

*News
from the
Evangelical
and Reformed Historical Society*



**THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017
LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
HAFFNER CENTER, SCHAFF LIBRARY
555 WEST JAMES ST, LANCASTER, PA 17603



KEYNOTE ADDRESS ON THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
REFORMATION PRESENTED BY DR. LEE C. BARRETT

Lee C. Barrett is the Mary B. and Henry P. Stager Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary where he has taught since September 1993. Prior to this, Dr. Barrett taught theology at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. He holds B.A., M.A., M.Div., and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University. Dr. Barrett's interests include the relationship between the doctrinal traditions of the Christian churches and contemporary culture. He is the author of essays concerning the present-day implications of the theology of the Reformed tradition, as well as the thoughts of Søren Kierkegaard. He is particularly interested in the theological significance of literature and the visual arts.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 12:45PM  MEETING COMMENCES AT 1:00PM.
\$10 (Cash or Check Only, Please) at the door; Seminary students free with ID.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

1517 was a pivotal year in the history of Western civilization. It was marked by an obscure monk nailing perceived grievances against the Catholic Church to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. Martin Luther strongly felt it essential that the Catholic Church reform itself based on the Gospel of Christ. The Reformation grew out of that paper on the church door fostering many of the branches of Protestantism we know today. One of these branches was Lutheranism. Another was the Reformed Church which developed from the theology of Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin and spread through parts of Germany, Switzerland, France and Hungary. It is from these Reformed and Lutheran people that the Reformed Church in the United States, the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Evangelical and Reformed Church grew and became influential voices in the religious life of the United States.

The importance and legacy of the Reformation will be the focus of this year's annual meeting of the E & R Historical on Saturday, September 23. Dr. Lee Barrett, Professor of Theology at Lancaster Theological Seminary, will be presenting the annual lecture. Specific information about the annual meeting appears elsewhere in this issue. I encourage you to attend the lecture which will be highlighted by Lee's wisdom and wit.

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we must also recognize 2017 as a pivotal year in the life of the E & R Historical Society. A number of events and issues have surfaced this year which will influence its life and work. First, the Board accepted with regret the resignation in June of Rev. Charles Maxfield, president of the Board. Thanks and appreciation to Chuck for stepping into the presidency after the untimely death of Rev. Linda Gruber and leading the Society during the past nine months. To fill the leadership vacancy, the Board elected me as president. As I expressed to the Board, I will do my best, but the work of the Society is dependent upon the Board and all members and friends.

The second event was the announcement from our Office Administrator, Meghan Phillips, that she would be leaving that position at the end of July to accept a full-time job at the Elizabethtown Public Library. While we celebrate this move with Meghan, we will also miss her dedication to and diligence about all aspects of the work of the Society. She will be greatly missed and we will recognize her service during the annual meeting. With the help of Meghan and part-time assistant archivist, Kathy Kuzmiak, along with phone interviews I conducted, we have hired Alison Mallin to fill the office position. Alison brings museum and archive experience as well as office and computer skills. She began her work July 17. I hope you will welcome Alison when you meet or speak with her.

Important issues will also claim attention during the coming months. The Society's finances are precarious. Additional sources of funding must be found to assure financial security. Long-term staffing needs are another issue needing attention. Currently the office

position is filled, we have a part-time assistant archivist, and myself as part-time archivist spending a week at ERHS about every two months. Are these the positions needed or should we develop an alternative staffing plan? With the increasing number of donations of church records, manuscript collections, and additions to denominational records, space is also an issue. The efficient and effective use of our current space needs to be explored. An overarching issue that impacts all aspects of the life and work of the Society is marketing. We are not well known and we need to promote our story, mission, and the importance and use of our collections. To begin discussion about these and other issues, I have formed a task force of several Board members and several interested friends of the Society who will meet at the Society on Tuesday, August 8. This group will be reporting to the Board and to you, the members and friends of the Society, at the annual meeting in September.

Please keep the Society in your prayers, volunteer your time, support our work with your financial contributions, make a provision for the Society in your will, introduce your friends to the Society, encourage support among your churches. It is only through the work of all of us, that the Society will flourish.

Blessings,
Dick Berg



Reuniting the Reformed Churches

On May 4 of this year the four congregations of the Collegiate Reformed Church in the City of New York were received into the United Church of Christ by the New York Conference. This is the same local Church whose two pastors joined in the ordination of John Philip Boehm on November 23, 1729. Boehm is affectionately considered the father of the German Reformed Churches in Pennsylvania. The Collegiate Church will continue its membership in the Reformed Church in America, in which it is the largest and oldest congregation. The Collegiate Church was joined by three other congregations in the New York area in this dual alignment.

Large numbers of members of the continental Reformed churches in the Dutch and German-Swiss traditions came to America in Colonial days. The Dutch arrived in the 1620s well-funded by trading companies chartered by their government and created the Colony of New Netherlands. The German and Swiss migrants, however, were mostly refugees, fleeing from persecution, war, poverty, and starvation. Their numbers began to rise about 1710, with Boehm, a school teacher and son of a pastor, arriving in 1720. Boehm's neighbors encouraged him to lead them in worship. Initially reluctant, he consented in 1725 providing they would

formally join together. When some new arrivals protested his local ordination, his congregations appealed through the Collegiate pastors to the Classis of Amsterdam which approved the 1729 ordination.

Actually just the year before, the Reformed Consistory in the impoverished German Palatinate requested the Synod in South Holland to provide aid to their people in America. Eventually the Classis and the Synods of North and South Holland took steps to organize the American churches into two regional Coetuses, both of which were begun in 1747. The Coetus of Pennsylvania was almost entirely made up of German churches. Boehm was its first President. The Coetus of New York and New Jersey had mostly Dutch churches, but also some German-speaking and multi-lingual congregations. In effect the Coetuses were two regional judicatories of the same denomination.

After American independence the two judicatories became independent. Geographic, language, cultural, and economic difference separated the two groups. The New York and New Jersey group eventually became the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in North America, later the Reformed Church in America. The Pennsylvania group evolved into the German Reformed Church in the United States, and through two mergers became part of the United Church of Christ.

Nevertheless throughout the nineteenth century both groups were often in conversation and explored union. Both churches have participated in national and international Reformed and ecumenical alliances. The Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ, along with the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been in full communion since 1997.

"New occasions teach new duties." Perhaps, as we find common ministries and just causes the separations of centuries can begin to be healed.

Richard H. Taylor



MEET THE INTERN: CODY ASPRIL, SPRING 2017

Hello! My name is Cody, and I'm a senior Sociology/Anthropology major at Elizabethtown College. My job at the Evangelical Reformed Historic Society was to do archiving and researching for my internship.

I was born and raised in Lancaster County and been playing many sports such as wrestling, soccer, baseball, and track and field throughout the majority of my life. I just finished my final track and field meet of my college career and will be graduating from Elizabethtown College on May 20th. My plans for the future are to find a temporary summer job and apply for grad school to get a master's in public health, hoping someday I can work in the health field for

disease prevention or other similar jobs. Other goals I really want to accomplish in the future are writing research papers about the history of healthcare in the United States and someday getting involved with the World Health Organization.

For the last stretch of my internship I have been working on a research paper on the missionary impact on Japan as I found a large amount of information about this subject. I have enjoyed my time here and I learned a lot about the churches in Pennsylvania, their history, and about what church members have done in the history of that church.



Palatinate College

While processing records in the collections of the Society many interesting items pertaining to unknown, at least to me, or obscure groups, organizations and individuals are uncovered which spark curiosity. One such group was the records of Palatinate College. Although these records were processed some years ago, my interest in this educational institution was renewed recently upon reading a 1920 history of Lebanon Classis. This book, authorized by a committee of the Classis, summarizes important points from its proceedings, the originals of which are part of the Society's collection. The summaries from the mid-1860s to the mid-1890s often mention Palatinate College and provide a picture of the history of this short-lived educational institution founded by the Lebanon Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States.

The German Reformed people always valued education. Schooling was important in both German and Swiss Reformed families and most people were literate. An educated clergy was of utmost importance with most receiving a university education. When coming the American colonies, these folk usually brought with them their Bible, a hymnal, a liturgy, a devotional book and a book of published sermons. These works were read and used for family devotions and as they gathered in small groups in each other's' homes for worship. Because ordained Reformed clergy were scarce, particularly through the late-18th century, a prominent lay person, often the school master, would be prevailed upon the act as pastor conducting worship

and, in many cases, baptizing, marrying, burying, and serving communion using the books at hand.

As more German and Swiss Reformed people settled in Pennsylvania and surrounding areas, schools were often established before congregations. These parochial schools continued to be the primary source of education, both secular and religious, into the 1830s and 1840s when the public school systems became predominant. With a quickly growing number Reformed churches being established and with a critical shortage of clergy to pastor these congregations, the members and pastors felt the need to establish institutions of higher education. The parochial schools provided the foundation upon which the Reformed Church established colleges and seminaries.

The expansion of the Reformed Church into northern and western Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Maryland and points west continued during the 18th and 19th centuries where an increasing number of churches were established. To satisfy the need, primarily for more clergy but also for higher education for men and women, a number of the regional synods and classes founded colleges or preparatory schools.

Lebanon Classis began considering establishing such a school in 1854. The minutes of the annual meeting of May 19, 1854 record: "The committee appointed at the last meeting to take into mature consideration the expediency of establishing within the bounds of this Classis classical or high schools, reported in favor of the movement, and recommended the appointment of a committee to draw up a plan for the founding and conducting of such a school as is contemplated, and to receive proposals from different towns...for its location." The original minutes of the Classis may record further action on establishing a school, however the next mention of a school in the 1920 history of the Classics is a special meeting on August 28, 1866 which considered purchasing the Myerstown Academy property in Myerstown, Pennsylvania. The next year, the people of Myerstown had pledged to raise \$7000 to build a college building and specifications for it are mentioned. Accepting the offer of Myerstown, Palatinate College was established with fifteen trustees and three acres were purchased at \$300 per acre. The Classis committee for the college reported that Myerstown increased its pledge to \$10,000 and, with such a pledge, the cornerstone for the building was laid on June 10, 1867. The cost of the building was not to exceed \$15,000. Sixty students were enrolled with a faculty of two professors. While there was great enthusiasm and optimism for the success of the college, a cloud of debt hung heavily over the school. The building exceeded \$15,000 costing \$16,000 creating a debt of \$8000.

To help alleviate the debt, twenty-two people, primarily clergy, assumed it hoping that increased enrollment would provide needed funds. The number of students did increase to more than one hundred. With more students, an additional wing was needed and in 1869, to finance the wing, one hundred bonds of \$100 each were prepared bearing 6% interest payable semi-

annually. After the wing is completed the debt rose to \$11,200 even though enrollment reached 232. In 1873, the president of the college resigned and the Classis brought charges against him finding him guilty of “heinous” crimes. Rev. George W. Auginbaugh was elected president and had to deal with the mounting debt even though increased enrollment necessitated another wing being built in 1876. By 1882, although the school prospered in terms of students, the debt and interest on the debt continued to increase hampering the educational work. The debt was \$19,000 in 1884 and was apportioned among the churches in an attempt to liquidate it and put the school in better financial condition.

Later in 1884 the school is sold for \$19,000, the amount of the debt, to a group of men who formed the Board of Managers of Palatinate College Association which continued to operate the school until 1893 when they offer to sell the property back to Lebanon Classis which the Classis declined. The property was sold to the United Evangelical Church in 1895. Through mergers and splits, the school today is the Evangelical Seminary of the Evangelical Congregational Church a descendant of the United Evangelical Church.

Even though Palatinate College was short-lived, the records in the Society’s collection record all those who attended the college and some information on the course of study. Some of the graduates became ordained clergy in the Reformed Church and we can assume other graduates entered various professions and contributed the growth and prosperity of Lebanon and surrounding areas. After the Classis ceased owning the college, it focused its financial support to those established colleges and seminaries of the Reformed Church continuing its interest in education.

Rev. Richard R. Berg



RECENTLY ACQUIRED COLLECTIONS

Collections acquired in the first half of 2017 and waiting processing and cataloging include:

Records and materials from St. Luke’s Reformed Church in North Wales, PA.

Records and materials from Second Reformed Church in Reading, PA.

Church records and the history of St. Paul United Church of Christ in LaPorte, IN.

Records, materials, and artifacts from St. Peter’s United Church of Christ in Allentown, PA.



UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 Annual Meeting September 23, 2017

Hafer Center, Philip Schaff Library
Lancaster Theological Seminary
555 W. James St.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Keynote speaker: Dr. Lee Barrett

Registration begins at 12:45pm, and
meeting commences at 1:00pm.

UNIQUE FUNDRAISING EFFORT

ERHS was contacted by a local company that operates two diners in Lancaster and Lititz, and offered the opportunity to participate in a fundraiser. We will receive a small percentage as a donation when people use a swipe card (similar to those for a grocery store) as they pay their restaurant bill. 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 ERHS.



IN MEMORIAM

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

The Rev. Dr. James W. Bright, Jr. (1933 – 2017)

The Rev. Dr. Bright was a graduate Ursinus College and the Lancaster Theological Seminary. Throughout his 60 years of active ministry, he served as pastor of at St. Paul's UCC, Lancaster, PA, (now Church of the Apostles) and St. Paul's UCC, Manheim, PA, and held leadership roles on the Board for World Ministries and Bethany Children's Home. He also helped on the UCC Board for Central Atlantic Conference and served for several years as a moderator for Penn Central Conference of the UCC.

Rev. Chester Byerly (1933 – 2017)

The Rev. Mr. Byerly was a graduate of the Lancaster Theological Seminary. He served a number of churches in North Carolina until his retirement in 1996. He was a member of Heidelberg UCC in Thomasville, NC, where he taught Sunday School.

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

FIRST HALF OF 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS TO ERHS BEYOND

MEMBERSHIP

\$5.00 - \$49.00

Mrs. Betty Youngkin

\$100.00 - \$499.00

The Rev. Jay Ebersole
Emmanuel Reformed Church,
Lincolnton, NC

\$500.00 - \$999.00

Trinity UCC, East Petersburg, PA

\$50.00 - \$99.00

The Rev. Robert Aregood
The Rev. Robert Hunsicker
Mr. David Laidecker
St. Paul's UCC, Birdsboro, PA
Mr. David Wilkin

The Rev. Judith A. Meier, OCC
The Rev. Mark Steiner
Dr. Anne Thayer

\$1,000.00 +

Pennsylvania Southeast
Conference UCC

We are also grateful to the following members and friends of the Society that have contributed to the Rev. Dr. John B. Payne Memorial Fund.

The Rev. Lavon Bayler
The Rev. Lawrence R. Bolick
The Rev. Chester Byerly
Mr. Timothy Dykstra

The Rev. Donald J. Ely
Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr.
Mr. Garland Gates
The Rev. and Mrs. Harold Holste

Ms. Eileen Lischer
The Rev. Richard Taylor
Dr. Anne Thayer

MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE OF THE UCC CHURCHES CELEBRATING 150TH ANNIVERSARIES

California United Church of Christ in California, Missouri
Emmanuel United Church of Christ in Weldon Spring, Missouri
Emanuel United Church of Christ in Jackson, Missouri
St. Johns United Church of Christ (Billingsville), Boonville, Missouri
St. John's United Church of Christ in St. Charles, Missouri

If your church is celebrating a significant anniversary and would like to be included in our next newsletter, please contact ERHS at erhs@lancasterseminary.edu or call (717)-290-8734.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE ERHS

The ERHS Archives has had **24 in-person researchers** and **over 50 research requests** via snail mail and email so far this year. Research request forms are available on our website: www.erhs.info/home/research-services-permissions.

ERHS was happy to have **Cody Aspril**, a senior Anthropology and Religious Studies major from Elizabethtown College, as our intern for the spring. Cody helped Meghan sort through a large collection of materials on individual pastors, as well as new materials from churches. Cody also wrote a series of short posts for the archives' Tumblr about interesting papers and artifacts he found in our collection.

NEWS FROM THE ERHS—SOUTHERN REGION

The ERHS—Southern Region held their annual business meeting on Tuesday, May 16, at the Black Lake Retreat Center in Asheboro, NC. Here are some highlights from that meeting:

- Fifteen members were present, and they recognized the 200th anniversary of the birth of Henry Harbaugh by reading a devotional from “UCC Roots” written by ERHS President Richard Berg and singing Harbaugh’s hymn, “Jesus, I Live to Thee.”
- A financial report was shared that had been prepared by Treasurer Cynthia Buckwell, who has since resigned. The Rev. William Sowers has agreed to serve as the new Treasurer.
- Action was taken to donate \$500.00 to ERHS. Members of the Southern Region were also encouraged to donate to the memorial funds for both the Rev. Linda Gruber and the Rev. Dr. John Payne.
- The Rev. Larry Bolick also encouraged members to renew their ERHS memberships and to encourage local churches to join the Society.

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 and Wednesday, 9 am – 4 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.

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)**
- Lifetime (\$500)**
- Additional 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