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## From the Editor

It has been 300-plus years since the colonists started filtering into this area. It took time for them to settle themselves, then gradually they began to form churches and other gathering places; the beginnings of a road system; markets, villages, and municipalities. A good number of the early institutions have lasted for centuries, and continue to thrive into the twenty-first century.

Our feature article highlights the tercentennial of the founding of the Great Valley Presbyterian Church, via a photo essay created by Roger Thorne. As part of the church's year-long celebration, Mike Bertram provides background commentary on life in the early valley. We've also included a short biography of one of the more illustrious members of the congregation, by Society member Rick Bates.

Moving forward in time, Dick Kurtz penned an article on the almost overlooked sesquicentennial of the Thomson Masonic Lodge. The Masonic tenets of modesty and quietness regarding their good deeds and intentions almost left this anniversary in the dark, were it not for Mr. Kurtz, who comes from a family of Masons.

Next, we turn our attention to the Paoli Fire Company and the Paoli Library, turning 100 in 2009 and 2010, respectively, both of which also offered calendars full of community-based events. The Fire Company postponed their celebration by a year in order to complete an impressive renovation to their facilities. The Open House festivities that took place on November 13 made for a joyful and memorable day. Let's be thankful for these heroes who put their lives on the line, without a second thought, to help us in our hours of need. They're proud of the service they render and of their beautiful new firehouse. For more information about the history of the Paoli Library, you may pick up a pamphlet the next time you're there, which explains all the pertinent facts, figures, names, and dates.



Just as the founding fathers of our nation exhibited fortitude, insight, and vision, so did our local forbears, as they built first farms, then villages and towns, with eyes towards the future. The four groups featured in this issue continue to carry on a legacy of volunteering, caring, and growth that exists in our community to this day.

There are more celebrations to come - in fact too many for one issue - including our own 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society. Stay tuned for more details, and look for coming articles on the Frazer Mennonite Church (100), Paoli United Methodist Church (100), Trinity Presbyterian Church (150), and the Baptist Church in the Great Valley (300). We have much to celebrate. Happy Anniversary to all!

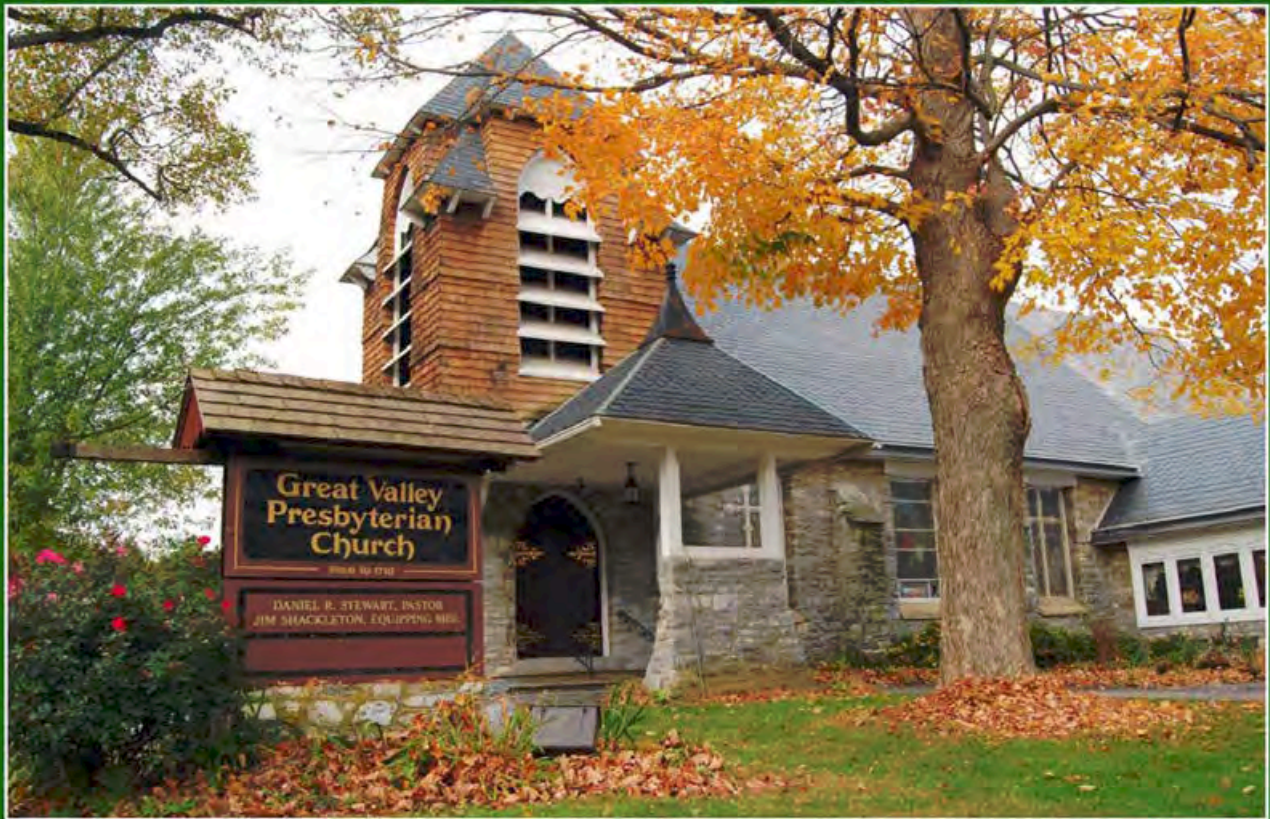
Front Cover: Great Valley Presbyterian Church. *Courtesy of Roger Thorne, 2010.*

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# **TREDYFFRIN EASTTOWN HISTORY QUARTERLY**



**Great Valley Presbyterian Church Tercentennial**

**Paoli Library Centennial**

**Paoli Fire Company Centennial**

**Thomson Masonic Lodge Sesquicentennial**



Back Cover: *Top*: Docents in period costume at a GVPC Tercentennial event.

*Bottom*: The historic cemetery at GVPC. *Both photos courtesy of Great Valley Presbyterian Church.*

