

2022-2023 REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

The archive materials of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania are managed by the Diocesan Archivist. A detailed description of the archive collection has been updated this year to reflect the acquisition of new items. These new items have been systematically arranged and cared for to ensure their long-term survival. All items in the diocesan archives are arranged, classified, and preserved upon acquisition. The archive rooms are kept clean and orderly. Easy access to archive materials is crucial to assist diocesan staff and other researchers.

Archive research included requests for baptismal and marital information. The material for these requests involved searching the files of closed diocesan parishes. The parish registers were accessed for the requested information.

A postcard collection was received from the Cn. William F. Honaman, St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA. The postcards feature the parish churches of the Diocese and were originally collected by The Rt. Rev. Earl and Mary Honaman. Parish churches throughout the Diocese are represented in the colorful postcards which were remarkably well-maintained over the years. This gift is a cherished addition to the archive collection.

An inquiry into the history of The Rev. Julian Dozier was received from the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma. The request asked for photographs and information from Rev. Dozier's active years at St. Gerald's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg PA. The research will be included in a written history of Rev. Dozier.

Materials from the parish in Mount Carmel were received and classified. The items included parish registers, altar vessels, and important files. The Diocese is now in possession of the historic tabernacle veil from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Shamokin, PA. Due to the closure of Holy Trinity Church, the communion veil was carried from the Shamokin church to the Mount Carmel church in a solemn walking procession. On April 13, 1977, Shamokin became the focus of national attention when the face of Christ appeared within the folds of the veil. Hundreds of visitors from around the globe lifted prayers in the presence of the veil and stories of blessings and healings were recorded.

Archive research was conducted to address the possible reunification of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania with the Diocese of Bethlehem. The original Diocese of Central Pennsylvania was organized in 1871. In 1904, the Diocese was divided into the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Harrisburg. The name changed back to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in 1971. Diocesan journals and meeting minutes served as sources for the research.

Parish files were examined and archived after the closure of All Saints Episcopal Church in Brookland, PA. Parish registers and other vital documents were organized and stored in the archives. All Saints Episcopal Church was consecrated in 1889 by The Rt. Rev. Nelson S. Rulison.

The Diocesan staff deserves much credit for assisting in the upkeep of the archives. Stuart Scarborough gathers and organizes materials from closed parishes. These materials arrive at the Diocesan office thanks to Stuart's attention to detail. Many discussions with Chad Linder have helped to clarify questions that arise in the management of the archives. Chad is also willing to lend a hand when needed. I am grateful to Bishop Scanlan for her dedication to the preservation of our Diocesan history. Accomplishments of the Diocesan Archives are enriched by the commitment of the Diocesan staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Robelen, Diocesan Archivist