

*News
from the
Evangelical
and Reformed Historical Society*



Annual Meeting and Lecture

Saturday, September 27, 2014

Lancaster Theological Seminary
Hafer Center, Schaff Library Second Floor
555 West James St., Lancaster, Pa 17603

Keynote address by Rev. Dr. Richard Christensen,
“Consecrated to the Unexpected: the Youth Caravan Movement
in the Evangelical & Reformed Church”

The E & R Church began participating in the National Youth Caravans in 1948 and from the very start specified that each caravan team be interracial and interdenominational. The first four-person team trained at Eden Seminary and then spent ten weeks in the field serving Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Please join us in celebrating this forgotten yet innovative program. Many caravan participants have donated materials to the archival collection which will be on display during the meeting.

Registration: 12:00-12:45 pm (\$10 at the door)

Welcome and Opening Devotions: 12:45-1:00 pm
Remembrance of Rev. Dr. Lowell Zuck
Honoring Retired Archivist Rev. Richard Berg

Lecture and Reflections from Caravan Participants: 1:00-2:15 pm
Break: 2:15-2:30 pm

Annual Meeting: 2:30-3:30

Annual Meeting, September 27, 2014

ERHS is pleased to host this year's Annual Meeting in Lancaster, PA in the Philip Schaff Library on the Lancaster Theological Seminary campus. Please contact Jennifer and Phillip if you need driving directions, parking information, or a little extra help the day of the meeting!

Call 717-290-8734 or email us:
erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

"Consecrated to the Unexpected"

The statement of purpose of the Youth Caravans of the Evangelical and Reformed Church was a bit different from that of some other denominations, Howard Wayne Peck explained in his 1951 thesis, "The History, Philosophy, and Aims of Christian Youth Caravans." Each team was to be both interracial and interdenominational, for a four-fold purpose: (1) to create an opportunity for Christian young people to witness and testify to their faith and conviction, and to experience genuine Christian fellowship through worship, work, play, and discussion in a common endeavor. (2) To attack the sin of racial segregation through interracial fellowship both on the Caravan team proper and in all groups visited. (3) To speak for ecumenicity through the interdenominational aspect of the team. (4) To create an opportunity for the mutual exchange of ideas and techniques for youth work in general, to develop a fuller understanding among local groups of the total program of our National Youth Fellowship, and to stimulate greater participation in the religious and social action of Christian youth activity.

Rev. Dr. Richard Christensen will draw on ERHS archival materials that include original training notes, letters written to and from Caravan participants, photographs, reunion reflections, as well as his own experiences with the Caravan program.

We thank all those who have contributed items to the archives, and invite Caravan participants to share their own reflections in discussion at the end of Dr. Christensen's talk!



Annual Meeting Speaker Richard Christensen on the right, with his 1963 Caravan Group

Rev. Dr. Richard Louis Christensen

By Charles Maxfield

Rev. Dr. Richard Christensen, the speaker for the Fall meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. He grew up in Zion United Church of Christ, Baltimore, Maryland. He received his M. Div. degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1970, and a Ph.D. from Union Theological Seminary (now Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary) in Richmond, Virginia, in 1992.

He served as chaplain and teacher at Maun Secondary School, Botswana, from 1980 to 1983, teacher in Church History at Phillips Seminary, Tulsa campus, 1992-1998, and associate professor of philosophy and theology at Lakeland College, 1998-2012.

Rev. Dr. Christensen's parish experiences have included serving as associate pastor at Faith UCC,

State College, Pennsylvania, 1971-1972, pastor, Congregational UCC, Amherst, Ohio, 1972-1974, pastor of St. Peter's UCC, State College, 1974-1980, and pastor, Salem UCC, Campbelltown, Pennsylvania, 1983-1988.

Rev. Dr. Christensen participated in the Caravan ministry in 1963, and again as a team leader in 1966.

Rich and his wife Lainie have recently moved to Ephrata. They have a daughter and two grandchildren.

The Caravan Project

By the Rev. Judith A. Meier, OCC

It all began with a quiet conversation, a few simple questions, and some surprising answers. In August 2011 I had just begun my service as an intentional interim minister at Falkner Swamp Reformed Church in Gilbertsville, PA, the site of the first German Reformed Church communion on October 15, 1725. I admit that I was thrilled to be working there, and every conversation I had with folks touched on some aspect of the church's history. I had no idea what a can of worms I would be opening when I began talking with Arlene Umstead, the organist at Falkner Swamp for many years. But she wasn't just Arlene Umstead, organist, I quickly discovered: she was Arlene Borneman Butts Umstead, and she had been involved in this youth activity called Caravaning as a young adult. I had never heard of it, so I asked her to tell me all about it. And she started talking about some people that I had known for years who were part of the national leadership of the program: the late Ethel Shellenberger, Herman and Lorene Ahrens, Carl and Marie Bade. The more I heard about this Caravan the more excited I became.

I told Linda Gruber about it, and she got excited too. What if we gathered the old Caravaners who live in Pennsylvania Southeast Conference and we asked them to talk about their experiences? And thus the Oral History Event took place on September 19, 2011, at the Church House in Collegeville, with the two of us asking questions while Linda manned a videocam and I tried to type every word they said into my computer. We had Herman and Lorene, Carl and Marie, Arlene, and Jane Munzinger Wilmer, who was a Caravaner in 1959 and 1963 and whose brother Steve Munzinger was a Caravaner with a "stay-put" assignment. Beth Derr wasn't able to make it. Arlene brought a scrapbook and many pictures along that day.

That was the beginning of our Caravan Project. The video and transcript would be archived with the ERHS. Scrapbooks and photos would be welcome. We got some names and addresses of other Caravaners, and soon I was sending out news and queries and invitations to tell their stories and share their memorabilia with us.

My requests came at an opportune time, it turned out, for a number of folks were downsizing their homes and asking themselves what they should do with all this stuff they had saved for 50 or 60 years. The outpouring of stories, church bulletins, pictures, newspaper clippings, brochures, schedules, and more names and addresses was gratifying and exciting. We now have at ERHS a fascinating and ever-growing collection that will tell the story of the National Youth Caravan that came out of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1948 and continued into the years of the United Church of Christ until 1968.

Some of our recent accessions:

- 1) Luther German Bible, Hamburg, 1828, from Park Ritter
- 2) UCC Historical chart, biographical information on Arthur E. Ross and other materials from Carole Ross, in memory of Arthur E. Ross
- 3) German hymnal, several books, manuscripts and lectures, photographs, from St. Paul's UCC, Attica, NY
- 4) Youth Caravan materials, including correspondence, reports, photos, and scrapbook from the 1950 Youth Caravan, given by Eileen Lischer in memory of Ethel Shellenberger and Henry Tani
- 5) Assorted items from Rev. Judith Meier, including Youth Caravan papers, a thesis written in 1951 on the Caravans donated by Arlene Umstead, and papers on St. James UCC in Tilsit, MO and St. John's UCC in Mahanoy, PA.
- 6) History of the Alleghany Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, 1918 and other materials, from Rev. Richard Taylor.
- 7) Pastoral record book and obituary of Rev. Joseph Carr, from the Penn Northeast Conference, UCC.
- 8) Two boxes of church records from St. Peter's Evangelical Congregation, St. Joseph, MI.
- 9) Four boxes of church records from Christ Church (UCC), Buffalo, NY.
- 10) Documents from the Order of Corpus Christi
- 11) Documents from c. 1904-1905 found in the parsonage wall, from Mt. Vernon Reformed UCC, Keedysville, MD
- 12) Sixteen boxes of church records from Salem UCC of Doylestown, PA.
- 13) Church records from Zion's Reformed (UCC) Church of Reading, PA.
- 14) Youth Caravan items from Elaine Ahrendt, member of the 1955 Caravan.

In Memoriam: Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, June 24, 1926 – July 30, 2014

Lowell H. Zuck, who served as Vice President of the ERHS Board of Directors for several years, died on July 30, 2014. Services were held on August 5, 2014 at Peace UCC in Webster Groves, MO.

From the Gerber Funeral Home website, we garnered the following obituary:

“Lowell Zuck was the son of Abram W. Zuck and Verdie B. Hibshman. He is preceded in death by his elder brother Nevin H. Zuck (Leah) and elder sister Evelyn Z. Martin (Wilbur). He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Maya S. Zuck, son Peter Zuck (Karen) and two grandchildren.

Born in Ephrata, PA, where his father and later his brother were Pastors in the Church of the Brethren, he received his BA degree from Elizabethtown College and his Bachelor of Divinity from Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago. At Yale University under his mentor Roland H. Bainton, he received his MA, Doctor of Sacred Theology, and

PhD. He was subsequently ordained as a minister in the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Zuck came to Eden Theological Seminary in 1955 and was the Professor of Church History there for many years, as well as serving in the Eden Archives well into his retirement. His teaching and research focused primarily on Reformation studies, particularly on Pietist and Anabaptist traditions, and he published a source book on radical Christian testimonies, *Christianity and Revolution*, as well as a biographical study of UCC Puritans, Pietists, and Unionists. Professor Zuck was well known as an historian of the various denominations that have formed the United Church of Christ. Besides being Professor Emeritus of Church History at Eden, he served as Vice President of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, editor of its *Historical Intelligencer*, and worked with the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ.”

ERHS received a generous donation recognizing Lowell Zuck from Terry & Olivia White, “in memory of our former Vice President and dedicated historian of our tradition.”

In memoriam

In addition, we have learned of the deaths of the following ERHS members:

Charles Glatfelter, 2013
W. Jorris Beckmann, lifetime member, Oct., 2013
Edwin Wenck, lifetime member, July, 2014
Richard Adams, July, 2014

Staff Changes

The last few months have been a time of transition in the ERHS Archives. During May, Dick Berg and Kathy Kuzmiak worked with Phillip, the new Archivist, and Jennifer, the new Office Manager and Archives Assistant, to help them get grounded in the wide range of archival resources and responsibilities.

At the end of May, Dick retired as Archivist after 16 years. Fortunately we continue to draw on his expertise and guidance, as well as checking in periodically with Kathy, who retired from the archives at the same time.

Phillip B. Anglin, Archivist:

I was born in the foothills of the southern Appalachian Mountains of Georgia. My parents and grandparents were simple folks who did not complete high school, but a dear group of older men and women surrounded me and encouraged me to better myself.

After high school, I attended Young Harris College, a two year Methodist college in the north Georgia mountains. I obtained a Bachelor of Arts in History from LaGrange College, a four year Methodist college in Georgia.

Upon graduation, I was granted an internship in the United States House of Representatives. From there I went on to earn a Paralegal degree and then a Master in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama. While earning this latter degree, I studied English Librarianship at Oxford

University in England, secured an internship at the library that serves the State Department, followed by a final internship in the library that serves the President of the United States, located in the Eisenhower Building in Washington, D.C.

I have worked as a public librarian at the Mobile (Alabama) Public Library, and served as the archivist for the Buford Museum in Buford, Georgia. It was while serving in this position that I was accepted into the Master in Theology program at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

Not desiring to be ordained, my plan is to combine my two Master degrees, thus becoming a Theological Librarian/Archivist. I am presently a student at Lancaster Theological Seminary while serving as the Archivist of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. I came to learn of ERHS while doing my Field Education with Richard Berg.

After a year of organizing synod and classis reports, extra copies of the Mercersburg Review, and other allied material for the Evangelical and Reformed Church, I came to have a great appreciation for a denomination whose heritage spanned the centuries. The tutelage, inspiration and counsel of Richard Berg helped me see that I was indeed called to be a theological archivist/librarian.

Additionally, I have published two books, titled *Milton County Georgia Cemeteries* and *Historic Dunwoody, Georgia Cemeteries: Silent Storytellers*, wherein I transcribed more than 15,000 tombstones.

You may reach Phillip by email at:

panglin@lancasterseminary.edu

and by phone at: 717-290-8711,

as well as the regular ERHS office email, erhs@lancasterseminary.edu and phone: 717-290-8734

Jennifer Groff, Office Manager & Archives Assistant:

I am fortunate that a two-block walk brings me to ERHS each workday. Although I do not have a theological background, I find the Archives to be a great place to combine my interests in history and research with helping people.

I have served as a librarian in school and public libraries and worked in many kinds of offices. My BA was in geography and anthropology from the University of Minnesota, and my Master of Library Science is from the State University of New York at

Albany. As office manager and archives assistant, I do a little bit of everything, including organizing files, assisting researchers in person and by phone and email, processing collections, and supporting Phillip in any way necessary to keep the Archives accessible and useful.

You may reach Jennifer by email at the regular ERHS office email:
erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

and by phone: 717-290-8734



In the Archives, from left: Jennifer, Phillip, Angela

Phillip and Jennifer feel very fortunate to have an Archives Intern with us this year!

Angela Smith, Archives Intern

I graduated from Dallas Senior High School, Dallas PA and Wilkes University Upward Bound in 2009. Then I received a B.A in Global Studies from Cedar Crest College in 2013. Currently I am a second year M.Div Student at Lancaster Theological Seminary. After completing my education at Lancaster Theological Seminary, my plan is to pursue a PhD in History, focusing on the Early Church and the Cult of the Saints. I am also in the beginning stages of the Member in Discernment process for the United Church of Christ. My home church is Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ in Allentown, PA aka "The Liberty Bell Church."

This summer I successfully completed the "Tangible Things" class at Harvard University. One of my favorite things about the class was being able to use what I was working on here at the ERHS for my class assignments. For one of our assignments I used the obituaries in the *Almanac and Year Book For the Reformed Church in the United States* to talk about the significance of the clergy's wives, none of whom are named in the obituaries.

I am an avid reader, knitter, and baker. When I am not reading for class or reading about the Early Church, I can be found with the latest New York Times Bestseller in my hands. I knit scarves for the homeless (I am always on the lookout for unwanted yarn). I love to bake for people, especially things that involve chocolate.

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, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9 am – 4 pm. If possible, call or email in advance of your visit so that we may better assist you.

717-290-8734 or erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

Find ERHS online!

The ERHS website is: www.erhs.info. We thank Chris Beldan, who donated his time in updating the site. We plan to make improvements and further updates in the coming months.

ERHS is also on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/erhistoricalsociety>. You do not have to have a Facebook account to see the page! This is updated daily with historical facts and contemporary photographs connected to our collection and the history of the E & R Church.

Have you seen Tumblr.? It is primarily a visual site, and we have a page there too:

www.erarchives.tumblr.com where we show some of the items from the ERHS archives. 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.

Do you have news to share related to the E&R history or a photograph you’d like to post on one of these sites?

Please email us at: erhs@lancasterseminary.edu

Please consider contributing articles for the next issue of the Newsletter – deadline Feb. 1, 2015

Sermon Bibliography for Dr. James E. Wagner Part One, by Phillip B. Anglin

This is an attempt to share a small glimmer of the vast number of sermons that the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society has archived. Below, one will find sermons preached by Dr. James E. Wagner, at St. Peter’s Reformed Church, now St. Peter’s UCC, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This installment begins with his trial sermon through the sermon he preached on 27 December 1931.

The sermons are arranged in chronological order, identifying the biblical text, and whether he preached the sermon during the morning or evening hour. Fortunately, for that person doing research, Dr. Wagner left detailed notes.

We hope to serialize these sermons, thus supplying our readers with the sermons he preached during the year 1932, in our next issue of the newsletter.

According to *A History of the Evangelical and Reformed Church*, authored by David Dunn, et al., James E. Wagner, served as “... President of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Co-President of the United Church of Christ, ... A native of Altoona, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Findlay College and the Lancaster Theological Seminary, he served as pastor of St. Peter’s Church, Lancaster, for twenty-two years before being called to the leadership of the denomination. With the aid of the Ecumenical Travel Fund he ... traveled to the mission fields and to Europe ... [widening] the horizons of the denomination ... to make its voice known and its influence felt in national affairs.”

August 1931

---. "The Day of Visitation." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: St. Luke 19:41-48.

Note: "This sermon preached at St. Peter's, Lancaster August 9, 1931, prior to a vote calling me to the pastorate."

October 1931

Wagner, James E.. "Taking a Spiritual Inventory." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Lamentations 3:40-58.

Note: "St. Peter's – October 4, 1931 – Preparatory Sunday: my first as supply Pastor for the month."

---. "Ulrich Zwingli – Religious Patriot." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: St. Peter's, October 18, 1931. Commemoration 400th anniversary of Zwvingli's death.

---. "The Business of Christian Living." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Ephesians 6:10-20.

Note: St. Peter's – October 25, 1931.

November 1931

---. "The Christian Obligation to be Present in the House of God." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Psalm 84.

Note: St. Peter's – November 1, 1931.

---. "The Trusteeship of Life." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 1-13; I Pet. 4:1-10.

Note: St. Peter's – November 8, 1931 – A.M."

---. "The Fight is On – For Peace!" MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Isaiah 2:2-4; Isaiah 11:1-9.

Note: St. Peter's, November 8, 1931. P.M.

---. "The Missionary Secret: A Compassionate Heart." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Matthew 9:27-38; Philippians 2:5-8.

Note: North Street, Summer, 1931.

Note: St. Peter's, November 15, 1931. "Men & Missions Sunday."

---. "The Mission of the Church." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: St. Matthew 16:13-24.

Note: St. Peter's, November 22, 1931.

---. "The Centrality of Christ." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.
Lancaster, PA.

Note: St. John 20:19-23; Revelation 7:9-17.

Note: St. Peter's, November 29, 1931. A.M.

December 1931

---. "The Word of God." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.
Lancaster, PA.

Note: "A Sermon prepared with two observances in mind: Universal Bible Sunday, and the 2nd Sunday in Advent."

Note: St. John 1:1-14; II Peter 1:15-21.

Note: St. Peter's, December 6, 1931.

---. "Toward the Finality of Jesus." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Matthew 11:1-10; Matthew 16:13-16.

Note: St. Peter's, December 13, 1931.

---. "The Manger of Might." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.
Lancaster, PA.

Note: St. Luke 2:1-20

Note: St. Peter's, December 20, 1931.

---. "Lot's Wife and the Plowman." MSS. Coll. 014, Box 003, ff. 003, Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Lancaster, PA.

Note: Genesis 19:1-3; Genesis 19:12-26; Luke 9:57-62.

Note: St. Peter's, December 27, 1931.

Do we have your email address? We will try to send newsletters and updates by email to save on postage, when possible.

Please send an email to erhs@lancasterseminary.edu so that we can update your contact information. THANK YOU!

Archives in the News

On July 29, 2014 The New York Times featured an article which demonstrated how important church archives are to preserving the history of early America:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/30/us/in-church-attics-private-life-of-early-america.html?_r=0

Although this piece focuses on the Congregational Archives, there are many similarities to our records and the interesting history contained within the collection.

Membership Note

Have you renewed your membership?

Do you know someone who might become a valued member of -- or donor to -- our organization? Please submit the Membership Form, below.

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 except for the lifetime membership. Please consider making an additional contribution to ERHS and note if it is in honor of or in memory of someone. *Thank you.*

Individual (\$25) _____
Institution (\$50) _____
Lifetime (\$250) _____
(Individuals only)

Extra donation _____
In memory of _____

Name: _____

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Email address: (this helps us cut postage costs! We will only use for occasional communication)

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