

2018-2019

*Report
of the
Evangelical and
Reformed Historical Society*



This has been an exciting and positive year for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and the work to preserve and share our significant and vital history!

Part of what made this year so special has been the increasing participation, creativity, and service of a growing company of active volunteers. Scott Meyer-Kukan has been digitizing Evangelical and Reformed Yearbooks, Evangelical Kalendars, and Reformed Almanacs. Bob Hunsicker and Bill Oosterman have been translating German records into English. Russell Mitman, Homer Royer and Tim and Jean Brown have been helping to process collections. Martha Kriebel has helped research and preserve the 75 paintings in Jacob Barosin's series on the "Life of Christ." An anonymous donor has set up our first Planned Giving Annuity with United Church Funds. Other volunteers have prepared grants to provide proper shelving at the Lancaster archive, still others have staffed booths at Conference meetings, and Caroline Dunleavy and a vigorous committee are working on developing future financial resources for our work. Our first annual appeal was generously supported by many friends of the society. Share our gratitude for their service! (Incidentally, if you would like to volunteer to help in any of these ways, please call or email the Society office.)

Eden Seminary, St. John's Evangelical United Church of Christ and the Deaconess Foundation were the gracious hosts for an informative program and annual meeting in September. Scott Holl, archivist for the Evangelical Synod archives, presented a detailed and informative history of the Evangelical Synod and a four person panel outlined the history of four benevolent organizations begun by the Evangelical Synod and their continuing ministries today.

Daily activities have been carried on by our skilled staff, research questions have been answered, guests from far and wide welcomed, and colonial and closed church records were arriving to be organized and preserved.

Promise Kept With a Paintbrush

The story of a Holocaust survivor who lived to illustrate the "Life of Christ"

"Finally, after eleven years and a failed attempt to get decent photos of watercolors slowly deteriorating from mold, now the 75 paintings of the "Life of Christ," saved by Dick Berg by accepting to house them at the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, are ready to meet the public through the book "Promise Kept with a Paintbrush: The story of a Holocaust survivor who painted the 'Life of Christ.'" The watercolors are "preserved" via a copyrighted CD which, along with the book, is available for sale through the ERHS with the proceeds benefitting the Society.

"As I was doing research for the book, more and more tangent stories were and are still being discovered: The Leo Baeck Institute in NYC and Dr. Frank Mecklenburg; renewed conversations with Jewish friends who are celebrating not only the work of the Jewish artist, Jacques/Jacob Barosin, but that his portrayal of Christ can invite dialogue between Jews and Christians; the role the Evangelical and Reformed staff working out of 1515 Race St., Philadelphia, and Eden Seminary, especially Rev. Dr. Oscar Rumpf, played in commissioning and then displaying the work beginning in 1951; and most of all the witness of French Christians (the Reformed Church) who risked their lives to shelter Jewish refugees during World War II; and the realization that the "Three Loves" and all the social ministries of the United Church of Christ are a carrying forward of the witness and commitment of those who have gone before us. The past carried into the present."
The Rev. Dr. Martha Bean Kriebel



Historical Society 2018 Annual Meeting

The Evangelical and Reformed Society met in St. Louis, Missouri on September 21-22, 2018 attended largely by local church members from the surrounding area. The weekend had been coordinated by local Board members: Mr. Lorin Cope, member of St. Paul's UCC, St. Louis and Ms. Joy Dressel, a member of St. Lucas UCC, St. Louis and their hosting committee. A very special thanks to them for making this weekend happen.

The highlights of the Annual Business Meeting were as follows:

- Budget for ERHS Archives at LTS-Archives \$45,455
- The Board was authorized to pursue the proposed change in governance from membership based to board based.
- The following board committees were established: Development, Archives, Finance, Annual Meeting Planning
- A Proclamation of Appreciation was read for out-going Board Members: Dale Taylor Bennett, Rev. Harold Wayne Holste, Frances Slingluff and Rev. Cheryl A. Stoneback for their years of service to the Society
- Next Annual Meeting tentatively set for September 20-22, 2019 in Cleveland at UCC Church House and a local church



During 2018 there were 120 research requests and 22 record groups processed!

We also wish to thank the following organizations and individuals for depositing or donating archival collections to the ERHS in 2018

Katherine Skipper and Mrs. Merle Hodges -1st Reformed Church Lexington, North Carolina.

William Justice –Church Records of Ridge Valley Reformed Church, Sellersville, PA

Dolores Rupley –Personal Papers from Frederick A. Rupley Sr. and Jr.

Marta Hanahan – Church Records of Grace United Church of Christ, York, PA

Barbara Jennings –Church Records of Trinity United Church of Christ, Coplay, PA

Laura H. Golden - Personal Papers of Alton Wilbert Barley and Arthur Wilbert Barley.

Martha Kriebel - Personal papers, clippings and photographs of Rev. Martha Kriebel

William Whitehouse – Church Records of Trinity United Church of Christ, Leesport, PA

Cheryl McGraw, Western Reserve Association – Church Records of Williard United Church of Christ (Akron, Ohio) - 1914-2018

Jack Webb - Research Book of the German Reformed Cemetery, Grace U. C. C. Greencastle, PA

Faith - Trinity United Church of Christ (Warren, MI)

Zion German Reformed Church (Detroit, MI)

Charitable Gift Annuity Challenge

A Charitable Gift Annuity has been set up for ERHS with United Church Funds. The anonymous donor challenges other friends of the ERHS to do the same. The name of the current donor will not be revealed until at least two other Charitable Gift Annuities are set up.

For more information or to arrange for a Charitable Gift Annuity contact Matthew Wagner of United Church Funds and ERHS Board member, matt.wagner@ucfunds.org or contact United Church Funds directly at 475 Riverside Drive Suite 1020, New York, NY 10115 (212) 729-2600 or go to their website; <https://ucfunds.org>

The ERHS is a non-profit organization authorized by the E & R Church after the 1934 merger of the Reformed Church and the Evangelical Synod. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and make available the records of the E & R tradition and promote the use of these resources for historical research. The Society will consult with Conferences, Associations, and local churches about the disposition of their records including depositing their records with either the Central Archives located at Lancaster Theological Seminary (Lancaster, PA) or the Archives of the Evangelical Synod located at Eden Theological Seminary (Webster Groves, MO). Please contact the Society office for further information.

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