

**James R. Crumley Jr Archives
Winter 2019 report to the SE Synod**

Administration

Structure

Our archives continues to be a model for other ELCA archival institutions. I receive questions from other regional archives and church archives on a routine basis, questions ranging from administration, to development, to preservation. Recently, I was told by an ELCA archivist that we are considered “the model” among other regional archives. Special thanks are always directed to the board of directors and staff for this achievement.

Personnel

Currently, the Archives employs three part-time workers: Shannon Smith, director and archivist; Trudy Bouknight, bookkeeper; and Ellen Triplett, archivist aide.

Internship and Volunteers

In summer 2018, we welcomed Megan Dobson of the University of South Carolina to our team. Most of her work involved processing the VA Synod collection.

Collection Development and Preservation

We continue to accession material from synods, churches, clergy, and laity, in accordance with our collection development policy.

“Lutheran Church Visitor”

The “Lutheran Church Visitor” has been digitized from microfilm. We are working with USC’s “Historical Newspapers of South Carolina” project to index this material so that the newspaper can be eventually placed online.¹

Development

Grants

In Spring 2018, I reported that “the Peeler Committee has requested that we provide an estimate of how much NC Synod material there is to be digitized. This will be an ongoing project, to be financed for the next several years.” After hours of work inventorying NC Synod material and calculating the cost of technology, personnel, and time, I regret to inform the board that we were denied the grant again this year. The only details given were that the number of requests exceeded the amount of funds to be distributed.

We continue to have obsolete media from the NC Synod and LTSS digitized with money from the Peeler Grant given to us last spring. Create-A-Video (Mint Hill) provides this service.

We are awaiting word from Ascension, Savannah GA, on the Fehrenkamp Fund, and the Home Missions Foundation (NC), on grants that could potentially fund our banquet and staff projects.

¹ <http://historicnewspapers.sc.edu/>

Annual Fundraiser/Banquet

The annual “Friends of the Archives” banquet will be held April 4, 2019, at the Lexington County Museum. Honorees include: the South Carolina Synod, St Stephen’s Lutheran Church (Lexington), and former bishop of the SC Synod David Donges and his wife, Carolyn.

Networking, Outreach, and Scholarship

Patronage

The Archives continues to receive weekly requests regarding church histories, records, genealogies, and Lutheran heritage. Most requests are made *via* our website, though phone calls are not unusual. Research fees are paid mainly through PayPal.

Memberships

The Crumley Archives belongs to two archival organizations in South Carolina: PALMCOP (Palmetto Archives, Libraries, Museums, Council on Preservation) and SCAA (South Carolina Archival Association). I presently serve on both boards. This year, we joined the Lutheran Historical Conference.

Presentations

On October 4, 2018, Dr Maria Erling (United Seminary) and I gave a presentation, “Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church: Lutheran Presence in the Caribbean” at the Lutheran Historical Conference in Thousand Oaks, CA. This trip gave the Crumley Archives an opportunity to share our historic Frederick Church collection with Lutherans nationwide.

Web Presence

We have uploaded a complete inventory to our website, which documents every collection we have in the Archives. This allows patrons to check if we have a collection on-site. Online collections are being continuously added. Our latest includes an exhibit of seminary composites. We are also actively uploading historic Lutheran footage as it is converted into newer formats.

“Archival Survey”

We thank Ellen Triplett for her stellar job editing and redesigning the “Archival Survey”.

Technology

Shelving

We’re in conversation with a shelving vendor to purchase more shelves for our mobile shelving. This could add approximately 100 cubic feet of space to our shelving.

Salzburger Bookcases

Through donor support, we have been able to preserve more than a third of our Salzburger Collection with custom-made “Kase” boxes. Some boxes were “sponsored” individually by donors. Consider one for a Christmas present this year!

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon L. Smith