

## 2019 REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

Our archival collection continues to offer a rich source of information for researchers throughout the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and beyond. The main goal of the Archivist is to record Diocesan activities and to preserve parish records for future generations. Records demand a great deal of organization to provide an uncomplicated structure for research. Materials in the Diocesan Archives are maintained in an orderly collection to provide a logical system of retrieval. The Classification System is updated on a regular basis to reflect changes and additions to the collection. The archived materials have provided researchers with information on a wide range of subjects.

Genealogy questions continue to be the most demanding aspect of archival research. Inquiries about baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial dates and places are repeatedly received at the Diocese. These inquiries arrive from throughout the United States and from other countries. Relatives of past Diocesan clergy often contact the Archivist to learn more about the life and accomplishments of their ancestors. Grandchildren and great-grandchildren also get in touch with the Archivist with these same questions. If the Diocesan Archives cannot assist these researchers, alternate methods of investigation are always offered.

A parish anniversary celebration provides parishioners with an opportunity to study their history and achievements. The Diocesan Archives provided Trinity Episcopal Church, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, with historical documents to enhance their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Documents included correspondence, deeds, and photographs.

The Anti-Racism Strategy Team of EARS (Episcopalians Against Racist Systems) researched the Diocesan Archives for relevant materials focusing on the issue of racism. The archival documents aided the team members with information on the parish level. This information will contribute to the team's commitment to develop anti-racist organizing throughout the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

Diocesan parish research was conducted many times within the past year. Questions cover such topics as parish admittance dates, cemetery and columbarium issues, merged parish details, priest and deacon service dates, and other key material relevant to parish history. Providing answers to the above listed questions is a fundamental part of archive management.

The work of the Diocesan Archivist is a team effort. Diocesan staff members contribute to many different aspects of archival operation. Carolyn Patterson, Bishop's Assistant and HR Administrator, provided exceptional input into the management of the archives. Chad Linder, Canon for Finance and Operations, offered technical support and administrative assistance on a regular basis. Bishop Scanlan, a frequent archive researcher, continues to support the Diocesan Archives with continued interest in its day-to-day function as well as its future position as an important part of Diocesan life.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Robelen, Archivist

