

ARCHIVES

In 2014, the archives continued to receive large quantities of parish records and artifacts from recovered church properties. The backlog for processing is growing. We also received records and gifts from several private individuals, including two small stained glass windows from the long-closed church in Meyersdale, numerous photographs and materials from St. Martin's, and memorabilia that filled gaps in the Trinity Cathedral collections.

Over the summer of 2014, the archives had three volunteer workers from the University of Pittsburgh's Information Sciences program. Two worked on setting up a cataloging format and cataloging books in the archives library. There is much cataloging left to be done. One volunteer worked on processing records. A fourth student, who had volunteered during the spring term, continued during the summer. She worked on processing. The archives also handled a number of research requests, including background research for a book on August Wilson (who did some of his earliest writing at a project run by Episcopal parishes in the Hill District). The researchers rewarded the library by finding a working zip drive that we could use to read some diocesan records that had been inaccessible. This summer, I have had volunteers from ECW and the History and Archives Commission helping with processing. This fall, a Pitt intern will work ten hours a week.

The archives also began planning exhibits for 2015 in honor of the 150th anniversary of the diocese. Two of the exhibits have come to fruition. The third is still being planned. Parishes have signed up to host the travelling exhibit of 15 foam panels exploring Western Pennsylvania from 1860 to 1865 and how Episcopalians contributed to the community. The opening of the exhibit was at St. Thomas Memorial Church in Oakmont at the beginning of March. It is booked through Easter of 2016. The second exhibit was finished in May. It is an on-line timeline with key developments in the history of the diocese from 1755 to 1866. It involves around 120 subpages and more than 160 historic images. It can be viewed at www.episcopalpgh.org/archives/resources/exhibits.

The Archives and History Commission was able to identify a space and plan for construction of a new area at the cathedral to house archives collections. That construction was completed in early 2015 in order to facilitate the remodeling of the third floor of the cathedral for diocesan offices. The major archives collections were moved to the new space in April. This was a major effort involving several days, with help from two construction workers and two volunteers. There were over 700 boxes of records to move, shelf sets to disassemble and reassemble, and placement of the collection on the shelves of the new space in some semblance of order. Then the archives library (another 50 + boxes) had to be packed for temporary storage on other floors of the cathedral, and the office and processing areas were moved into temporary office space and storage. The office furniture was moved into the remodeled space in late June and then the library had to be brought back up and re-shelved.

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