similar events of its own. The first conference was held August 2-9, 1910 in Mt. Gretna, Pennsylvania sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions. One of the results of that conference was the appointment of Rev. Paul Gerhard, Reformed Church missionary to Japan who was home on furlough, to establish a Mission Study Department. Study classes were formed throughout the Church with over 700 members who studied the mission fields in Japan, China, the Middle East and other areas. Conferences were held in two places in 1911 and in 1912 the Board of Home Missions joined the Foreign Mission Board in supporting, planning and leading the conferences which were expanded to include both international and national missions. To keep up with new teaching methods, in 1914 the Boards began producing glass slides as study aids depicting the work in the mission fields as well as work among immigrants, the Japanese along the Pacific Coast and Native Americans. By 1917 Summer Missionary Conferences were being conducted in eight different locations. The interest mission study greatly increased, much literature was prepared and circulated throughout the Church.

In 1919 Paul L. Schaeffer was appointed as Secretary of the Mission Study Department. The location of the conferences was changed to the campuses of the educational institutions of the Church: Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio; Hood College in Maryland; Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania; Catawba College in North Carolina; the Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and Mission House Seminary in Wisconsin. Dr. Arthur V. Casselman was appointed secretary in 1920 and expanded the work of the Department to include not only printed resources, but also slides, films and the summer conferences. The objectives of the Department of Missionary Education were: to provide missionary leaders for the missionary

education programs of the Church; to discover and develop capacity for missionary leadership; to provide means of instruction and inspiration for those who desire adequate knowledge.

The Department included representatives from the Woman's Missionary Society in 1923 and later from the Sunday School and Publication Board. The objectives for the Department were rewritten in 1929: "The Department of Missionary Education assists pastors and missionary leaders to set up congregational programs of missionary education and prepare suggestions, and supply missionary material for congregations and Sunday Schools and Societies." The emphasis of the summer conferences was modified to include leadership training and methods of education thus losing some of their distinctive missionary character. Also in 1929, the Department published a "Missionary Manual" for use with confirmation classes and youth groups. By 1932 an Advisory Committee on Missionary Education was formed consisting of two representatives of the Board of Home Missions, the Board of Foreign Missions, the Woman's Missionary Society, and the Board of Christian Education. With Dr. Casselman's appointment as General Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions upon the death of Dr. Allen Bartholomew in 1933, Professor Charles M. LeGalley, missionary from Japan on furlough, was appointed Secretary of the Department and continued to expand the work of missionary education in the Reformed Church.



While Dr. Schaeffer's article ends here, there is visible evidence of the work of the Department of Missionary Education and its widespread efforts to communicate with the Reformed Church of the importance of missions. The evidence is visible in the records of the Department, its reports, minutes, and its many published resources. It is also visible in the continued generous support of both national and international missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church throughout its entire existence. Through its work, the Reformed Church, the Evangelical Synod of North America, and the E & R Church established new church starts in both urban and rural settings, addressed social concerns, led in efforts to establish indigenous leadership in all their missions fields, and took leadership roles in national and international inter-denominational mission and ecumenical efforts.

Lessons from the Past

Several years ago I purchased a small second-hand tome from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society – maybe at the book sale – maybe from the shelves of used books set up near the main doorway of the Schaff Library. The little black book measured 5 ¾ by 3 ¾ inches. On the cover was the shield of the Reformed Church in the United States in full color and the title *Constitution and Forms*. It was indeed *The Constitution of the Reformed Church in the United States Together with Orders of Business for the Classes, Synods and the General Synod, Approved by the General Synod of Allentown, May, 1905, Adopted by the Classes. Declared Adopted by the General Synod of York, May, 1908, Including all the Amendments which have since been declared adopted by the General Synod at its Triennial Sessions in 1920, 1923, and 1932*. That's an awfully long title for such a tiny book. It was published by the Board of Christian Education of the Reformed Church in the U. S., in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1932.

Tipped into the front of the book are two small pieces of paper upon which were typed "Four Amendments to our Constitution ... officially declared adopted at the Special Meeting of the General Synod, June 26, 1934," communicated by J. Rauch Stein, Stated Clerk. The owner of the book added his own notes: "For June 26, 1934 Amendments see 13th Gen'l Synod Minutes." On the upper right-hand corner of the second typed page is stamped: "Property of Rev. George R. Johnson Please return soon." Underneath that is the handwritten date 6/8/39.

Tipped into the back of the book is a printed copy of "The Order of Business for the Spring Meeting of the Classes," this again communicated by J. Rauch Stein, Stated Clerk.

A brief Internet search turned up an obituary in the June 11, 1988, issue of the Allentown *Morning Call*. Rev. George R. Johnson, 89, of 1901 Linden St., Allentown, died the previous Friday in the Phoebe Home in Allentown. He was the husband of Hilda (Firth) Johnson. They had observed their 36th wedding anniversary the previous June. According to the obituary he served parishes in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky and North and South Carolina. His last charge was at Calvary Hill United Church of Christ in Lebanon. He retired in 1964 after 33 years as a clergyman."

In *The History of the Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States*, published in 1943, G. R. Johnson was listed in Lehigh Classis as "Cetronia, Pa., Cedarville, G. R. Johnson, Orefield" and "Walberts, Pa., Jordan, G. R. Johnson, Orefield."

As interesting as all this might be, that's not what makes my purchase notable. George R. Johnson's little black book was in a little white cardboard box roughly 6 ½ by 4 ½. Inscribed on the lid of the box are the words "Constitution and Forms Reformed Church in U.S." written in what I think is George Johnson's hand. That may be quite interesting to someone. It's the newspaper clipping carefully fitted into the lid of the box, however, that makes my find all that more dear.

It's an article written by Louis Cassels with the headline "Clergyman's Salutation Depends On His Church." It's not dated, but the Blondie and Dagwood cartoon strip on the reverse side bears the date 8-25.

Louis Cassels (1922-1974) wrote a popular and highly respected syndicated column on religion for United Press International from 1955 to 1974. He was born and raised in South Carolina, graduated from Duke University, and then served in the U. S. Air Force during World War II. His first job with UPI was as a correspondent, but he went on to serve as senior editor from 1967 till the end of his life. He authored more than a dozen books on faith during his last ten years.

There was something about that short column on Clergyman's Salutation that was important enough to George R. Johnson (The Rev. George R. Johnson, if you please) to cause him to cut it out of the newspaper and keep it in the little white box with the little black book on Reformed Church Order.

Here's what it said:

"Clergyman's Salutation Depends On His Church"

By Louis Cassels

Washington (UPI) - How should you address a clergyman?

This question of etiquette seems to be the source of endless perplexity to Americans. And long-suffering men of the cloth would dearly love to have it cleared up.

The right salutation depends on the clergyman's church, and his personal preferences. But there is one title that is always wrong. And unfortunately, it seems to be a great favorite with laymen.

If you want to give your clergyman a shudder, just call him "Reverend."

Don't shorten title

"Reverend" is an adjective. It is never properly used as a noun. Thus a minister's formal title may be "the Rev. Mr. Jones" or "the Re. Dr. Jones," but if you shorten it to "Reverend Jones" or just plain "reverend" you are committing a grammatical monstrosity.

If the clergyman is a Catholic or Orthodox priest, or a high-church Episcopalian, address him as "father." If you know him intimately, you can use his first name with the title – 'Father Bill.' Otherwise, make it plain "father" or "Father Jones."

If he is Jewish, address him as "rabbi."

If he is Lutheran, call him "pastor."

If he is some other kind of Protestant, including low-church Episcopalian, you have to play it by ear.

Some Like “Tom”

Find out first if he happens to have a D.D., or any other kind of doctorate, earned or honorary. If so, you are on safe ground in calling him “Doctor Jones.”

Some Protestant clergymen like to be on a first-name basis with parishioners, friends and even casual acquaintances. They feel that it keeps them from seeming stuffy. Others feel it is rather undignified for a clergyman to have every Tom, Dick and Harry calling him Joe.

You can take it for granted that a Protestant clergyman who wants you to use his first name will tell you so.

In the absence of such an invitation to familiarity, the polite thing is to call him “:Mr. Jones” or just plain “pastor.”

But please, not “reverend.”



Well, there you have it – from a journalist who ought to know. My own guidebook as I was growing up, Warriner’s *English Grammar and Composition*, seems to concur with Cassels, making this statement: “Reverend, Honorable. These titles should never be used with a person’s last name alone. The word *the* commonly precedes the titles. Wrong: Reverend Hiller, the Reverend Hiller, Honorable Wagner. Right: the Reverend Kenneth Hiller, the Reverend K. H. Hiller, the Reverend Mr. Hiller, the Reverend Mr. Hiller, the Honorable Robert F. Wagner.”

It all seems rather esoteric today. I don’t know if I can agree with Cassels’ premise any more: “This question of etiquette seems to be the source of endless perplexity to Americans. And long-suffering men of the cloth would dearly love to have it cleared up.” I suspect that most Americans and probably most clergy (it’s more than Cassels’ “long-suffering men of the cloth”) give the matter little thought at all. But as for me, I am

In Christ’s service,
The Rev. Judith A. Meier, OCC
(but you can call me Pastor Meier)

UNIQUE FUNDRAISING EFFORT

ERHS participates in the Share Our Success program, a fundraising effort sponsored by the owners of Park City Diner, located near the Park City Mall, and Knight and Day Diner on Lititz Pike. ERHS will receive 10% of the pre-tax bill when you use your swipe card (similar to those for a grocery store). There is no charge to us. So far, this program has earned ERHS almost \$90.00.

If you would like one of these cards to share with family, friends, and colleagues, or if you will be visiting the Lancaster area and would like a card, please contact the ERHS office.

IN MEMORIAM

The Rev. Richard Berg remembers the Rev. Dr. John B. Payne

For the second time this year, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society has lost a guiding light with the death of the Rev. Dr. John B. Payne on December 2. John was a pastor, college professor, and from 1971 to his retirement in 1999 was Professor of Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary. In 1989, he was elected to the newly created position of the Paul and Minnie Diefenderfer Chair in Mercersburg and Ecumenical Theology. Born in Webster Groves, Missouri, John earned a Ph.D. from Harvard University, a B.D. from Vanderbilt, and a B.A. from Texas Christian University, and was an ordained minister in the Disciples of Christ with dual standing in the United Church of Christ. John is survived by his wife Nancy and three grown children. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on December 22, 2016, at Church of the Apostles in Lancaster.

John was an outstanding scholar of the Reformation period and an expert on Erasmus, publishing *Erasmus: His Theology of the Sacraments* (1970) and editing a volume of the collected works of Erasmus published by the University of Toronto Press. In addition, John was an expert on Mercersburg Theology, publishing many articles on John Williamson Nevin, Philip Schaff, and various aspects of Mercersburg Theology.

The ERHS elected John president in 1981, an office he held until 2003. During that time John guided the Society through formal incorporation and the process to become a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and was instrumental in acquiring several major collections, including a large group of John Williamson Nevin letters and the papers and memorabilia of Philip Schaff. John also organized the annual meetings with interesting speakers and arranged a variety of meeting places in Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas, Wisconsin, and North Carolina. John's steady hand assured the continued work of the Society in collecting and promoting the E and R heritage. His gentle spirit, his historical understanding, and his untiring work on behalf of the Society will be missed.

We have also learned of the deaths of the following ERHS members and UCC clergy:

The Rev. Richard Sommer Brueseke

The Rev. Mr. Brueseke was an alumnus of Eden Seminary and an E&R history enthusiast. He was responsible for the organization of four new congregations in the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the UCC.

The Rev. Dr. John Deckenback

The Rev. Dr. Deckenback was the Conference Minister of the Central Atlantic Conference of the UCC. During his career, he served on the staff of the Northern California Nevada Conference and was one of the co-founders of the Conferences of the United Church of Christ Insurance Board. He traveled extensively through his service on the Board of International Relief and Development.

The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hutchens

The Rev. Mrs. Hutchens, known to many as Pastor Mary, was a graduate of Catawba College and Lancaster Theological Seminary. She served a number of congregations in Pennsylvania and Maryland during her career, as well as serving as the Admissions Director for Lancaster Theological Seminary for a time. She was a lifetime member of ERHS.

Please contact ERHS at erhs@lancasterseminary.edu if you have news of Caravaners or ERHS members to report.

2016 CONTRIBUTIONS TO ERHS BEYOND MEMBERSHIP

\$5.00 - \$49.00

Mr. Paul Blackstone
Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr.
The Rev. Grant E. Harrity
The Rev. John Klueter
Mr. Dale Leber
The Rev. Judith A. Meier, OCC
Ms. Diane Rimert
St. John's UCC, Phoenixville, PA
The Rev. Albert E. Teske
Ziegel UCC, Breinigsville, PA

\$50.00 - \$99.00

Adamstown Books
Bethany UCC, Ephrata, PA
Emmanuel Reformed Church UCC
Womens Guild, Export, PA
The Rev. James H. Gold, OCC
The Rev. and Mrs. Harold Holste
Mr. Ellwood R. Kerkeslager
The Rev. James D. Mohr
Dr. Isabelle Reedy Powell
St. John's UCC, Lebanon, PA
St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro, PA
St. Peter's UCC, Lancaster, PA
The Rev. Glenn E. Schultz

\$100.00 - \$499.00

The Rev. Linda S. Gruber, OCC
Miss Ruth Parks
The Rev. William H. Rader
Trinity UCC, East Petersburg, PA
Mr. David J. Wilkin

\$500.00 - \$999.00

The Rev. Cheryl A. Stoneback
The Rev. Richard Taylor

\$1,000.00 +

Lancaster Association of United
Church of Christ
Pennsylvania Southeast
Conference
Dr. Branton Shearer
Ms. Catherine Shetler

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF REV. LINDA SPRINGER GRUBER

We are grateful to the following who have donated in memory of Rev. Gruber or have contributed directly to the Rev. Linda Springer Gruber Memorial Fund of the ERHS.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dr. Gene W. Aulenbach and Vivien Aulenbach | and Assessments (PM) | Miss Ruth Parks |
| The Rev. Evelyn J. Aurand | The Rev. Michael W. Evans | The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. John B. Payne |
| The Rev. Michael A. Baal | Mr. Robert W. Finley | Pennsylvania Southeast Conference |
| Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Bade | First UCC, Royersford, PA | The Rev. William H. Rader |
| The Rev. Lyn Reith Barrett | Mr. Harry A. Focht | The Rev. Harry G. Royer |
| The Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Bassett | The Rev. and Mrs. Peter Goguts | Kay and Richard Schellhase |
| The Rev. Nathan D. Baxter | The Rev. James H. Gold, OCC | Mr. John Schroeder |
| The Rev. and Mrs. Richard Berg | Dr. and Mrs. Donald E. Harrop | The Rev. Glenn E. Schultz |
| The Rev. Lawrence R. Bolick | Mr. Gary Hawbaker | Mrs. Eulene Shepherd |
| The Rev. Richard S. Brueseke | Ms. Janet G. Heil | Ms. Catherine Shetler |
| The Rev. and Mrs. Don Buckthal | The Rev. and Mrs. Harold Holste | St. John's UCC, Phoenixville, PA |
| The Rev. and Mrs. Robert H. Calvert | The Rev. Joel Hummel, OCC and Ms. Nicole Hummel, OCC | The Rev. John E. Saxton |
| The Rev. Dr. Richard Christensen | The Rev. Robert G. Hunsicker | Southern Regional Historical Society UCC Southern Chapter E & R Historical Society |
| The Rev. Dr. Deborah R. Clemens | Mr. Ellwood R. Kerkeslager | The Rev. Cheryl A. Stoneback |
| The Congregational Christian Historical Society | Ms. Frances E. Kinney | The Rev. Richard Taylor |
| Ms. JoAnne Scanlin Cooper | The Rev. Dr. Martha B. Kriebel | The Rev. Albert E. Teske |
| The Rev. Kenneth V. Daniel and The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel | Lancaster Association of United Church of Christ | Trinity Reformed Church UCC, Collegeville, PA |
| Robert and Karen Diguseppe | The Rev. Karen L. Lovelace, OCC | The Rev. John R. Weiler |
| Ms. Joy Dressel | Dr. Carol E. Lytch | Roger and Frances Wentz |
| Dubbs Memorial UCC, Allentown, PA | Mr. Timothy Mackey | The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Frederick West |
| Michael and Marilyn Duffy | The Rev. Judith A. Meier, OCC and Dr. Louis A. Meier | Mr. Terry L. White |
| Tony Ermovick, on behalf of the Department of Energy Office of Project Management | Ms. Holly Millershank | The Rev. Richard H. Whitney |
| | The Rev. James D. Mohr | Mr. David J. Wilkin |
| | Fred and Pamela Morris | |
| | New Goshenhoppen UCC, East Greenville, PA | |
| | The Order of Corpus Christi | |

UPCOMING EVENTS

Christmas Closing

The ERHS office and archives will be closed the week of December 26 and will reopen Monday, January 2, 2017.

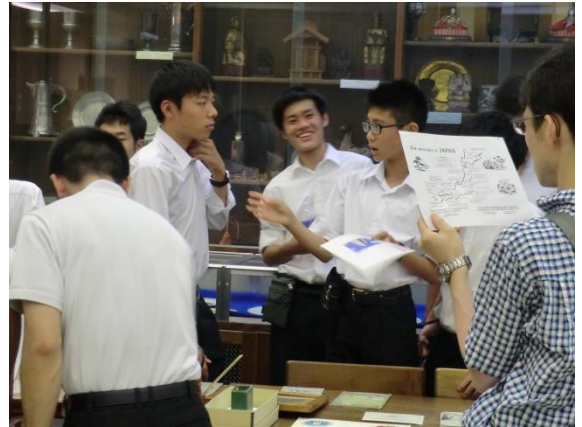
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Closing

The ERHS office and archives will be closed on Monday, January 16, 2017, and will resume normal hours Tuesday, January 17, 2017.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE ERHS

The ERHS Archives has had **35 in-person researchers** and **over 100 research requests** via snail mail and email this year. Research request forms are available on our website: www.erhs.info/home/research-services-permissions.

On July 26, 2016, a group of students and chaperones from **Tohoku Gakuin Junior and Senior High School** visited the archives. They looked at materials relating to the Japan mission and the founding of Tohoku Gaikun University.



ERHS received funding through the **National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)**-subsidized **Risk Assessment and Emergency Planning Program** sponsored by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). On November 17, Dick Berg, Archivist Emeritus, and Meghan Phillips, office administrator and archives assistant, met with CCAHA conservator, Samantha Forsko, to discuss the state of the collection. Ms. Forsko offered a number of ideas for how to continue caring for and preserving the collection and is working on an emergency plan for the archives.

Meghan Phillips participated in digital preservation workshop presented by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. The two-day workshop held at the URBN Center on Drexel University's campus focused on planning and collaboration for small institutions looking to implement digital preservation plans.

RECENTLY CATALOGED COLLECTIONS

Collections cataloged at ERHS in 2016 and now available to researchers include:

Fourteen boxes of church records and artifacts from St. Luke's United Church of Christ (Lancaster, PA), which merged with Trinity UCC in East Petersburg, PA in 2015.

Five boxes of church records and artifacts from Dubbs Memorial UCC in Allentown, PA, which closed in 2015.

Seven boxes of church records from St. John's Evangelical Church in Coshocton, OH.

Seven boxes of church records and artifacts, including Mercer tile, from Salem Reformed Church in Doylestown, PA.

One box of records from the Reformed Church in Henrietta, OH.

Reference services

The Archives received 111 reference inquiries—88 email, 21 by telephone, and 2 by mail—plus six in-person visits. Most inquiries to the archives continue to be genealogical / biographical in nature, with occasional requests for information from congregations preparing for anniversaries. Since the archives has no ability to print or digitize from microfilm, genealogical inquiries involving church records are referred to St. Louis County Library (SLCL) whenever possible. SLCL's microfilm collection includes copies of most of the archives' church record holdings. The staff there will do lookups for free, and they provide excellent service.

The Archives received the following academic research visits and requests:

- Dr. David Dault, Walt Brueggemann's biographer, visited the archives to access Brueggemann's papers
- Daniel Gonzales, St. Louis County Historian, visited the archives to research Caroline Mission's ministry to the Mexican community between about 1920 and 1940. Caroline Mission was established in St. Louis by the Evangelical Synod in 1913.
- The archives responded to requests from Martin Dobelmeier and his staff from Journey Films, which is making a film about the life of Reinhold Niebuhr

Special visitors

In August 2015, dignitaries from the Evangelical Church in Germany visited the archives. Representatives from the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg Silesian-Upper Lusatia (EKBO) included the Rev. Christoph Theilemann, Chaplain for Ecumenical Relations; the Rev. Roland Herpich, Director of the Berlin Mission; and Mr. Andreas Böer, a member of the EKBO Church Leadership Board. The Rev. Joachim Liebig, President of the Evangelical Church of Anhalt, was also present. The archivist was invited by Christoph Theilemann to spend a week in Reichenbach, Saxony, birthplace of Louis Nollau. Arrangements were made for a visit in November 2016. A report about the archivist's experiences there will be submitted at a later date.

Accessions

The archives received several important collections in 2015–2016:

- Friedens UCC, St. Louis records (closed 2008)
- St. Peter's UCC, Kansas City, Mo. records (closed 2016)
- Papers of Justus Frankenfeld (1871–1929), former director of Emmas Homes, Marthasville, Mo.
- Papers of Theophil Stoerker (1896–1984), former director of Emmaus Homes, Marthasville, Mo.

Collection development, preservation, and access

The St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS) has offered to digitize church records from the archives and provide copies of the electronic files at no charge in exchange for posting the data on the StLGS website. Several record sets have been completed with more in progress.

Work on arrangement and preservation activities in the archives continues. Projects completed or begun in 2015–2016 include:

- Application files of early Marthasville Seminary students begun in 2015 were completed
- Work on processing and arranging the papers of Samuel D. Press has begun
- Several small, miscellaneous collections

In addition, volunteer Michael Boddy has been working on a project to arrange and inventory records of the Evangelical Synod of North America / Evangelical & Reformed Church Board of Home Missions.

Lectures and presentations

The archivist presented a lecture on “The Legacy of the German Evangelical Synod of North America in St. Louis” at Christ Church UCC, Maplewood, Mo. on Sept., 20, 2015, with 33 people in attendance. The archivist has also had occasion to promote the history of the Evangelical Synod in the context of other lectures dealing with German Protestantism in the St. Louis area.

FIND ERHS ONLINE

The ERHS website is: www.erhs.info.

Have you seen Tumblr? It is primarily a visual site, and we have a page there too where we show some of the items from the ERHS archives: www.erarchives.tumblr.com. You do not have to have a Tumblr account to see the page, but you can create an account if you want to “follow” us.

THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We are located on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, on the campus of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

ERHS is open to the public Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 am – 3 pm.
Please call or email in advance of your visit so that we may better assist you.
717-290-8734 • erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

THE ARCHIVES AT EDEN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The archives are located on the lower level of the S.D. Press Education Center on the Eden Theological Seminary campus, 475 Lockwood Ave., Webster Grove, MO 63119. For more information, please visit: <http://www.eden.edu/s/1645/index.aspx?sid=1645&gid=1&pgid=547>

Scott Holl, the archivist, is currently available Monday and Thursday, 8:30 am – noon.

Access to the archives is by appointment only.

314-252-3141 • sholl@eden.edu

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Have you used the archives to research your family genealogy?
- Did you participate in the Caravan movement or attend one of the church camps?
- Is there a pioneering E&R figure that you'd love to learn about?

Let us know! We'd like to feature more content from our members that celebrates and explores the heritage of our organization. Articles, interviews, essays, and photographs are all welcome.

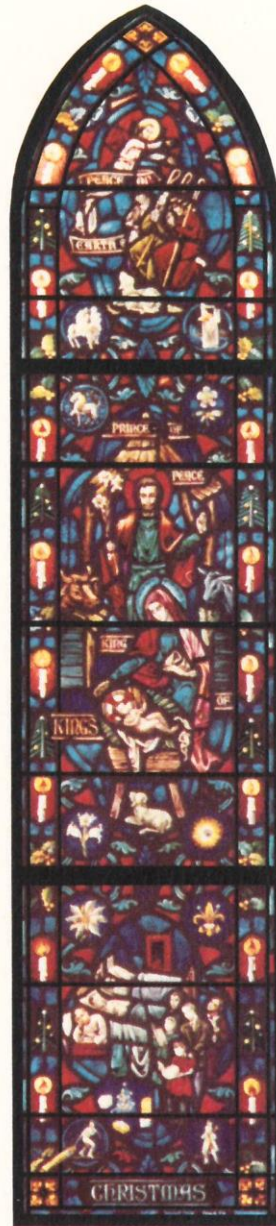
If you would like to contribute something to the newsletter or the website, please contact the office by phone 717-290-8734 or email erhs@lancasterseminary.edu.

OCT 14 1955

Christmas

For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given...and **H**is name shall
be called **W**onderful, *no*
Counselor, the **M**ighty **G**od,
the **E**verlasting **F**ather,
the **P**rince of **P**eace. *no*

ISAIAH 9:6



This Christmas bulletin was printed by Eden Publishing House in 1955 and was found in the collection of the E&R Board of National Missions.

Merry Christmas, from the ERHS!

ERHS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership in the Society is open to all who are interested in preserving our heritage. The following categories of membership are available. Fees are on an annual basis.

Please consider making an additional contribution to ERHS to help us continue our mission.

Individual (\$35)

Student (\$20)

Institution (\$60)

Sponsor (\$150)

Extra donation

In memory / honor of _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

(for occasional correspondence only – this helps us cut postage costs)

☐ **ok to email newsletter** ☐ **prefer print copy of newsletter**

Please mail with a check made payable to: ERHS

And send to: ERHS, 555 West James ST, Lancaster, PA 17603