

Highlights of Phoebe History

- 1903 Charter is drawn up for the incorporation of Phoebe Deaconess Home.
- 1904 Griesemer farmhouse on Turner Street, Allentown, is purchased for \$9,000 to house the elderly and deaconesses in training. Johanna Baur is first house-mother. Phoebe Women's Auxiliary is formed.
- 1908 First two deaconesses, Modjeska Frick (pictured) and Eva Gold, are consecrated.
- 1909 Emma Hauser is consecrated.
- 1910 Carrie Dreibelbeis becomes house-mother; Mary Clark consecrated.
- 1912 New Dormitory is dedicated, but soon outgrown.
- 1915 Rev. Robert Miller Kern is named superintendent; starts "Phoebe Home Messenger."
- 1917 Six deaconesses are consecrated.
- 1919 Rev. Franklin H. Moyer becomes superintendent.
- 1925 Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church revises charter; changes name to Phoebe Home.
- 1926 Five acres next to Phoebe Home is purchased for \$53,400.
- 1928 David A. Miller becomes board of trustees president; heads Building Fund Drive for Administration Building.
- 1929 Stock market crashes; beginning of Great Depression.
- 1933 Administration Building dedicated; original farmhouse razed.
- 1940 Depression ends; plan proposed to build new Infirmary.
- 1944 City block purchased south of Phoebe Home.
- 1945 World War II puts Phoebe's construction plans on hold.
- 1950 Infirmary dedicated.
- 1953 Sidney Smith becomes superintendent.
- 1955 Devitt Home tuberculosis camp (Union County) is acquired for \$1.
- 1956 Supt. Smith dies in auto accident. Edward F. Hunter is named administrator, Phoebe Home and Devitt Home; Rev. William Foose becomes superintendent, Phoebe Home.
- 1963 Campaign launched to build Phoebe Home's East Wing.
- 1968 East Wing opens; Devitt Home residents moved to Phoebe Home.
- 1969 Devitt property is auctioned.
- 1972 Phoebe Apartments opens. Dormitory renovated.
- 1974 Rev. Paul Haas is named executive director, Phoebe Home.
- 1977 Moyer Hall opens as recreation center for Phoebe Home.
- 1979 Intermediate care facility is built on west side of West Wing; renamed Trexler Building.
- 1982 East Wing Annex is dedicated; Home totals 431 beds.
- 1984 Phoebe Terrace Retirement Community opens. Rev. Haas retires.
- 1988 Rev. Grant Harrity named first president of Phoebe-Devitt Homes.
- 1989 Phoebe purchases 66 acres of farmland in Berks County.
- 1991 Personal Care facility is dedicated; named David A. Miller Building.
- 1992 Phoebe acquires Slate Belt Medical Center (Northampton County); Devitt House opens (Union County).
- 1995 Phoebe Berks Village and Phoebe Berks Health Care Center are developed (Berks County).
- 1997 Rev. Rodney Wells named President of Phoebe Ministries. Furnace Creek Manor is dedicated (Berks County). Old Dormitory building is renovated and renamed Paul Haas Center for Administration.
- 1998 Phoebe Services Pharmacy is founded.
- 1999 Phoebe acquires Franklin & Noble Manor (Berks); Phoebe Bandshell built by Miller family.
- 2000 Renovation begins on Senior Apartments at the Wyomissing Club (Berks). Wind Gap Manor (Northampton) built. Weidner Manor and John F. Lutz Apartments (Berks) become Phoebe communities.
- 2001 The Phoebe Institute on Aging is established in support of Phoebe Ministries' mission.
- 2003 Phoebe buys Zohlman Nursing Home (Bucks County); renames it Phoebe Richland Health Care Center.
- 2006 Phoebe celebrates its 100 year Legacy of Care.
Phoebe Ministries starts the Phoebe At Home Services Geriatric Care Management Program.
Phoebe Allentown's Bridgeways neighborhood completes upgrades for dementia residents including implementing activities based on Montessori principles.
- 2007 Phoebe Berks expansion project begins.
- 2008 Phoebe Ministries launches the Faith in Action initiative, a set of values used to characterize positive interactions with one another.
Phoebe Services Pharmacy is upgraded with the Talyst automated packaging system, automating work that used to be done by hand.
Scott Stevenson is appointed President/CEO of Phoebe Ministries.
- 2010 Phoebe Home is repositioned to be called Phoebe Allentown Health Care Center.
Phoebe Berks' new independent living cottages are completed. Cottage floor plans include garages, full-sized walkout basements and other amenities.
- 2011 Phoebe Ministries enters a partnership with Lehigh Valley Health Network to provide TeleHealth services (virtual medical care) to Phoebe residents.
- 2012 Phoebe hires dementia expert Kelly O'Shea Carney, Ph.D, CMC to lead the Phoebe Center of Excellence in Dementia Care.
Phoebe Allentown begins major renovation and repositioning of the East Annex and Trexler Wing to provide residents with remodeled rooms and upgraded amenities, including updated bathroom fixtures, wall-mounted flat screen TVs, and new furniture.
Phoebe launches Phoebe Corporate and Community Based Services which includes Phoebe At Home Services and outpatient rehab services, the latter of which will be implemented over the next several years at Phoebe's communities.
Phoebe Ministries provides \$10.8 million in charitable and benevolent care to residents, the highest level given to date.