

ARCHIVAL



SURVEY

Representing the Lutheran Southeast and Caribbean

Fall 2025

A Publication of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Issue 41

PO Box 214, Columbia, SC 29202

This newsletter, in its title and masthead, pays homage to the American Lutheran Survey published by noted Lutheran leader, the Rev. Dr. Walton Greever. This newspaper was originally printed in the historic Eau Claire Print Building, two blocks from Seminary Ridge.

PILGRIMAGE

Dr. Susan McArver

Much has happened with the Crumley Archives since our last newsletter!

The Crumley Archives has been looking for a new home since Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary moved in January of 2025 to the campus of Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina. After many months of uncertainty, investigation, exploration, evaluation - and some twists and turns worthy of a dramatic novel - the Crumley Archives has finally begun its move.

On August 19, 2025, the administrative offices of the Archives moved onto the campus of Newberry College in Newberry, South Carolina and into the Dufford House. Built in 1910, the house was the boyhood home of Dr. William Dufford, who has worked most of his lifetime of 90 years to advance the cause of civil rights and social justice in South Carolina.

Newberry College has proven an incredibly gracious host and has welcomed us into their community. We are grateful for their vision and their sense of partnership in a shared mission.

For the time being, our historical collection of materials remains in Columbia on the seminary campus. We hope to move them quite soon, once a determination of that space is finalized.

The moves of the administrative offices, and soon the collection, are seen as temporary homes for the Archives for anywhere from 3-5 years. This is because ultimately, our goal is to build a permanent new facility, which we believe will embody our hopes and dreams for long into the future.

We will continue to need your generous support as we work toward that permanent facility. You will be hearing within the next few months about a campaign to raise the funds we will need for a new facility. We are here “because of viewers like you” – who love and care for these stories and want them to live on and inform the future.

We continue to thank you for your support! ♦

Inside This Issue

- 1 Pilgrimage
- 2 Highlights from the Banquet
- 4 Update On The Unsung Documentary
- 6 Save the Date
- 6 A Tribute to Helen Sanders



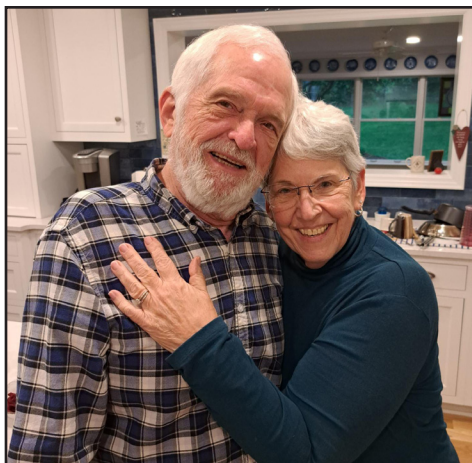
Some members of the Archives Board of Trustees at the Dufford House, Newberry College: September 13, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2025 “FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES BANQUET”

At the “Friends of the Archives” Banquet, “Bill” Trexler shared some poignant thoughts about the importance of archiving southern Lutheran history and his appreciation for the ministry of the Crumley Archives. Bill and Karla have been loyal supporters of the Crumley Archives and faithful memory-keepers for decades, and the Crumley Archives is deeply grateful for their service and support.

“The Crumley Archives helps us remember who we are as Southern Lutheran Christians. Our archives holds letters, pictures, books, recordings, artifacts, and thousands of other primary sources. Especially today in the United States, when records are being attacked and facts altered to erase memory and remake history we must preserve the original documents to set the records straight. I love remembering people and places— their stories and contributions to the life of our Church. We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us. People like Jim Crumley, for whom our archives is named . . .

You’re here this evening because heritage is important to you and Christ’s Church. The Crumley Archives preserves our church culture, history, and personal memories that shape who we are and whose we are. Karla and I love and honor each for your support of the Crumley Archives with your regular gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We invite you to join us in including the archives in your estate planning. And we thank you for honoring us with the 2025 Walton Harlowe Greever Award.” ♦



*2025 Walton H. Greever Award Recipients,
Rev. Dr. William B. and Mrs. Karla Trexler*



Our guests enjoy a delicious meal provided by Dupre Catering. A special thanks goes to the SC Lutheran Men in Mission for sponsoring our event!

2025 “FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES” AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Walton H. Greever Award:

The Rev. Dr. William and Mrs. Karla Trexler

The Congregational Heritage Award:

St Mark’s Lutheran Church, ELCA,
Jacksonville, FL

The Synodical Award:

Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA



*Jerry Johnson snaps a “selfie” with this year’s award recipients.
L to R: Dn. Jerry Johnson, Rev. Dr. Derek M. Hoven, Pr.
Daniel Locke, Rev. Dr. Bill Trexler, and Mrs. Karla Trexler.*



Rev. Frank Anderson models a commemorative plate that bears his name!



Pr. Daniel Locke accepts the Congregational Heritage Award on behalf of St Mark's Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Florida.

James R Crumley Jr. Archives

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UPDATE ON THE UNSUNG DOCUMENTARY

UNSUNG

A CHRONICLE OF BLACK LUTHERANS

The Archives has been in the process of developing a film documentary series on Black Lutherans in the South for the past two years. The documentary is entitled *Unsung: A Chronicle of Black Lutherans in the South*. To date we have completed the first episode on South Carolina. In late May we were able to show the first episode to about 60 people at the SE Synod Assembly in Columbus, GA, at the invitation of Bishop Strickland. The completed episode is now accessible on the Archives website for anyone who would like to view it.

The second episode in the documentary will feature the rich but largely unsung story of Black Lutherans in Alabama. At its assembly in late May, the Southeastern Synod saw a trailer of the interviews we have filmed in Alabama. We expect to complete this episode by the end of October. It will feature stories of Rosa Young and the parochial school approach that was a centerpiece in the mission and outreach of both the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and the American Lutheran Church in the first half of the 20th century. It also will cover the period of the civil rights movement in Montgomery in the mid-fifties and the Lutheran presence there.

The third episode will deal with the history of Black Lutherans in Georgia. We have completed the filming of oral interviews but have not done editing and compilation for this episode. Our goal is to have the third episode available by spring 2026.

The fourth episode will focus on the story of Black Lutherans in the Virgin Islands - another story that is not widely known and largely unsung. Our target is to do the filming of oral interviews in the winter of 2026; but plans are

still in process at this point. The good news is we have funds for this episode.

When additional funds become available, we intend to do similar episodes for both the Florida-Bahamas Synod and North Carolina. These future episodes do not have definite plans yet. All episodes once completed will be accessible on the Archives website. ♦



Rosa Young in her Early Years



Rosa Young with her students in later years.

THANK YOU!

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES

We are most grateful for the gifts received since the last edition of the Archival Survey. These gifts enable us to preserve our church's history and to assist researchers, congregations and institutions in their work. Gifts listed below arrived between **June 17, 2025** and **October 6, 2025**. Please advise if your gift has been omitted. If you made an honorarium, please know that the person has been notified.

Again, **THANK YOU**, for your generosity.

Gifts

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James and Carol Metts, Lexington, SC
Bishop Phyllis Milton, Newport News, VA
The Rev. John Pearson, Raleigh, NC ♦



Tithe.ly

We are pleased to announce that we have changed our online giving platform to Tithe.ly!

Tithe.ly is the preferred online giving provider for the ELCA. Please visit

<https://www.crumleyarchives.com/donate>
and designate your gift today. We thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE!

"LOURIE LECTURE SERIES"

FEBRUARY 2026

FROM THE RHINE TO THE SALUDA: GERMAN IMMIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN THE DUTCH FORK OF SC

This four-part series explores the story of the German Lutherans who made their home in the South Carolina Midlands 300 years ago, an area still known today as the "Dutch Fork". Susan W. McArver and Shannon Smith will trace how these early settlers journeyed from Europe to the Carolina backcountry and share stories of what life was like for these immigrants, how they acclimated to daily life in the new world, the challenges they faced, and their enduring legacy that can still be appreciated and preserved today. ♦

THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 26,

BEGINNING AT 11:30 AM

THE LOURIE CENTER

1650 PARK CIRCLE

COLUMBIA, SC 29201

Online registration forthcoming at

[www.seniorresourcesinc.org/thelouriecenter/
programs/lourielectures/](http://www.seniorresourcesinc.org/thelouriecenter/programs/lourielectures/)

A TRIBUTE TO HELEN SANDERS

At the "Friends of the Archives Banquet", the Crumley Archives honored the life time of achievements of Ms. Helen Sanders. Helen was the Crumley Archives's first dedicated archivist, and she laid the groundwork for the establishment of regular office hours and the development of a staff which would eventually turn the repository into a fully functioning institution of preservation. Helen's encouragement of synod and congregational participation in the Region 9 Archives set the course for a rich and robust collection that spans six synods and nearly 1300 collections.

Without Helen's faithful, reliable, and credible representation, the Crumley Archives would not stand out as the model that it is today for so many church archives across the American south. We thank her for her service and accomplishment! ♦

Friends of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Become a Friend of the Archives through a gift to support the continuing work of preserving our Southern Lutheran history to encourage us in faithfulness into the future.

Please make checks payable to: James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my/our gift for the support of the Archives \$ _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Person to be notified of the gift: _____

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Mail to: James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, PO Box 214, Columbia, SC 29202

Thank you for your gift!

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