

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Archivist's Report
2013

The archives was especially busy in 2013 in the realm of outreach, which took the form of visits, exhibits, and tours. The archivist paid two visits to parishes interested in refining their archives spaces and asking for assistance in organizing, processing and retaining records. Also instrumental in organizing and hosting a historical tour for Baltimore Heritage of Clover Hill, the archivist was ably assisted by Jim Wollon, our architectural historian in leading the tour. The participants were treated to a visit to the basement to see the original structure of the historic home, in addition to visiting all the rooms. The Maryland Bible Society organized tours of several facilities in conjunction with the Society of Biblical Scholars meeting which took place in Baltimore in November, and several historic Bibles in the archives collections were on display in the Cathedral as part of that tour. Three parishes, as well as several other groups, brought visitors to the Cathedral and Archives for historical tours which were led by the archivist. Explaining the importance of archives in telling our faith story is always a priority.

Researchers, including staff members, continue to use the Archives in their pursuit of knowledge concerning the church. Visitors to the archives (both those who make site visits, and those who find us via the internet and email) looked into varied topics ranging from church histories, Francis Scott Key, slavery, Anglicanism in Mexico, family histories, Elizabeth Ann Seton, convention resolutions, canonical revisions, the history of Regional Councils, investments funds, Standing Committee minutes and clergy biographies to name a few. Of course, we depend upon donations to keep the archives open and able to assist in these inquiries. All, and 100% of, monetary donations go directly into the Garner Ranney Fund, which supports the archives in its daily running and stewardship of our unique history. Volunteers are always welcome, whether for a short-term project or long-term commitment. For the fifth year in a row, The Rev. Lance Gifford again donated over 60 hours of his time as a volunteer. He is becoming an expert in deciphering the handwriting of our nineteenth-century Bishop William Whittingham, and is slowly transcribing Whittingham's personal letters, which adds tremendously to our knowledge of the life and character of one of our most colorful and brilliant bishops.

You are invited to join in telling the story of faith of the people of the Diocese of Maryland. Preserving our collections is an ongoing goal of the archives, and 2013 saw the purchase of new shelving to house more of our ever-expanding materials contained in a non-expanding space. As in any worthwhile endeavor, money and resources are always needed. Please support our essential ministry of stewardship, knowledge, dissemination and preservation.

Mary O. Klein, Archivist