
The diocesan archives and reference library were moved in April of 2014. The inventory of our holdings recorded in Archivists Toolkit is almost complete. The majority of the 1100 plus boxes have been assigned shelf numbers for easy access and retrieval of records. The resource library continues to be examined for the disposition of the books that do not have a direct relationship to our scope of the formation of Anglicanism and Episcopalianism in New England, the Diocese, and Province I. Happily, we have expanded our collection of diocesan authors, both clerical and lay.

In order to reduce our physical holdings prior to the move, we made several significant decisions to make donations to other academic institutions where the materials would be cataloged, and more readily accessible for scholars. The important 18th Century Lloyd Library went to the Yale Divinity School Library. Our Croswell collection of sermons and pamphlets were given to Yale. The Rev. Harry Croswell was a well-known and beloved figure in the first half of the 19th Century. A prominent rector of Trinity Church in New Haven, he was instrumental in the founding of St. Luke’s Church, primarily a sanctuary for African Americans. Our contribution of his papers dove-tailed well with Yale’s existing collection. Our considerable collection of the Samuel Farmar Jarvis papers and portrait were received by the Episcopal Archives in Austin. Since Samuel Farmar Jarvis was the first Historiographer of the Episcopal Church, it seemed quite appropriate to transfer of the papers of a Church-wide figure to the Episcopal Archives. All of these withdrawals from the collection were well considered by the Archives Committee, Standing Committee and the Bishops and Canons.

The important collection of the Rt. Rev. James E. Curry was transferred to the archives upon his retirement. This year has seen improvements in electronic record keeping. Additionally, we answered more than 350 reference questions by telephone, mail, and e-mail this year. Some were very easily answered, while others required extensive research. A few church groups visited to research information about their parishes.

The Rev. Kent Smith retired from the Archives Committee last year. Furthermore, we were greatly saddened by the unexpected death of Peter Knapp, Archivist and Director of Special Collections at Trinity College who passed away last September. Both had served on the committee for over twenty-five years. Their faithfulness, insights and expertise contributed greatly to the work of the Archives Committee, and both are already missed.

As in other years, I am grateful to the bishops for their support of the archives program. Additionally, I am most grateful to Gregory Farr, whose inestimable contributions to the work the relocation of the collections made the transition much smoother than we had anticipated.
We are gladdened that the archives is part of the new office space. And, as always, I am thankful to the members of the Archives Committee: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Zeman, The Rev. Dr. Borden Painter, Ms. Diana Barnard, Archivist at the University of St. Joseph, The Rev. Steven Ling, Mr. Keith Hook, Esq., Mr. Bradford Babbitt, Esq., and The Rev. Canon Robert G. (Jerry) Carroon, former Diocesan Archivist and present Historiographer, for the continued generosity of their time, interest, talent and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret B. Smith