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Issue 10

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Region 9, ELCA
Columbia, South Carolina
<http://crumleyarchives.ltss.edu>

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Our newsletter, in its title and masthead, pays homage to the *American Lutheran Survey* published by the noted Lutheran leader, Dr. Walton H. Greever, and was originally published at a site near the present-day Archives.

ARCHIVAL SURVEY

The Kindness of a Stranger

By Jeanette Bergeron, Director of the Archives

In Biblical and secular literature there are numerous stories with the theme of something coming from nothing. Recently the Archives witnessed a classic example of this miracle.

A researcher in Florida contacted us for information on an ancestor who was briefly in Virginia in the 1890s during his long career as a Lutheran pastor. He served a Virginia church so his dying wife could be with her family and then returned to his ministry in the western United States. There was no mention of him in the Virginia, Southwest Virginia or Tennessee synod minutes or in southern clergy biographies. I surmise that since his posting was short, it likely occurred between synod meetings and didn't leave a footprint in the records.

But the researcher wanted to look at the sources himself, so during a South Carolina business trip, he visited our Archives. I showed him the materials, and there truly was nothing for him to see.

A retired archeologist, he told me he had served as president of the board of trustees of a large Baptist university and now ran a foundation supporting education programs. He was avidly curious about all things Archives and peppered me with questions. Once I learned he was a foundation director, I must admit that visions of grant applications floated in my head.

Then the most amazing thing happened. He said, "I want to give you a personal check. Put it to good use however the Archives needs it." Receiving an unexpected gift is happy and exciting and a little awkward ("How long can I stare at it?" I wondered). Most donations we see are double-digit, and our staff really gets ecstatic about those with three figures. I held a check with four figures. This stranger, who is not a Lutheran, had given the Archives \$5,000. His gift will fund our operations for one of the 12 months of this year. To put it into perspective, hundreds of hours of loving labor went into raising this kind of money at our recent Friends banquet.

One hour of time, \$5,000, the miracle of something from nothing. The Lord does provide. ◆

James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Spring 2010 Operating Hours* (February-May 15, 2010)

Monday 8:30-11:45 a.m., 12:30-5:30, 6-9 p.m.
Tuesday 10:30-11:45 a.m., 12:30-5:30, 6-9 p.m.
Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 6-9 p.m.;
Thursday 10-11:45 a.m., 12:30-5:30 p.m.
Friday 1 -5:30 p.m.

*On some days, hours may vary due to staff travel and other commitments.

2009 Banquet Great Success

130 Guests gathered at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia, SC, on November 6, 2009, for the annual Friends of the Archives Banquet -- to celebrate and support the *Crumley Archives* and honor one of its strongest supporters, the Rev. Dr. Carl Ficken. The Rev. Dr. Bill Trexler, President of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary Board of



Trustees, did a great job as keynote speaker, highlighting the important role Carl has played in the Southern Lutheran church, as well as the Archives, and spoke additionally of the overall importance of the Archives. The *Walton H. Greever Award* was presented to Carl, as well as a Resolution presented by the Rev. Beverly Wallace on behalf of the Southeastern Synod Council. The Silent Auction raised \$1,265, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans gave a grant of \$1,000 in support of the event. Over the winter an additional \$5,000 in donations, many in Carl's honor, have been received. Along with the banquet income of \$2,400, this represents about \$10,000 of the roughly \$35,000 needed to be raised in order to operate the Archives in 2010. ♦

2010 Banquet Set

The 2010 Friends of the Archives Banquet will move to Charlotte, NC. Christ Lutheran Church on Providence Road will be our hosts as we honor the Rev. Dr. Carl Fisher on October 29th, 2010. Watch for upcoming announcements of other awards that will be presented during this event. We encourage you to mark your calendars and plan on joining us in Charlotte.

"As a Child I Loved to Read...."

By Kyra Moore, Archives Office Assistant

Well, I have quite a feat to follow, being the third in this series, about how each of us ended up working in the archives. I have lived a diverse life that has been devoted to God since an early age. None the less, here I am and this is a little of how I got here.

I am a child of the late sixties, growing up in a time and culture in which those of my generation were struggling to find a niche in society. We were the children of the flower children, the lost generation! I was born in Buffalo, NY. In my early childhood my parents divorced and I lived with my mother. She found religion in the early seventies and she and I moved in a van (we had named Charlie), from Buffalo, to San Francisco, where we joined a religious community. She took a job with the Little Sisters of the Poor, further instilling in me that helping people was important.

As a child I loved to read and always had a book in my hand. My favorite subject in school was history, and I loved going to church. I went to eight different schools in my twelve years of grade/middle and high schools. Some of them were public and some of them were religious, but they were all different and I had a varied and colorful educational experience. One high school history class had an impact on me and I still remember it to this day!

When I got to college I discovered that I also loved science, especially marine biology. The religious community in which I had grown up in was no longer satisfying and I began a religious quest, visiting various churches until I discovered the Orthodox Church. I studied its theology and history and converted. I was still undecided what I was going to major in when I met my future husband, Thomas Moore. He had a Masters in psychology and was working at a school for teens that were troubled and had disabilities. I was fascinated. I then became a psychology major and worked with Easter Seals. They had a program that helped children with Down Syndrome interface with the world. It was part-time, fun, and perfect for a college student.

While still in college I married and we moved from SF to San Rafael, which was closer to school and work. Soon after I finished my degree, we took a trip to Hawaii, (which began my love of travel), and my son was born. When George was six months old, we moved to South Carolina, to be closer to my husband's family.

Here I took a part-time job working with children with special needs and was able to take my young son with me. Our second child, Anna, was born in Columbia. My husband was ordained to the Deaconate in the Orthodox Church in America. In 1997 we decided to go to seminary, at St. Vladimir's in White Planes, NY. I was able to take a few classes furthering my learning of the history and theology of the Orthodox Church. We also traveled a good bit, learning the history and culture of the people of New England!

Coming back to SC, my children were still young and I home schooled them. Our favorite subjects were reading aloud and history. I began to do childcare to earn some extra money and it enabled me to stay home with them and gave them other playmates. Our third child, Grace, was born in 2002, after a long hiatus, although we are used to age differences (I am 20 years younger than my husband). She has been a real joy and blessing to us all.

As the two older children went to "real" school, I was faced with the challenges of being a priest's wife. I was tired of taking care of other people's children but still had one of my own at home. I needed a venue with some adults, where I could earn a little extra money. It had to be something that had flexible hours (that was essential for a priest's wife), and was very part time. But I also wanted something that was interesting, fun, and provided a service to others. Not too many such jobs exist, but I began asking people I knew if anyone knew of such a position. (*Cont. on next page.*)



(Cont. from previous page)

As it happens Harvey Huntley, who is a family friend, knew of one and steered me to the archives, where I have met interesting people, (both dead and alive), have learned new skills, and have really enjoyed working. ♦

Archives Winter Work

Over the year-end holidays and semester break, the Archives was closed to the public in order to reallocate its collection space for additional materials that keep arriving. We appreciate your patience and good wishes and are happy to report that we accomplished what we needed to. It was hard work to shift so much, but for awhile again we have space where we need it. Many poor-quality boxes have been recycled among the Seminary community and replaced with appropriate archival boxes on our shelves. Some duplicate records and housekeeping records have gone on to "their just reward." An extra foot here and there can add up to a lot. Of course, the process is never-ending. ♦

An Editorial

F-I-R-E!

During the second weekend of January emails were received from Bishop Philip Lok of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia sharing news of arson attempts and/or fire bombings at several Christian churches in and around Kuala Lumpur, including one at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Petaling Jaya (a suburb of KL). This news immediately put me in mind of a church burning caused by an arsonist in the summer of 1979... St. John Lutheran Church in Rincon, GA. I remember it well, as I was the pastor of St. Johns at the time and lived next door to the church. The outpouring of concern from people in many places, both for these most recent events in Malaysia and for that 30-year ago event in Rincon is and was amazing and comforting. I think that of all the things that could happen to a congregation, the burning of a church building might be the most traumatic. At St. Johns we were fortunate in the sense that nothing of historical value (other than the sanctuary itself) was lost. All of the papers, documents, and memorabilia of value were in other buildings. I

guess the question that arises now in my mind is: what if the church office, rather than the sanctuary, were to have burned? I have no doubt that there may be some of you reading this who have experienced a church fire that has destroyed documents and artifacts of historical value. And, like me, you may not have even thought about really safeguarding these things prior to a fire. As we know, even adequate fire insurance does not recover for us items of historical value. I, for one, never thought about all this until many years later... even years after I became involved with the *Crumley Archives*. Irreplaceable things are just that... irreplaceable... unless we make the effort to truly safeguard them. That "safeguard" can be anything from a fireproof safe on church property, to a bank safe deposit box, to depositing such items with the *Crumley Archives*. I have no desire to use scare tactics here, but I do strongly encourage you to think seriously about how and where your valuable congregational records, etc., are stored. If you would like some guidance in figuring this out, why not contact the *Crumley Archives*. It certainly might bring some peace of mind! ♦ *Don Poole, editor* (dbpoole@morrisbb.net)

2009 at the Archives

By Scott Anderson, Board President

Jubilation, tumult, rejoicing, anxiety, hope, worry; these are all terms that come to mind as I reflect on the year 2009 at the James R. Crumley Jr, Archives. They are terms we could use in describing our denomination and the life that we live together. If we learn anything from history it is that we are called to do God's work in the present and strive for the kingdom always. So, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide us we shall persevere.

During this past year we celebrated the work of our friend the Rev. Dr. Carl Ficken and honored him at our annual banquet. We welcomed new board members, rejoiced that many of you continue to support our work, and we gave thanks for a staff that diligently cares for our collections.

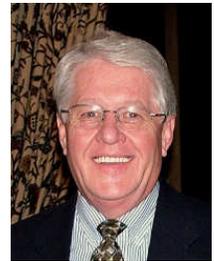
With your help we have been able to keep the doors open and more, but I fear for our future.

Our collections are growing and we are outgrowing our space. We closed for much of December and January to reorganize in the hope of making room for our heritage.

Synods, congregations and individuals continue to help, but with struggling economies and reduced benevolence contributions some of our regional partners have hinted at reduced contributions. When congregations and individuals withhold dollars from Synods, the Archives and other agencies suffer.

So we move into the new year with hope, trusting in the Lord and asking all of you to help us with your prayers, your dollars and an encouraging word to your friends and fellow Lutherans.

We are excited about what the future holds for the Archives and know that with your help and God's guidance we shall remain a vibrant organization. God bless you all! ♦



Thanks and kudos to Rev. Dr. Carl Ficken, who recently volunteered for a week of work in the Archives. He tackled a huge collection of boxes from the disbanded Our Saviour congregation in Smyrna, Georgia, and shaped them into a manageable collection. Similar opportunities are available for other "guest processors."

◆◆

Dr. Susan McArver's "Lutheranism in North America" class--largely the LTSS senior class of 2010--has begun a semester of work that relies heavily on the primary sources in the Archives. This collaboration is always a great experience for students and Archives staff.

IMLS Book Grant

The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives is one of 13 South Carolina archives, libraries and museums selected recently to receive the "Connecting to Collections Bookshelf" from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Bookshelf is a set of 19 books, online resources and users' guides to assist an institution in preserving and conserving its treasures for future generations.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the IMLS headed a study entitled "A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections," which revealed serious issues with preservation of collections across America. Hundreds of sets of the Bookshelf have been given away through an online application process. Funding was a joint effort of public organizations and private foundations.

The Bookshelf provides institutions on small budgets with recently published preservation manuals and other guideline materials. The Crumley Archives has no budget for book purchases. Titles in the Bookshelf include *International Review of African American Art*; *IPI Media Storage Quick Reference*; *Photographs: Archival Care and Management*; and *Preservation Management for Libraries, Archives and Museums*. ♦

Keeping Alive the Memory of Loved Ones

By Jeanette Bergeron, Dir. of Archives



A message in my email jumped out at me although it began like countless others I receive: "I have a collection of historical documents and I am

hoping you can advise me as to whether they have any significant value as archival material and whether the James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives, or any other archive that you're aware of, would be interested in acquiring them."

We were being offered six boxes of sermons written by a beloved stepfather who recently passed away. Often we are offered one sermon or a few. This was a first for us, and immediately I was grateful for the opportunity.

Six boxes of sermons is a treasure trove—an incredible journey with one pastor, from seminarian to senior pastor, set against the backdrop of decades of changing American culture, social issues and important events. Regretfully, we won't have space for six boxes from every Southern Lutheran pastor, and I'm betting not many have six boxes of sermons to give us. (You're invited to prove me wrong.) But it is important for every pastor to leave some trace of his or her life, writings and ministerial deeds in the Archives. Every day, I see how desperately people search for this material on pastors from the 1800s and early 1900s.

The pastor who produced six boxes of sermons had served one congregation for 40 years—remarkable and unusual—taking it from a mission to a thriving congregation of over 1,000 members. He established a school, which became one of the ELCA's largest parochial schools within 10 years. He established a child care program, an adult medical daycare, a clinical pastoral education program, and a senior housing project. He was chaplain to a nearby air force base and to the local police department and so much more, including a member of the board of trustees of Southern Seminary.

The insights and examples to be learned from his life and ministry have the potential to impact those who study them for many generations to come. The collection fits beautifully into our mission of preserving historic Southern Lutheran records.

Three generations of family members lovingly accompanied the records on their 6-hour journey to the Archives. They wanted to see the place where things important to their husband/stepfather/grandfather will live on. It was an emotional journey. As the stepson had written me, "We have been parting with a number of [his] possessions, some with a lot of sentimental value that we will not see again, so it is gratifying to be able to give the sermons to you knowing that they are going to a permanent home where they will be accessible and preserved indefinitely. They are certainly as integral to who [he] was as anything else he left behind."

My interaction with this family led me to look at the mission of the Archives in a new light—as a way to keep alive the memory of loved ones. There's probably not an archives textbook in print that lists this as the mission of an archives, but it's true. We are about so much more than history and religion. Ours is a very people-centered ministry, bringing comfort to the living, and respect and honor to the deceased. ♦

Church Consultations since May 2009

A service provided by the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives is consultations with congregations on keeping archives, writing history and celebrating anniversaries. Churches are invited to arrange trips to the regional archives, or visits to their location by the regional archivist, Jeanette Bergeron. Phone and email consultations are also available. Contact Jeanette at JBergeron@ltss.edu or 803-461-3234.

Gatlinburg, TN, Our Saviour (archives for interim)
Concord, NC, St. Johns (exchanged visits, archives)
Miami, FL, Christ the King (mold problem)
Prosperity, SC, Grace (anniversary, special guest at banquet)
Columbia, SC, Living Springs (ongoing archives help)
Charleston, SC, St. Barnabas (archives training at the Archives)
West Columbia, Emmanuel (archives training at church)
Sylva, NC, Shepherd of the Hills (parish register setup)
Lincolnton, NC, Emmanuel (anniversary assistance)
Hickory, NC, Bethany (100th anniversary)
Newton, NC, St. Paul's/Old St. Paul's (historical research, preservation)
Concord, NC, Calvary (archives, anniversary)
Burlington, NC, Macedonia (anniversary)
Saluda, SC, Corinth/St. Mark (archives) (Cont. on next page)

(Cont. from previous page)

- Savannah, GA, Lutheran Advocates for Maritime Mission (archives)
- Charleston, SC, St. Johannes (archives)
- Marion, VA, Ebenezer/Old Ebenezer (homecoming)
- West Columbia, SC, St. David's (archives training at the Archives)
- West Columbia, SC, Mt. Tabor (archives training at the Archives)
- Decatur, GA, St. Paul's (historical research)
- Leesville, SC, Cedar Grove (preservation of records)
- Greenville, TN, St. James (200th anniversary)
- Greenville, SC, Trinity (anniversary, preservation) ♦

Yielding Up Their Secrets—125 Years of Women's Records

By Sr. Marilyn Stauffer

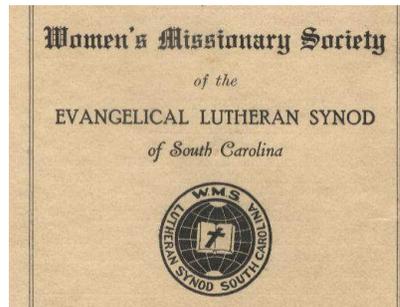
"We have not been able to see the fruitage from our labors." Ten years after its beginning in 1885, the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of South Carolina was not making the progress that had been hoped. Nevertheless, it had laid the groundwork for an organization that has lasted 125 years.

The idea for a society to support missions came from the Rev. W. P. Swartz, a missionary to India, who asked the women of South Carolina for help. There were already women's missionary societies in local congregations, but the organization that resulted from Pastor Swartz's suggestion was the first women's organization at the synod level in the General Synod South. The first synod society, in Iowa of the General Synod, had been formed only ten years before.

The first president of the S. C. society had resigned due to ill health even before the first convention in 1886. "We were loath to part with her," said the new president. She characterized the society's members as "too lukewarm—we lack earnestness as well as confidence." Most of the congregational societies were not sending in reports or money. To correct this, the society decided to pick the Augusta Mission as a project. The money would be used for building a church in that city.

Although this was a women's organization, men were still important to

it. Pastors attended the meetings, conducted worship services, and spoke to the delegates. However, the minutes of the first meeting reported that after speaking, "The gentlemen then retired and we resumed our business." In the early years, and for decades thereafter, married women were always identified by their husband's name. Unmarried women were listed as "Miss" with their first and last names.



By the twentieth anniversary in 1905, things were looking up. The reports of the delegates were "decidedly encouraging." Twenty new local societies were added that year. The women were organizing Children's Societies in many congregations. A fund-raising campaign called "Forward Movement" was begun during the year, with a goal of \$20,000, and with \$1800

already contributed, "On! until our \$20,000 is invested in our Theological Seminary in Japan and our Home Mission churches in the Southland." In the next two decades, five women from South Carolina went to Africa and Japan as missionaries. Over the years, projects included supporting a missionary and two native workers in Japan, three Bible women in India, kindergarten children in Japan, "destitute and neglected children" in the West Indies, and the Appalachian Mountain School in Konnarock, Virginia. In 1960, the 75th anniversary year, the South Carolina Women contributed support to women missionaries in India, Liberia, and Malaya; to four mission churches in the state; and to Lutheridge; the South Carolina Lutheran; synod building headquarters; and migrant work in the state.

This archives collection, now being processed with funding from a S. C. government grant, includes convention minutes from 1886 until 2005. Another major record is the Bulletin of Reports, the primary convention publication today. Each convention has a theme and colorful logo which are printed on the cover of the Bulletin. Of the many photos, the oldest one with a date is from 1908. Especially interesting are thirteen handwritten documents from the earliest years which were "rescued" on eBay by Dr. Susan McArver. ♦



T-shirts & convention bag from ELCW Conventions in 1997, 1998, & 2001

Did You Know That...

At the November 2009 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Archives, Jeanette Bergeron was promoted to director of the Archives, in recognition of ongoing duties and responsibilities.



The average cost of archiving a box of records that comes to the Archives is \$162.00, counting supplies and labor. Actual cost varies according to variables known only at the time of processing.



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Sara Lineberger	Cameron, SC

Friends of the Archives

Since the last issue of the *Archival Survey* (October 2009), the following friends have made contributions to the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives. We are most grateful for these gifts because they enable us to preserve our church's history and to assist researchers, congregations, and institutions in their work. If you have made a contribution since October 2009 and your name is not listed here, please accept our apologies and send us a note indicating the amount and date of your gift. Also, if you've made a donation in honor of others, be assured we have written them directly. Space prohibits us from naming honorees and memorials.

If your congregation could make a gift to the Archives, that would be a wonderful support. We would be glad to supply any information you might need to help you make such a request at your church.

Randy & Mary Alice Akers	Columbia, SC
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 North Carolina Synod, ELCA
 South Carolina Synod, ELCA
 Southeastern Synod, ELCA
 Region 9, ELCA
 Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
 Lutheran Homes of South Carolina
 Newberry College

Other --

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