

2018 REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

The archive component of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania represents the history of our unique and ever-changing Diocese. Files found in the archives represent the individual parishes, the congregations, the leadership and many other aspects of the Diocese. The work involved to keep these records organized and accurate falls to the Diocesan Staff and to the Archivist. Many individuals throughout the Diocese, both clergy and lay, continue to contribute meaningful items to the archives. These contributions will aid future generations to understand the structure, leadership, ministry and history of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

The following information highlights the 2018 ministry of the Diocesan Archivist:

- In 2018, the St. Barnabas Center for Ministry, Harrisburg, PA celebrated 25 years of service. A celebration was held on October 20, 2018 by the non-profit organization. The organization's foundation is based on respect, caring, fairness, responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship and forgiveness. The Diocesan archives were honored to offer documented historical information for this ministry's milestone event.
- St. James Episcopal Church, Mansfield, PA celebrated their 150th anniversary on November 4, 2018. Documents from the archives were made available to the parish to assist in compiling historical material for the event. Anniversary celebrations are an excellent way to share parish history with congregations and communities. The Diocesan archives are always open for parish research.
- The first-floor conference room area of the Diocesan Center now offers an archival exhibit. These exhibits will change throughout the year. The current exhibit tells the story of the Coxestown Church and Cemetery (Harrisburg, PA) that was founded in 1767. In brief, the Coxestown Cemetery held the remains of the area's earliest Episcopalians as well as those of soldiers from previous wars. In the spring of 1953, after many years of neglect and the proposed construction of Interstate 81, the remains of those buried in the Coxestown Cemetery were disinterred. The remains were moved to the Harrisburg East Cemetery in Penbrook, PA. A memorial cross was erected and is inscribed: *In memory of the Faithful Departed Since 1767 – Removed from the Coxestown Cemetery 1954 – Erected by the Episcopal Diocese of Harrisburg.*
- Canon Dan Morrow spearheaded the effort to distribute vestments, linens, hymnals, and other church-related items from the closed parish of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Shamokin, PA. Canon Morrow's retrieved items included a long wooden box that contained an extraordinary amount of hand-written prayers from those who had visited Holy Trinity in the late 1970's. Letters were received from around the world after nine-year old Iris Reigle saw the image of Jesus on the main altar tabernacle cloth. The box of prayers, along with the parish registers and other important documents were organized and filed in the archives.
- Pictures and literature from The Appalachian Camino's week-long hike were organized and archived. Camino materials included information about the Darlington Shelter, a landmark on the Appalachian Trail, that was constructed in honor of our Bishop James H. Darlington (1905-1930), an early organizer of the Harrisburg area's trail development.
- The organization and filing of inner office materials is an on-going project of the Archivist. Files that collect over the course of a year are reviewed, catalogued, and stored. Diocesan Staff are instrumental in the documentation of their individual areas of work and provide the Archivist with much needed (and appreciated) assistance.

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- *Shaped by Faith*, Bishop Scanlan's two-year Diocesan discernment initiative, will include work to uncover and uphold parish histories. Central Pennsylvania parishes will embark on a creative journey to historicize their ministries and plans are underway to make archival guidance available to all parishes. Historicizing work done by Diocesan parishes will serve to further unite the Diocese and to celebrate individual parish legacies.

Bishop Scanlan and the Diocesan staff offer guidance and support to the work of the Diocesan archives. From physically moving heavy boxes to assisting in the gathering and classifying of documents, their involvement is crucial to the on-going work of expanding and successfully managing the significant materials that make up our Diocesan Archives.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Robelen, Archivist