

THE Schwenkfeldian

Winter 2024



Dr. Chester David Hartranft
Hartford Theological Seminary President
Originator of *Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum* project

THE Schwenkfeldian

Editor's Note

The Schwenkfeldian is an archive of church history and activities. Do you have suggestions? Feel free to contact us anytime at info@schwenkfelder.org.

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Dr. Hartranft had remarkable success as a teacher. It was an inspiration to work under his leadership. He made every man feel that he ought to do his best and do it all the time. He did not say that in so many words, but we knew that is what he meant. He made us ashamed to do anything below our best because of the inspiration of the tremendous energy he put into his work.

~ C.M. Geer – Dept. of Church History, Hartford Theological Seminary.

Sadie Kriebel, Schwenkfelder Ambassador

by Candace K. Perry
Curator of Collections, Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center

Since the idea of a Schwenkfelder Historical Library first came to fruition in the late nineteenth century, there have been many Schwenkfelder descendants who have made it their mission to disseminate information about the group to the wider community. Their names are well known to anyone who has read books about Schwenkfelders or local history published in the twentieth century.

Howard W. Kriebel, a Hereford Township, Berks County-born Schwenkfelder wrote *The Schwenkfelders in Pennsylvania* in 1904, a book that stands today as an excellent reference on the group's settlement in the state.

Rev. Elmer E.S. Johnson, a contemporary of Howard W. Kriebel's, became "custodian" of the Schwenkfelder Historical Library and became a significant figure in Pennsylvania German cultural preservation. Rev. Johnson's sister-in-law, Selina Schultz, wrote important books on Schwenckfeld and Schwenkfeldianism that are very accessible to the average reader.

In the 1950s, Andrew Berky was appointed Director of the Schwenkfelder Library and embarked on more outreach to the community at large than had occurred in many years. He launched a very active publishing program with several books, including *The Journals and Papers of David Shultze* and *An Account of Some Hosensack Valley Mills* that continue to be superb references for local history.

These individuals share commonalities that helped bring knowledge of this small, fairly obscure German Protestant group into the greater Pennsylvania German sphere. They all had some degree of higher education, for example. One quite different person, however, would become a Schwenkfelder ambassador in the mid-twentieth century, and in many observers' minds, became synonymous with Schwenkfelder culture. That person was Mrs. Homer S. or Sadie (Krauss) Kriebel (1906-1998).

Sadie was born into a family that had Schwenkfelder heritage in their backyard. Sadie's father, Oscar Krauss, owned the same farm as his ancestors that straddled the boundary of Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County, and Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. On the property was the old log house nicknamed the Krauss Palace, which had been built by his immigrant ancestor Balthasar Krauss before 1750.



The house still stood in the 1920s. Annie (Hoffman) Krauss, Oscar's wife, and Sadie's mother, did the family laundry in old iron kettles in the old house's large hearth. Oscar made a model of the house out of crates and tree branches that shows the layout of the interior of the house (the model is now in the collection of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center) at some point before or after the house was finally razed.

The family—Oscar, Annie, Sadie, and her three younger sisters, Eva, Minnie, and Ella—were very active members of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church. Sadie, who left school after the 8th grade, participated in state-certified Sunday School teacher training at Palm before she married. The Palm Choir, the United Schwenkfelder Choir, the Palm Ladies' Aid, Christian Endeavor, and various other committees in the church would all benefit from Sadie's dedication and hard work.

In 1927, Sadie married Homer S. Kriebel, a man 14 years older than she and a son of the Kriebel Dairy family of Hereford Township. Their only daughter, Helen Rose, came along in 1932.

It was in the 1950s when Sadie began to establish herself as an ambassador for the Schwenkfelders. The Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival, established in 1950 by three scholars of Pennsylvania Dutch folklife — Alfred Shoemaker, J. William Frey, and Don Yoder — presented opportunities for individuals representing the various groups within the culture to come together to give visitors a glimpse into their lives, both past and present. Newspaper accounts of the festival indicate that Sadie, her sister Eva (Krauss) Long, and their aunt Katie (Krauss) Bieler participated in the festival in 1955 wearing what came to be known as "Schwenkfelder garb" and presenting Schwenkfelder cake to the masses.

This may have been one of the first appearances of women's Schwenkfelder garb. The costume consisted of a plain black ankle-length cotton dress or a skirt and collarless bodice, a white apron, a white kerchief, and a white cap. The garments appear to have been inspired by the photograph of three Schwenkfelder matrons by Berks County photographer H. Winslow Fegley that was printed in the 1923 *Genealogical Record of the Schwenkfelder Families*. The matrons' clothing, however, were garments they or their mothers may have worn in their youth. The eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century Schwenkfelders had no dress conventions that they adhered to, beyond the expectation of being conservative and not standing out from their peers. Sadie and the other Schwenkfelder women at the 1959 Pennsylvania Dutch Folk Festival participated in a "plain" fashion parade with other sectarian women, even though the Schwenkfelders were not plain, and the costume was not based in fact.

Sadie made another national splash in the 1950s when she appeared in the October 1955 issue of *The American Home* magazine in her Schwenkfelder garb with her recipe for Schwenkfelder cake. In the 1950s this magazine was at the height of its popularity with a circulation of three million. Sadie was probably the first practicing Schwenkfelder to appear in a mass-marketed publication.

From the 1950s forward, Sadie served on many committees and often did presentations on subjects that were near and dear to her heart, such as baking, quilting, farm-related topics, and Schwenkfelder and local folk culture. Her culinary abilities were well known locally. An Allentown *Morning Call* article from September 14, 1963, on the now-defunct Upper Perkiomen Fair reported that Sadie had won the most blue ribbons of any contestant for "canned, dried, and baked goods." She ably led the Palm Ladies' Aid in the making of chow-chow and other items that were (and still are) sold as fundraisers. The culinary historian William Woys Weaver interviewed Sadie about her garden in the 1990s and acquired examples of her "climbing baby lima" that were included in her chow-chow recipe. The seeds are now in the Roughwood Center for Heritage Seedways collection.



FIXING CHOW (CHOW) — Two members of the Ladies Aid Society of the Palm Schwenkfelder Church are making chow-chow in preparation for the church's annual fall festival 3-9 p.m. Aug. 27. The women are Mrs. Leon B. Long, pouring vinegar, and Mrs. Homer Kriebel, mixing the concoction.

In the Bicentennial year of 1976, Sadie and her husband Homer participated in the Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife in Washington, D.C.—this time not focused on Sadie's activities, but on Homer's. The couple demonstrated traditional basket-making for festival attendees. Sadie's father Oscar also made baskets, so perhaps Homer learned the craft from him.

Sadie participated in all the Goschenhoppen Folk Festivals from its beginnings in 1966 to nearly the end of her life in 1998. As shown in the 1978 photo from *Pennsylvania Folklife* (volume 45, number 3), in the earlier years of the Festival she demonstrated milking. In her later years, she was posted at the quilt frame. Quilting was long a part of Sadie's life, and she became a significant resource for the late Nancy Roan, a founding member of the Goschenhoppen Historians, when she wrote her book on Pennsylvania German quilts, *Lest I Should be Forgotten*. The book, published in 1993, is dedicated to Sadie.

Sadie provided Nancy with information specifically about quilt-making in the Upper Perkiomen Valley that has become essential to the understanding of local quilt history in the twentieth century. In an August 1992 interview with Nancy, Sadie discussed common quilt designs in the region and the names she knew them by. "Lone Star" is a single large star on a quilt. Sadie said, "Some people call the Lone Star a Rising Sun, but the Rising Sun has smaller stars in the corners and half stars in the side areas." Sadie also told Nancy, "You need four colors and three shades of each of those colors," to construct the Rising Sun stars. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center collections staff uses Sadie's quilt names when identifying quilts in the collection.



Sadie Kriebel, wife of Homer Kriebel, milks the Festival cow in 1978. She has participated at all the Festivals thus far, and at home on her farm she helped with the milking until she was eighty-five.

Over the years Nancy Roan gained so much respect and affection for Sadie that she spearheaded Sadie's nomination for a Women's Caucus for Art Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997, specifically for her "life-long commitment to the art of quilt-making." In the awards booklet, Sadie is described as "an embodiment of the spirit of rural American women." This honor came one year before Sadie passed away, an enormously fitting tribute to a woman who had been a standard-bearer for the dissemination of Schwenkfelder culture and the education of others in culinary arts, quilting, and more, though she only had grade-school education herself.

Sadie died on July 27, 1998, preceded in death by her husband Homer, her daughter Helen, her sister Minnie, and her sister Eva, who passed just a few months earlier. We are fortunate to have had her friend Nancy Roan to document her life, albeit briefly, so that her important legacy to Schwenkfelder and Pennsylvania German heritage is not forgotten.

Sadie Krauss Kriebel

We Honor You



Sadie Krauss Kriebel symbolizes the spirit of America's past. At ninety years of age, her life represents a part of American history that has all but disappeared as our country reaches itself for the new millennium. Born on July 29, 1906, near the village of Kraussdale in Lehigh County, Kriebel's ancestors immigrated to Pennsylvania in the 1730s fleeing religious oppression in Silesia. Of the culture that is now known as Pennsylvania German, her forebears were members of a minority sect, the Schwenkfelders (followers of the beliefs of Caspar Schwenkfeld). Although her family had been in this country for seven generations, Kriebel spoke only Pennsylvania German when she entered the one-room Kraussdale School. This was not uncommon at the beginning of the century, but Kriebel recalls that her first teacher placed her next to a girl who only spoke English, thereby providing an incentive to learn the language.

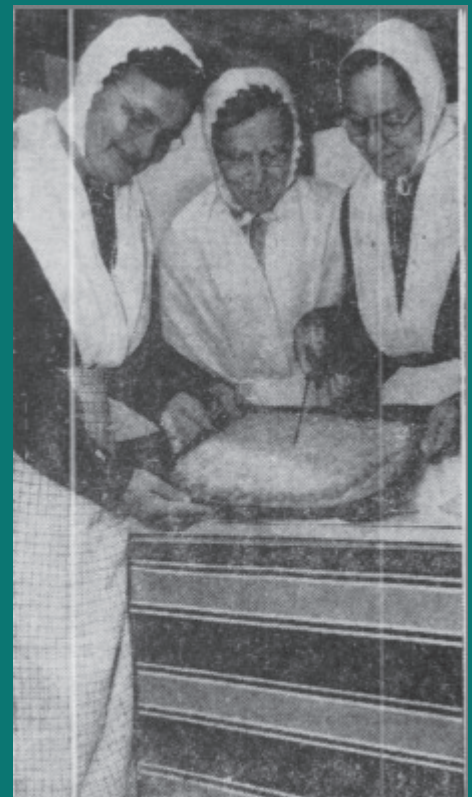
We honor you, Sadie Krauss Kriebel, as an embodiment of the spirit of rural American women. Your devotion to the institutions in your life -- your family, farm, church, and folk culture -- has made your life one of work and service, the results of which have brought joy, life, livelihood, comfort, and knowledge to others. You have served as a link between our time and the folk beliefs, practices, customs, and dialect of your Pennsylvania German heritage. We honor you especially for your life-long commitment to the art of quilt-making. With your extensive knowledge of quilting traditions, you have preserved for posterity beautiful examples of this domestic folk art. In sharing your knowledge and wisdom with others, your accomplishments have received their deserved recognition through the scholarly efforts and publications of the folklife community.

Born into a farm family, Kriebel, the oldest of four sisters, was expected to do her share of farm chores, including both barn and field work. Her desire to attend high school was overruled by her family's economic situation; her labor was needed to support her immediate family as well as her two grandparents. In 1927 she married a local school

IT'S FOR REAL

- *Schwenkfelder Saffron Cake*

MRS. HOMER S. KRIEBEL of Hereford, Pennsylvania like so many good Pennsylvania Dutch cooks, knows "by the feel of it" just how to whip up foods that'll set your mouth to watering. But since the feel of any recipe is difficult to describe, Mrs. Kriebel has put down in more conventional terms just the way she goes about making her delicious Schwenkfelder Saffron Cake. This rich yellow saffron-flavored dish, a raised yeast cake (or coffee bread) came originally from across the Atlantic in Silesia. Cakes and such are highly popular among the Pennsylvania Dutch who make a habit of eating dessert with every meal, and often more than one dessert. And whether you say "*koom essa*" or "Come and get it," this cake helps get 'em there.



Schwenkfelder Dutch women cut into appetizing saffron at Kutztown Folk Festival. They are, left to right, Mrs. Homer S. Kriebel, Herford and Mrs. Katie Bieler and Mrs. Leon Long, East Greenville.

WHAT IS THE *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum*?



From time to time, we hear the term *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum* used in church literature. Just what does this phrase mean? It is two Latin-based words put together. **Corpus** is defined as: a collection of written texts, especially the entire works of a particular author or a body of writing on a particular subject and **Schwenckfeldianorum** refers to Caspar Schwenckfeld.

In 1884, at the Gedächtnis Tag (Memorial Day) service held at the Worcester Schwenckfelder Church, Dr. Chester Hartranft in his address to the attendees, suggested that it would be very appropriate that the Schwenckfelders in America attempt to secure copies of Schwenckfeld's documents and compile those works in a manner similar to the works of Luther and Zwingli. Imagine recommending finding documents that were 350 years old and then being able to read them. And amazingly the challenge was accepted!

A committee of five people was named, and they met for the first time on November 21, 1884. The committee consisted of Rev. Joshua Schultz, Prof. Howard W. Kriebel, Rev. George K. Meschter, Rev. William S. Anders, and Samuel K. Anders. The group was not designated as a Board, but rather as an exploratory committee.

The first order of business was to determine how much interest there was in the community for such a project and to determine the approximate cost. By year end both the upper and lower districts responded favorably toward proceeding on the project.

Dr. Chester Hartranft was chosen to lead the group that would do document research in Europe. He was a professor at the Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut and well qualified for the job. He received a leave of absence from the school and moved to Wolfenbüttel, Germany, where the library there had a large amount of Schwenckfeld's papers.

Hartranft's first objective was to prepare a "feasibility study." This would encourage donors to contribute to a fund that would pay the expenses of compiling and publishing the material. When he arrived in Wolfenbüttel, he discovered that the amount of documentation was much larger than he expected. He put forth a plan to produce 16 volumes at a sell price of \$6 per volume (at 1880 dollar rates).

Dr. Hartranft and his team had a lot of material to sift through and the effort got seriously bogged down. Apparently, Hartranft organized a lot of the material for the anticipated 16-volume set before printing a single volume. Fifteen years elapsed, there was nothing published yet, and Hartranft was approaching the age of 65 and slowing down. In Pennsylvania, it was determined that a change of course was needed. Rev. Elmer E. S. Johnson was recommended to be the person to go to Wolfenbüttel and take over the program. So, in 1904, Elmer,



Chester David Hartranft

wife Agnes, and infant son Rolland left for Germany. It is not clear that Hartranft knew that Johnson was coming to take over the project, which may have upset Chester. Elmer's job was to get something completed and printed and to that end, Volume 1 finally appeared in the Fall of 1907.

The first volume had a brief outline of the life of Caspar Schwenckfeld and an explanation of the purpose of the bound set of documents to be published. It included an eleven-point summary noting Schwenckfeld's dogmatic system, his relation to the Reformation, and his accomplishments. It then took up analyzing seven early letters, culminating with a letter to Jacob von Salza, Bishop of Breslau, in 1524. A review of this initial volume appeared in the March 1908 issue of *The Schwenckfeldian* that offered more details on the content and value of the *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum*.

The Johnsons returned to the United States in 1907 to drum up additional subscribers for the *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum* and then departed for Germany, once again, this time with sister-in-law Selina Gerhard, who would initially act as secretary to the group. Dr. Hartranft's health began to decline and he died December 30, 1914. Elmer had 10 years invested in the program and Selina had 5 years when the threat of war involving Germany loomed in their future. [There are other accounts about this time frame involving Elmer, Agnes, Selina, and Rolland that have appeared in *the Schwenckfeldian* issues of Spring 2023, Spring 2019, and Winter 2016]

With the chaos and inflation that occurred in post-war Germany, the operations were transferred to Pennsburg, PA. Once relocated in the United States, there were other distractions that slowed progress on the project. Selina Schultz Gerhard married Eugene Schultz and became Selina Gerhard Schultz in December 1919. Dr. Elmer Johnson was pulled toward other endeavors and Selina took on most of the workload. She lived with her husband in Washington, D.C., summered with him in Presque Isle, Maine, and gave birth to two children during that decade, a son in January of 1922 and a daughter six years later.

By 1926, all of the work was now in Selina's hands and a new completion target date was set for the bicentennial year of 1934. Interestingly, the books were still being printed in Germany. This required that the printed proofs be sent to the United States for editing and correcting.

The Schwenkfelders in 1890 acquired Caspar Schwenckfeld's personal Bible with his notes in the margins. Selina, sometimes with a magnifying glass in hand, did her best to interpret his handwriting in German and Latin. She almost single-handedly kept the project moving forward.

Rev. Lester K. Kriebel, after spending some time in Europe, came home and joined the staff which propelled work at a faster pace. Manuscripts for Volumes 16 to 18 were in Leipzig, Germany, when World War II broke out and the printing house there sustained bomb damage. One thousand copies of Volume 15 were destroyed along with hundreds of copies of earlier volumes. Fortunately, a pastoral contact in Leipzig took the manuscripts to his home for safekeeping. Russia eventually took over the city and the reproduction work was lost.

After the war, arrangements were made to continue the printing in a city in Göttingen, West Germany. Perhaps uniformity in design, paper, fonts, binding, etc. was a consideration for retaining a German printing house instead of bringing the job to the United States. The 19th and final volume, was completed in 1961 on the 400th anniversary of Schwenckfeld's death in Ulm. All 1,252 known documents had been "brought more fully to light."



The source for much of this article came from *Twentieth Century Schwenkfelders, A Narrative History*, published in 1984 by W. Kyrel Meschter. A more thorough treatise of the *Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum* appears there.

There is another background story of the *Corpus Schwenkfeldianorum* by Rev. Leslie Kearney (now Mamas) in *The Schwenkfeldian Winter* 2012 issue.



Herzog August Bibliothek - Wolfenbüttel, Germany



Profile of Chester David Hartranft

Chester David Hartranft was born on October 15, 1839, in Frederick, Pennsylvania, the son of Samuel and Salome (Stetler) Hartranft and a descendant of Tobias Herterranft. Chester graduated in 1856 from Central High School, Philadelphia. Subsequently, he entered the University of Pennsylvania from which he graduated in 1861. He first leaned toward the law as a profession, then turned to history, and finally entered the Reformed Dutch Seminary, New Brunswick, New Jersey, graduating in 1864. That same year, Hartranft married Anna Frances Berg, daughter of Rev. John F. Berg. Anna died in January 1904, and on November 22, 1911, he married her sister, Ida Thomas Berg.

For a time during the Civil War, Chester Hartranft was captain in the 18th Pennsylvania Volunteers, but saw no active service. In 1866, he became pastor of the First Reformed Dutch Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey. While there he gained a high reputation, not only as a preacher and organizer, but also as a patron of music.

In 1878, Hartranft was called to the Hartford Theological Seminary and began his duties there as professor of ecclesiastical history. When, in 1892, a chair of Biblical theology was created, he was appointed to fill it, and in 1898, he was transferred to the chair of ecclesiastical dogmatics. For eight years he also served as librarian. In 1888 the office of president was re-established, and he was titular head of the institution until 1903. He was also active in promoting the musical, educational, and social interests of Hartford.

Chester Hartranft was known as a man of powerful personality and a capable director. As president of the Hartford Theological Seminary, he brought about great changes in the plan and scope of the school. He made the curriculum an inclusive, unified scheme of instruction, sought to put it on an undenominational basis, opened the regular courses to women, added a school of church music and one of sociology, and increased the Seminary's material resources. He was also an able organist and violinist. In 1861 Rutgers College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Music.

The Rest of the Story

August Friedrich Heinrich Schneider (1806-1890) was a precursor to Dr. Chester D. Hartranft and the *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum*. Schneider's article on Schwenckfelder hymnists up to Daniel Sudermann was published in the 1857 annual report of the high school at which he taught English. Schneider contacted many libraries, archives, and antiquarian book dealers to locate and catalog as many Schwenckfeld prints and manuscripts as possible. He put together a genealogical record of the Schwenckfelders in Lower Silesia, including baptisms, weddings, and funerals, besides the dates when Schwenckfelders left Harpersdorf, Langneundorf, and Lauterseifen for safer habitats. His genealogy records approximately 1,200 Schwenckfelders between the early and late 1700s. In the early 1900s Hartranft's team in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, found Schneider's research records an invaluable resource.

It is of great interest then that Dr. Hartranft had hardly settled down to his work (in Connecticut) when a part of the late Oberlehrer A. F. H. Schneider's library, which the Hartford Theological Seminary had acquired by purchase, came under his investigating eye. While Hartranft was turning over the leaves of one of these books, Dr. A. C. Thompson of Boston came into the library and beheld the books, and to the amazement of the one and the surprise of the other, Dr. Thompson recognized the autograph of Friederich Schneider with whom he had roomed while a student in Berlin forty years before.

This was Dr. Hartranft's introduction to Schwenckfeld, whose name before this had only been familiar to him as he had come upon it in such church histories as chose to make mention of him. Dr. Hartranft was not then aware that he, too, was a son of the Pennsylvania Pilgrims of 1734.

Now, jumping ahead – Hon. Christopher Heydrick and Major General John F. Hartranft took the first step to secure Dr. Chester Hartranft to deliver the oration at the Sesquicentennial exercises of the landing of the Schwenckfelders in Pennsylvania to be held September 24, 1884. The full committee of arrangements for the Sesquicentennial of the Schwenckfelders in 1884 consisted of Daniel S. Schultz, Esq.; Rev. Howard Kriebel; Joseph Schultz from the Upper District; David S. Heebner; Samuel K. Anders; Rev. Wm. S. Anders from the Lower District; in addition, the committee included the Hon. William A. Yeakle, the Hon. C. Heydrick and Major General John F. Hartranft.

This committee elected as orator of the day, Prof. Chester D. Hartranft, D. D., who accepted the signal honor. And by the 27th of August 1884, he had become so thoroughly enthused over Schwenckfeld that he issued a printed circular letter to all Schwenckfelder communities suggesting the publication of the *Corpus Schwenckfeldianorum*. How can one refrain from quoting here these lines from that noble appeal: "The world has let Schwenckfeld sleep for over three hundred years, and has never yet done him justice..."

~ Taken from pages of Nov. 1909 issue of *The Schwenckfeldian*



J. F. HARTRANFT
 AND THE SCHWENKFELDER EXPERIENCE
 IN THE CIVIL WAR
September 24, 2022 to May 15, 2023



...ing, 10 Years of



Goode Market

Resolution of Gratitude

At the October 2, 2023, business meeting, the Board of Directors of the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center recognized the 25th anniversary of Candace K. Perry's tenure as Curator of Collections. She has contributed immeasurably to making the Heritage Center a nationally recognized museum of the highest caliber by cataloging the collection and making it available to all on-line and by promoting the Heritage Center with such programs as the Penn Dry Goods Market and Tea & Textiles with Caroline.

Candace also has represented the Heritage Center through her lectures and activities in the community, such as speaking at Life Long Learning in Upper Perkiomen and joint projects with the Goschenhoppen Historians and the Mennonite Heritage Center. Anyone who has visited the Heritage Center has been a beneficiary of her abiding affection for it and her passion for the subject matter.

Candace's enthusiasm for the Pennsylvania German culture is partially due to being raised in Robesonia, Berks County. Her first professional jobs, however, took her south. After obtaining a M.A. in American History/ Museum Studies from Duquesne University, she held collection positions with the Museum of the Albemarle in North Carolina as well as the Filson Club Historical Society and the Kentucky Derby Museum in Kentucky. Since arriving at the Heritage Center in Pennsburg, Candace has become the expert on the material culture of the Schwenkfelders, with a specialty in textiles.

The Life and Times of Fred Seipt

by Vernon K. Seipt

This past May our family lost someone very special to us. On May 9th, 2023, Fred Seipt passed into eternity just one day shy of his 89th birthday. Fred was well known and well loved by his family, his church, and his community. In the following paragraphs I will attempt to summarize his energetic and faith-filled life so that you may know him, at least a little bit as I did.

Fred was born on May 10th, 1934, in the same farm house where his two older siblings were born. Elaine was born in 1927 and Don in 1928. Their parents, Wilbur and Mabel, were married in 1926 and had purchased the farm in that same year where they would raise their family. (It came to be known later, well after the purchase, that this very property had been under Seipt ownership at an earlier time.) Having recently graduated from Penn State with a degree in Dairy Husbandry, Wilbur, the son of a banker, began his career as a dairy farmer setting the course for Fred, his older brother Don, and both their families for years to come.

The early years for Fred were filled with farm chores and responsibilities that undoubtedly formed the foundation for his strong work ethic. Along with that work ethic came a love for working the land, growing crops, and tending the animals. Fred's lifespan covered a period in which agriculture had gone from horse-drawn wagons and ploughs to GPS guided self-driving tractors. That era also progressed from hand milking each cow twice a day to robotic milking machines that serve the cow on her own schedule. While he never personally experienced these newest innovations, he had plenty of experience with many of the stages leading there. Dad was never afraid of progress.

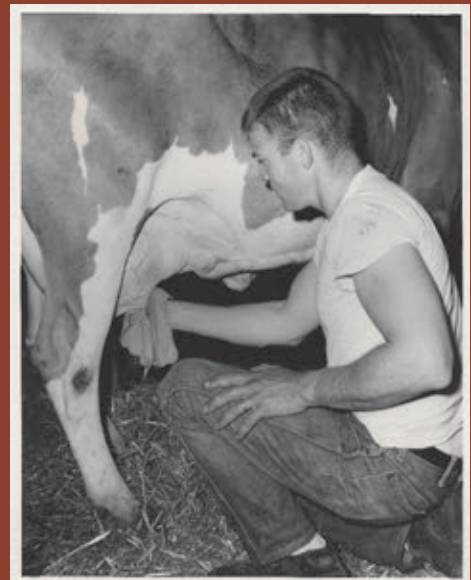
Fred had always been very active socially. All through his youth he was involved with sports, music (both trumpet and church choir) and the church youth group, Christian Endeavor, which in the early years was conducted at the Towamencin Schwenkfelder Meetinghouse. The County 4-H program was also a big part of Dad's experience where he had projects in both dairy and swine. These foundational interests guided him throughout his life and served as precursors for the many commitments and challenges that he embraced.

Dad attended the Towamencin grade school in Kulpsville up through the 8th grade, where the Principal at the time was J. Henry Specht, for whom the school would later be named. He then graduated to Lansdale High where he spent time in the band playing his trumpet under the tutelage of the well-known Director "Bolly" Thompson. Fred also shared his trumpet playing talent at church, joining with friends like Ken Kriebel, Bob Kratz and Sam Beyer in various ensembles.

Graduating from Lansdale High in 1952, Fred went on to follow his father and older brother in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in



Young Fred, circa 1945



Preparing to milk one of his Guernsey cows



Fred (L) consults with son Matt (R) about tractor mechanical issues



Fred poses by the Dairy Store road sign for a feature article in a farm publication

Dairy Husbandry at Penn State. Of course, Fred entertained a high level of involvement in many school activities at college. Membership in the Dairy Science Club, the Dairy Judging Team, The Coaly Society, Lions Paw, and Alpha Zeta Fraternity were just some of his affiliations. The most consequential event of Dad's college career, however, was meeting and getting to know his beloved Joanne. Joanne was born and raised in Washington D.C. Her father was originally a college professor and later he travelled the world as an often-published photographer for the National Geographic Magazine. Coming from "relatively" high society, Joanne's parents weren't quite sure what to expect of this farm boy from Pennsylvania. I suppose that in the end it all worked out quite nicely. Fred and Joanne were married on June 23rd, 1956, in Washington D.C., spent their honeymoon on Cape Cod and then came home to the farm in Lansdale. This was quite a transition for a city girl from D.C.

After college, brother Don married and moved to his new wife, Geraldine's, home farm, near Easton PA, where he began his dairy farming career with his father-in-law. Anticipating Fred's graduation from Penn State and return home, Wilbur knew that he needed to expand the home farming operation to accommodate a second family. As it happened, the untimely and unexpected death of Norman Anders in 1954, brought a neighboring farm up for sale. (Norman Anders, also a Schwenkfelder, was the father of Ellis Anders [the Anders Property at Central], Gladys Rittenhouse, and the grandfather of Nancy Palmer). Fortunately, Wilbur and Mabel were able to purchase the property, which allowed for a needed expansion of the farm acreage, and which eventually became Freddy Hill Farms.

Fred, with his newly minted education, his drive to make things better, and his innate ability to balance risk and reward, set out on a course that would define his business career.

Throughout Dad's life there was a constant desire to improve and change things for the better. He instilled this focus on those around him, whether it be his sons on the farm or his contemporaries at church or in the many organizations in which he was involved.

Fred's drive toward improvement was nowhere more obvious than in the development of his farm business. Dad had no sooner purchased the farm operation and dairy herd from his father, when he was looking for improvement and expansion. The first bold move was toward retail, capitalizing on state milk pricing regulations that allowed certain advantages to dairy farmers who would process and sell milk directly to the public. Feeling confident with the farm's location, Mom and Dad stepped out and built a milk processing facility and retail dairy and convenience store in 1972, and thus Freddy Hill was born.

Growing the retail business while also managing the dairy herd and crop acreage was certainly a challenge, but Fred and Joanne tackled all obstacles as they came. As the boys started filtering back after college, a partnership was formed and many of the farm duties were divided. Even with the workload lightened, there were now more families to support and so the business needed to grow.

Although hand dipped ice cream had always been on the menu at Freddy Hill, homemade ice cream was ever only a dream. Increasingly discouraged with changing suppliers and erratic quality, and yet growing demand, the family looked toward improving the ice cream service for our customers. In 1988, the dairy store underwent a major addition providing a new seating area and expanded service area for the ice cream loving public. In conjunction with this new building, it seemed a good time to start making our own homemade ice cream. With a little bit of training through the Penn State Ice Cream Short Course and some used equipment, Freddy Hill now had "homemade" ice cream available.

At the same time that the new ice cream parlor opened, the petting zoo also took on a new life. Previously, two or three calves were housed in a small paddock adjacent to the dairy store, allowing the public to observe and interact during the summer months. As an improved attraction, Freddy's Flock was created. The new and improved petting zoo housed a variety of farm and nonfarm animals including a bison, white tailed deer, elk, alpacas, and emus in addition to the usual farmyard stock. Calves, sheep, goats, pigs, and a pony all called the zoo home. Freddy's Flock was a successful people pleaser for many years.

Fred had often said that in order to be successful in business you need to change and adapt, or you will die. In that light, the family began to consider growth options that would capitalize on the successful ice cream business. At some point in the late 1980's, son Matthew floated the notion of building a family entertainment center, including miniature golf, batting cages, and a driving range. After much research and an epic battle with the township for approval, Freddy's Family Fun Center opened in July of 1991. The success of the fun center was almost immediate, becoming a community favorite that has flourished for over thirty years.

Hopefully, most Christian businesspeople can conduct their business guided by their convictions. Not every business owner has the opportunity to share those convictions in a public way. Shortly after the Fun Center was built, Fred recognized how well suited the mountain mini golf course would be as a backdrop for a Passion Play. Taking the idea very seriously, daughter Marilyn set out to write the script for such a presentation. Rev. Karen Gallagher, from Central Schwenkfelder Church, was quick to help Marilyn develop the play and enlist the cast and crew from the church. 1995 saw the first of many Easter Story presentations that were open and advertised to the public. Having the opportunity to share the story of Christ with the public in this way has been a source of pride for Fred and indeed the whole family.

When the ship *Saint Andrew* docked at Penn's Landing in 1734 the ship's log was filled with Kriebels, Heebners, Meschters and Yeakels. There were also a few Seibts. David Seibt (spelling has changed – Seipt) was one of those original immigrants to whom we can trace our lineage. Being a "boat person" in the Schwenkfelder Church has always been a source of great pride for Fred and has had a great impact on his faith journey and commitment to his Lord and the Schwenkfelder denomination. Fred was always deeply involved at church and has inspired his family to be as well. His church life spanned the early years at Towamencin Meetinghouse in the youth group and youth choirs, through the transition to the new Central Schwenkfelder Church in 1949 and beyond. (It is rumored that Fred and his good friend Lowell Rothenberger dedicated the new church in their own teenage way by climbing the scaffolding all the way to the top of Central's new steeple.) Over the years Fred filled many roles and performed many duties in his church. Dad was a Sunday School teacher for a time and a lifelong member of the Senior (Chancel) Choir. He served on nearly every major board and many of the standing



Fred and Joanne enjoy a Hawaiian vacation

committees, also serving for a time as Vice Moderator and three years as Moderator. Dad told me one time that he didn't think that he had ever said "no" to a request from church leadership.

Dad's love of history and his Schwenkfelder heritage also inspired him to be active with the Schwenkfelder Library. Serving on the board for many years, he eventually took on the role of president at a critical time, leading the board through a very successful capital campaign and expansion in 1999-2000 when the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center (SLHC) was born. He continued on the board for many more years, acting as Honorary Chairman for the most recent Capital Campaign which enabled the 2020 expansion. Part of this most recent project was the realization of Fred's longtime dream to build a historically significant barn on the campus of the SLHC. As it turned out, the very barn that Fred grew up in, doing chores, was relocated and restored in Pennsburg. His barn, originally built in 1826, has become part of the SLHC campus, allowing visitors to have a glimpse of life on the farm from an earlier time.

The same conviction to service that Fred held for the church was also evident in his love and support for the 4-H program in Montgomery County. Having grown up doing 4-H activities, he realized the value and growth potential for the youth that were involved. After college Dad was an active 4-H dairy leader and dairy judging coach. He also became involved with the County Agricultural Extension Service and the 4-H Foundation who worked tirelessly in support of the 4-H program in Montgomery County. This committee work, often under Dad's leadership, was responsible for the purchase and development of not one, but two Montgomery County 4-H Centers. In both cases the project and the accompanying capital campaigns received tremendous industry and community support. The first 4-H center, on Snyder Road, near Lansdale was one of the first of its kind in the state and served the 4-H program for over twenty years. When that facility, a remodeled chicken house, was outgrown by the program and its activities, many of the same people with the same vision set out to do it again. In the 1980's the current 4-H Center in Creamery, PA, took shape.

This time a retired elementary school found new life and the 4-H program flourished, giving untold training and service to countless 4-H youth.

Various other farm organizations have benefitted from Fred's participation. Over the years he had membership with county groups such as: The Dairy Herd Improvement Assn., the Guernsey Breeders Club, the Holstein Club, the Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the Towamencin Twp. Zoning Hearing Board.

Perhaps the crowning recognition in Fred's career as a farmer and agricultural proponent came in 1983 when he was awarded the honor of being named "Master Farmer". The Master Farmer Award is a prestigious statewide recognition of one's life-long accomplishments in, and service to, the agricultural industry in Pennsylvania and surrounding states. This awards program highlights several outstanding farmers from the region every few years. It was said of Fred at the time, describing his role in so many projects and organizations that, "He was the spark plug that made the engine run." Although Dad never bragged or even made reference to this acknowledgement, for our family, this was a very proud time.

One might think that the responsibilities of the farm and business coupled with the many organizational and leadership commitments that he had would preclude any kind of social life for Fred and Joanne. Quite the contrary, they were also engaged in many social activities. Mom and Dad were part of a card club group for decades. This group was made up of eight couples, mostly church friends, who would meet every 4-6 weeks or so. A different couple would host each time. As children, this was a highlight for us. When card club was hosted elsewhere, we would have a babysitter and special TV privileges, and when the home team hosted, we also enjoyed special times. Mom would scurry about for several days making the house extra clean and organized and then the candy dishes would come out and we would interact, albeit briefly, with some of our parents' most cherished friends. Then we were shuffled off to bed as they would play Pinochle and laugh and joke (and keep us awake) well into the night.



Fred enjoying Easter dinner 2022, in the dairy store with his five children. From the top left: Bill, Matt, Vern, Marilyn, Carolyn, Fred

As my brothers and I began to take over some of the major daily responsibilities on the farm, Mom and Dad began to travel. Bus trips with farm friends, a trip to Hawaii, a cruise in Alaska, and a trip to the Schwenkfelder homeland with Dr. Jack Rothenberger, were just some of the adventures they enjoyed. No matter how far they went or how long they were gone, it was always fun to welcome them home and share their experiences.

At the root of everything that Dad did throughout his life was his deep and abiding faith in Christ and the always constant support of his loving wife and business partner Joanne. Despite all of Fred's extracurricular activities, he and Mom were still able to successfully raise five children, Vernon, Matthew, Marilyn, Carolyn, and William. During their 56 years of marriage, the family grew to include 19 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren. Dad has inspired each of us in so many ways. Fred's strong faith, love of music, enduring work ethic and commitment to service have given each of us our own building blocks for life, a foundation for which we can be eternally grateful.

Why "Freddy Hill" Farms?

Many people have inquired over the years; how did your business get the name Freddy Hill Farms?

As far back as the Seipts have had dairy cattle, they have kept registered purebred stock. In order to register cattle with the national breed association, each breeder must have a prefix that is unique to their farm. The prefix is used in naming each registered animal. For many years, Fred's father Wilbur used the Oak Leaf prefix for his registered Guernsey herd. In the late 1960's when Fred was beginning to transition to the Holstein breed, he needed to create a prefix for his new herd of registered Holsteins. Unfortunately, the Oak Leaf moniker was already taken by another breeder within that national association.

Fred and Joanne collaborated to create this unusual and unique handle. Although Fred had never been referred to as "Freddy", this seemed like a clever reference, combining that nickname with the fact that the bulk of our farmland was situated primarily on a hill. And so, "Freddy Hill" became the prefix that Fred used for his registered Holsteins.

What started as a registration prefix, not exactly intended for retail promotion, soon caught on and seemed a probable name for the farm, and some years later a logical name for the brand-new dairy store and subsequent business expansions. Freddy's Fallfest and Freddy's Family Fun Center kept the name growing in public awareness and affection.

The little Amish man with the milk pail that became our logo, soon became known as Freddy. Even though Fred had never been known as "Freddy", it became a cherished reference, of which he was very proud.



The Freddy Hill Dairy Store, circa 1978

Fred's Farming Business Timeline

- 1954-1956** Purchase and remodel of the Anders dairy barn
Expansion of the dairy herd from 12 to 45 cows
- 1967** Fred purchases the farm from father Wilbur
Expand to 57 cows and begin the transition to Holsteins
- 1969- 1970** Continued expansion to 100 Holsteins. Additional housing and silos for feed storage
- 1972** New milk processing facility and Dairy Store opens. Brand new rotary milking parlor
Freddy Hill milk, direct to the public
- 1974** Rudimentary Petting Zoo (3 calves in a small paddock adjacent to the dairy store)
- 1979-1988** All three sons find their way home to help on the farm following college
Vernon - 1979 Matt - 1981 Bill - 1988
- 1988** Expansion of Ice Cream parlor seating and service area
Beginning of homemade Freddy Hill Ice Cream
Freddy's Fallfest begins
- 1989** Petting Zoo expands to include white-tailed deer, elk, alpacas, bison, emu
Also, varied farm animals : sheep, goats, pony, pigs
- 1991** Freddy's Family Fun Center opens



Fred draws fresh ice cream from the batch freezer as homemade ice cream comes to Freddy Hill.



Fred "puttering a-round" the mini golf course

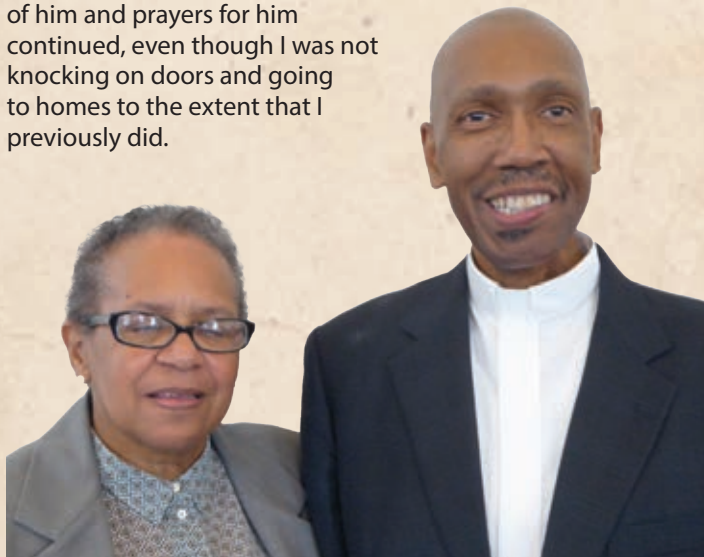
I was Floored

I have not made many references to Schwenkfelder Missionary Church's (SMC) outdoor or in-home ministry in the vicinity of Vernon Park lately. However, our efforts there have not subsided. It is true that (due to some disturbances that occurred on several occasions while I was either distributing lunches at the intersection of Greens Street and Cheltenham Ave or distributing them at the same time that someone else was handing out gift certificates to Target) for a while I did not go to Vernon Park as frequently as I had been.

However, I do have an update for you regarding Matthew who I met a few years prior to the onset of the Covid19 pandemic. Matthew, along with his sister (both senior citizens), had been struggling to take care of their grandchildren and to win a battle with DHS in order to keep the children out of the system. During that time SMC helped them with some food items, clothing and provided the children with their Christmas gifts (in honor of the late Rev. Edward Winslow).

Things were going well for Matthew and his sister as far as their health was concerned. But Matthew began to buckle under the strain of caring for the grandchildren and seeing their parents succumbing to their drug addictions. Matthew could no longer take the children out to play like he typically did. And, when I visited them (with my typical eight bagged lunches), instead of Matthew meeting me at the door with his classic handshake, smile and hearty "Come on in. How you doing, Pastor?", he was stretched out on the dining room floor and struggling to get a greeting out. But he was determined to be a presence in that home.

Well, Covid 19 came and for a long time the only news that I got about Matthew was, "thanks for the lunches, Pastor, Matthew is not here." "Okay, I responded, tell him I stopped by." I would then leave. But, my thoughts of him and prayers for him continued, even though I was not knocking on doors and going to homes to the extent that I previously did.



Schwenkfelder Mission Church members Rev. Alfred and Phyllis Duncan

One day when I was out for the Vernon Park and vicinity ministry, I left the intersection of Greene St. and Cheltenham Ave. I left because those who were there and who cared about me, suggested that I leave. My successful efforts to prevent a stabbing were not really appreciated. I was also told that I was about to be given a street report about the "would be" attacker's history of violence, just so I could realize how lucky I was. Then I was told, you don't need to waste your time with that stuff that glorifies what you preach against and pray about. Just leave! Now!

So, I went from there to my nearby house-to-house circuit. When I got to Matthew's house, I did not have any lunches with me. But I decided to knock on the door and leave a message for him. I knocked while thinking, "Alfred, maybe you should just let this one go, seeing that no one says anything to you about him, and he has not responded to your phone call in years."

I knocked some more. "Come in" is what I heard. I did not think that it was Matthew. That was not his signature greeting. But it was Matthew. And he was not lying on the floor. He was standing up straight and tall, incessantly thanking me for my prayers and for not abandoning him. He shared that among other things, on top of all that he had been going through, he had been infected with the Covid19 virus and nearly lost his life, but was so grateful that he was again able to be a helping presence in that home, and to have me there for a time of prayer and fellowship in the gospel.

It was the experience that I long for the most when evangelizing. One that is not based on sandwiches or appreciated because of a soda, but because of my sharing of the gospel, and hearing a testimony that could floor anyone who was capable of discerning that: if and when your life has been relegated to a floor in the corner of the house, pray on the floor. And then relegated to a household that will no longer speak of you, pray on the floor. And then to Covid19 on top of a previous malady that had you on the floor, pray on the floor. And then to not seeing the preacher whose presence you looked forward to, pray on the floor. And, then to praying and praying and getting through it all, not just for yourself, but for the sake of some needy children. And then getting to stand straight and tall and tell the story to the preacher who would tell it to the very one who now reads it to the end.

I was floored.

- by

Rev. Alfred Duncan



CHURCH NEWS

Find what's been happening in the Schwenkfelder community.



Central Schwenkfelder

2111 Valley Forge Rd., Lansdale, PA 19446
610-584-4480

www.centralschwenkfelder.com

Worship: 9:00 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

Church School: 10:10 a.m.



Olivet-Schwenkfelder United Church of Christ

619 Township Line Rd., Norristown, PA 19403
610-539-7444 • www.osuccpa.org

Worship: 8:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m.

Church School: 9:00 a.m.

Schwenkfelder Missionary

29 Tulpehocken St.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-334-4658

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Church School: 9:00 a.m.

CENTRAL

Other than dealing with most of the church being under construction (excluding the sanctuary) all summer and fall, things have mostly returned to normal at Central. September was busy as usual starting with the annual Sunday School Rally Day event on September 10th following a blended service in the sanctuary. With Fellowship Hall unavailable due to the ongoing renovations, Rally Day was held in the Community Center (CCC) gym. This year's event featured a Name-that-Tune game emceed by Andrea Williams, and a speed-dating style activity, where attendees switched seats every two minutes to pair up with a new partner. Each participant shared something with the other by answering ice-breaking questions posed by Reverend Julian Scavetti, who led the game. There are no reports of any new romantic relationships being forged, but it was a great way for people to get to know more about others, whether the short chats were with strangers, or familiar faces we recognize and see week to week, but with whom we hadn't previously engaged in conversation.

On the following Saturday, September 17th, Central hosted its annual Country Fair on yet another day with perfect weather. Crowds were good, lots of food was eaten, attic treasures were bought and sold. The fair included the usual crafts and games, classic car show, model train set-up, and of course, plenty of food. Lots of attic treasures were sold in the barn and granary. A month later, the final Thrift-Shop sale of 2023 was also held. The combined proceeds of the fair and the monthly thrift shop sales from May through October raised over \$58,000 allocated to various missions.

Another big event occurred on Laity Sunday, October 8th. R4 committee member Linda Rothenberger delivered the message and spoke about her involvement with the renovation project from its inception over five years ago. Following

the service, a special event titled "Nailin' It" was held to celebrate the reopening of Fellowship Hall. The congregation was shown for the first time the progress made and the nearly-finished improvements to the room. And, of course, the event included food, starting with a donut-eating contest with contestants young and old, where one contestant attempted to eat a donut dangled on a string by a partner. Things got a little messy, and this was before lunch/brunch even started. After the luncheon (where there was too much food) came the pies. Lots of pies had been entered into a baking contest, judged, and then made available for consumption by anyone in attendance. Award-winning pies were baked by Lesa Seipt (1st place Apple pie), Sue McGinnis (2nd place Peach pie) and the Colvin family (3rd place French Silk pie.) Another purpose of the event was to introduce the "Giving Tree." This was a fundraising kick-off initiated to close the gap on the required funding that remains to finish the R4 renovation project. Members were encouraged to pull "pledge leaves" of varying amounts based on different color fall leaves on the tree. Over \$200,000 has been raised through November since the Giving Tree was "planted" in the Narthex, cutting the remaining expenses by more than half.

But the highlight of the "Nailin' It" event was a nail-hammering contest. Two teams of 4-5 players raced to hammer a nail into a beam. What's the catch? Each player only got one swing of the hammer before passing the hammer to the next teammate. After several games were completed (old guys vs. young guys, men's team vs. women, etc.), the contest went astray when two teams of elementary school-aged kids ended up hammering nails, resulting in a bit of chaos and disregard for the rules. Thankfully we can report that no one was hurt! Since the event on October 8, the contemporary service at 10:45AM has returned to Fellowship Hall.



On Saturday, November 18, Central sent a small group of about 10 people who joined two students from Elizabethtown University at the UNTO Global Logistics Center (GLC) in Mount Joy in Lancaster County – this time not for a meal packing event, but to sort and pair together hundreds of pairs of children’s “Croc” style shoes in ten different sizes. Over the course of the morning, the team packed about 20 large boxes of pairs of shoes for eventual distribution either domestically or abroad to communities in need.

PALM

The lazy days of summer were a time for caring and sharing at Palm. Throughout the month of August, Palm was blessed with families who love music and were willing to share their talents: husbands and wives, parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren sang together as part of the weekly worship services. Palm also hosted the First Monday Meal at Pennsburg UCC sponsored by The Open Link. Continuing in the spirit of community outreach, Palm’s Mission Board also made sure we were involved in the UCC’s special appeal to help the victims of the Maui disaster. August came to an end as families gathered with blankets and chairs to share in a movie night. The movie, *Jesus Revolution*, was enjoyed by all as the warm nights slowly melted into the chill of fall.

September welcomed Pastor Nick back from a 3 month sabbatical. So that he knew he had been missed and his return was very welcomed, some mysterious do-gooders secretly filled his office with balloons, balls, confetti, and streamers. Surprise!! Along with his return, fun outdoor games and a sweet treat kicked off Rally Day which marked the start of this year’s Sunday School program as well as the new season for Palm’s Choir and Palm’s Bell Choir. In celebration of Gedächtnis Tag, staff from the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center visited Palm. They ran a rambunctious game of Jeopardy. The competition was fierce, and everyone learned something new!

October brought pumpkins, apples, cider and Halloween fun! A church family trip to Savidge Farms where old and young alike had the opportunity to make their

way through a corn maze, pick pumpkins and have some fall snacks. The Diaconate sponsored a successful “drive-thru” food drive to benefit The Open Link. Items were brought to the church parking lot and then delivered.

November once again had church families and friends coming together for some fun and competition. Together, many traveled to Allentown’s PPL Center to attend a Lehigh Valley Phantoms ice hockey game. Go Phantoms! The Ladies’ Aid was busy this month! On election day, they sold donations of homemade baked goods as people from the community came to the church to cast their votes. Soon after the elections, the church was decorated for the annual Holiday Bazaar which is also organized by the Ladies’ Aid. Crafters, vendors, and baked goods and the sounds of people chattering filled the church ahead of the upcoming holiday season.

OLIVET

Olivet was pleased to host the Day of Remembrance on September 24. We participated in the Neighbors in Need “BEHOLD!” campaign, which supports a variety of justice initiatives including the Council for American Indian Ministry. Additionally, our Church World Service CROP Walk team raised \$1,151 to combat hunger.

Our church offers worship at 8 and 10:15 on Sunday mornings and holds meditative Taize services on the second Sunday at 7 pm. The choir, Sunday school, mission projects, and coffee hours provide opportunities to grow in faith, serve God, and nurture one another in fellowship. Lil’ Angels preschool is a vital part of our ministry with curriculum and enrichment activities for ages 3 through 5. We celebrate each person’s participation and contribution as a joyful response in expressing love for God as we welcome people of ALL races, ages, sexual orientations, and abilities. Learn more about our inclusive church on Facebook or request a copy of our church newsletter at 610-539-7444.



Palm Schwenkfelder

833 Gravel Pike, Palm, PA 18070
215-679-5321

www.palmschwenkfelder.com

Worship: 10:15 a.m. **Church School:** 9:00 a.m.



Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center

105 Seminary St., Pennsburg, PA 18073
215-679-3103

www.schwenkfelder.org

Mon.: Closed • Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9–4
Thurs.: 9–8 • Sat.: 10–3 • Sun.: 1–4



Schwenkfeld Manor– Advanced Living Communities

1292 Allentown Rd., Lansdale, PA 19446
215-362-0227

www.advancedliving.org

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.



Sharing these important life events with our Schwenkfelder family.

MARRIAGES

KOEHLER – KROSSKOVE – Nick Koehler to Halle Krosskove, October 28, 2023, in Horsham. (Central)

BIRTHS

BICKEL – Benjamin Robert, son of John and Brittany Bickel, October 27, 2023. (Central)

GRAVES – Karter Reese, son of Amanda Krupp, July 6, 2023. (Central)

BAPTISMS

MILETICH – Lee and Ryan, sons of Lee and Brandy Miletich, September 17, 2023. (Olivet)

DEATHS

BOBB – James, age 64, of Worcester, September 17, 2023. Services October 7, 2023; interment at Towamencin Schwenkfelder Cemetery. (Central)

DITZLER – Gladys L. (Miller), age 87, of Harleysville, wife of Richard L. Ditzler, September 5, 2023. Services September 10, 2023; interment at Garden of Memories in Worcester, PA. (Central)

ESCHBACH – Anna “Carol” Carolyn (Mensch), age 95, of Harleysville, wife of the late Donald Eschbach, November 10, 2023. Services were private; interment at Palm Schwenkfelder Cemetery. (Palm)

FLEMMING – Allan John, age 93, of Souderton, husband of the late Lois Ella (Gower) Flemming, November 17, 2023. Services November 30, 2023; interment at Garden of Memories in Worcester, PA (Central)

FLEMMING – Lois Ella (Gower), age 93, of Souderton, wife of Allan John Flemming, November 16, 2023. Services November 30, 2023; interment at Garden of Memories in Worcester, PA. (Central)

HARTZEL – Grace V. (Wampole), age 99, of Pipersville, July 4, 2023. Services July 11, 2023; interment at Whitemarsh Memorial Park, Ambler, PA (Central)

HOFFMAN – Linda Sue (Hinton), age 74, of Hereford, October 18, 2023. Services October 24, 2023; interment at Palm Schwenkfelder Cemetery. (Palm)

LAMPHERE – George Lyman, age 82, of Worcester Township, husband of Jean (Quinque) Lamphere, October 14, 2023. Services October 20, 2023; interment is private. (Central)

MARTIN – John C., Sr., age 84, of Harleysville formerly of Blue Bell, PA., husband of Mary (Bisbing) Martin, November 11, 2023. Services November 19, 2023. (Central)

WILLIAMS – Robert L., Jr., age 84, of Harleysville, husband of the late Gail (Wert) Williams, November 18, 2023. Services November 24, 2023; interment at Garden of Memories in Worcester, PA. (Central)

OUR HERITAGE *In Retrospect*

10 years ago (2013)

Central – As with every September, the Sunday School year started with Rally Day with Third graders receiving Bibles. The annual Country Fair was held on a wonderfully beautiful day with all the money going to missions. An exciting thing took place with the completion of a project led by Ken/Fran Clemens and Harris/Pat Gramm, a New Garden of Prayer. The Garden was dedicated on Sunday, November 25th. InterFaith Hospitality used the church to help out families in need in the area for the month of November.

Olivet – Olivet started their September off with a clam steam and BBQ and ended the month with a spaghetti dinner. Both times the men of the church were at the helm. During this time items were collected for The West End Preschool in Norristown. October brought the traditional blessing of the animals service, pulpit exchange, and the Crop Walk. Rev. Martha Kriebel attended the Crop Walk as well. November again centered around food with a flapjack breakfast at Applebee's and the annual roast beef dinner at the end of the month. November and December were times to collect items for both Norristown Interfaith and Bethany's Children's Home.

Palm – Palm shared their Rally Day with The North Penn Clown Alley. On September 23rd, they held their traditional Gedächtnestag, by sharing in a meal of bread and apple butter. This was the 279th Day of Remembrance. Ladies Aid held a wonderful harvest dinner which included their homemade chow-chow. Schwenkfelder hats, t-shirts, afghans, cookbooks, and chow-chow were available for sale after the meal. A fall trip to Wilcox farms was held to usher in the fall season and a talent show was held to raise money for the youth mission trip that was to be held the next summer. The Christmas season was kicked off with the annual Holiday Bazaar that was held in mid-November. They helped to usher in the new year with the story of Noah's Ark with the help of the students.

25 years ago (1998)

Central – Traditionally the fall brings on a lot more activity. CE Groups, Sunday School classes and musical groups all started up again in September. Dottie Heebner led the music for the church with the help of a few others. A new piano was dedicated and an improved entryway to Fellowship Hall was completed. The Country Fair, run by The Ladies Aid, once again provided a place for families to gather and enjoy some great food, shopping and sunshine. In October, Karen Gallagher led people in a game of Schwenkfelder Jeopardy for The School of Christ and in December, members participated in the Angel Tree project.

Palm – Day of Remembrance was celebrated all day at Palm this year. Sunday school classes listened to a historical story of this day and then had a traditional meal of bread and apple butter followed by everyone going to the Hosensack Meeting House for worship where Rev. David Luz gave the sermon. Later in the day, a combined observance of The Day of Remembrance was held at Palm with many of the members from Palm dressing in period clothing. October had many things happening such as a Woman's Retreat, Worldwide Communion, a puppet show for the children, and a hayride at month end. Ed Bieler led the United Schwenkfelder Choir for its 70th Anniversary Concert. Jeff Wolbach gave a Christmas concert with The Regal Brass in the sanctuary. A cantata, "A Candlelight Christmas" was presented on Christmas Eve.

50 years ago (1973)

Fall in the Schwenkfelder churches 50 years ago was much like it is today. All the churches were holding Rally Days and encouraging church members to return to Sunday services after a summer break. Children were encouraged to attend Sunday school, join choirs and attend Bible studies. At **Central**, choir was taught by Dottie (Mayes) Heebner at a new time, Saturday morning. The Ladies Aid Society Country Fair was held at the Variety Club Camp. The **Lansdale** church was still healthy and held many events, Bible studies, Vacation Bible School and choirs. They participated in the combined services at Salford and groups within the church made many efforts to minister to their immediate area. At the **Norristown** Schwenkfelder Church, the youth spent the summer making antependia to adorn the pulpit. They used four colors of the church and placed symbols for each season. A class was held in September for adults on the Schwenkfelder History and Heritage. **Palm** held a Fall Festival that had many booths with food and items for sale. In the evening people were treated to the wonderful sound of the Red Hill Band. Ladies Aid continued to work on their Harvest Home with a fresh fruit and vegetable display. The Palm Country Day School was doing well with 38 students attending. Vacation Bible School raised \$90 to send to Bethany's Children's Home.



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After years of planning and months of construction, the renovation of the Central Schwenkfelder Church building is nearly completed! We're planning a full weekend of celebrations with activities for all ages - special musical performances, guest speakers, games for children and adults, and more! So, mark your calendar to join the celebration and spread the word to family and friends! Scan the QR code for more information.

*Friday, May 3rd
through
Sunday, May 5th, 2024*

**SCAN
ME** 

get ready

to rejoice!

2111 S. VALLEY FORGE ROAD, LANSDALE, PA 19446

