



ARCHIVAL SURVEY

Spring 2015
Issue 20

Shannon Smith, Interim Archivist

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Region 9, ELCA
Columbia, South Carolina
www.crumleyarchives.org

An Introduction To Shannon Smith

By Shannon Smith

I am delighted to care for the James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives during this interim period. Though my time here has been short, beginning only in March, already I have come to realize how important the archives are to the ELCA, both historically and sentimentally. This has been demonstrated through continued support, interest, and patronage. We thank you for your investment.

Work in the Archives has been an invaluable learning experience, and each day promises new knowledge, whether it be about archival work, the Lutheran church, or private research interests. My time with the Archives comes at a point when I am soon to complete a Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina. My interest in our material has not been limited to archival work alone; I also hold a Masters in Religious Studies, so much of my topical work in the archives is relevant to my personal interests.



Serving the public has made my work most rewarding. Each week, I receive several requests, either by phone or email, regarding our collection. I am indeed impressed at how dedicated the ELCA is to its historical preservation. And I would be remiss not to mention how kind and welcoming everyone has been to me. All of this, in short, has made my job most enjoyable.

As I continue to work with Jeanette Bergeron, our former archivist who for so many years made the Archives a success, I look forward to meeting more of you. As you travel this summer, consider dropping by our Archives, if only so I can meet and greet you.

Archives Activity:

My new position is not without its surprises and demands! One of the first of many has been what has come to be recognized as one of the Archives' most distinguished collections, the archival records of Frederick Church in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands. As many of you

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This 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.



Shannon Smith, *Interim Archivist*
Heather Walker, *Curator*
Don Poole, *Survey Editor*

Mark the Date: SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

You are cordially invited to attend
The 2015 Friends of the Archives Banquet
Friday, September 18, 2015, at
Six o'clock in the evening for hors d'oeuvres and Live Auction and
Seven o'clock for the banquet.
Palmetto Club, Columbia, South Carolina.

Walton H. Greever Honoree: Ms. Jeanette Bergeron

A Time of Transition

As I have gotten older I have found that change and transition becomes a bit more difficult... and that's putting it mildly. As you already know, the *Crumley Archives* is in a time of transition. Our long-time Archivist, Jeanette Bergeron, retired last September. Since then the Archives has been watched over by part-time curator Heather Walker. Heather has kept the Archives open and available to researchers, but has not been involved in archiving new materials. In March we were happy to add to the staff Mrs. Shannon Smith as a part-time interim archivist. Exactly where we go from here is unknown at this point, and the Board of Trustees of the Archives is studying the next steps to take. It's "transition time," and for some it is a time of uncertainty and concern. And for others it is a time of opportunity as we look to the future of the Archives. For not only are we dealing with the transition from one archivist to another, but we are also in the midst of making decisions that have to do with the physical location of the Archives. As has been mentioned in previous issues of the *Archival Survey*, the current location of the Archives in a basement room of Lineberger Library at Southern Seminary is near capacity. And so the Board has been struggling with questions and decisions of where do we go from here. We are fortunate to have strong support from the Seminary and Lenoir Rhyne University, as well as many individuals, congregations and institutions in Region 9 of the ELCA. Where we are going to be in two years, or five years or ten years is unknown at this point in time. But with the continued support of our constituents, we shall move through this time of transition and come out stronger than ever. You are to be thanked for your support of the Archives, and encouraged to "keep it up!" in this time of transition. The legacy of the Lutheran Church in the southeast and Caribbean is important, and will be preserved for the future of the church. Change and transition may at times be difficult, but, with God's help, we will end up stronger and more capable of meeting whatever the future holds in store for us. ♦ *Don Poole, Editor*

(Shannon Smith, Continued from page 1)

may know, Frederick Church is the oldest church in the ELCA, celebrating its 350th anniversary next year, and we're proud to help Frederick Church celebrate its milestone at this year's annual Friends of the Archives Banquet.

I hope to begin processing the collection in June 2015. As some of you may remember from our last issue of the *Archival Survey*, the collection is currently in quarantine. Reports of the material before we acquired it indicated that we may have a pest and mold issue, and archival authorities recommended that we keep the collection tightly wrapped in plastic for a period of no less than six months. As a safety precaution (and for good measure!), we have decided to wait a period of eight months.



In other news, much of my time has been occupied with patron requests and research. On a weekly basis, we assist patrons in their research for anything Lutheran, including information for churches planning to celebrate an anniversary, information on persons to be honored within a congregation, and information for special research conducted by pastors, students, and lay people.

Another substantial portion of my time has been spent with former archivist Jeanette Bergeron as she orients me to the Archives. Orientation involves my getting to know the objectives of the Archives, how its mission statement is best fulfilled, and how to best make the Archives available to the public. Our hope is to have much of this orientation completed by the end of April so that the two of us can begin processing material that has been donated to us. From a professional standpoint, I am very grateful to be under the guidance of Jeanette, for I know that she is considered to be the best at her job, and I look to gain much archival wisdom for her.

Anticipating the future, I look forward to opening the Archives to the public on a more frequent basis, with increased summer hours and a stronger presence in the community. Please consider how the Archives might serve you or your congregation. Perhaps you're working on a history of your church, or maybe you know of someone in your congregation who deserves recognition for his or her service to the ELCA and the church at large. The Archives has a wealth of information, just waiting to be shared, so no matter what your interests may be, I look forward to serving them in the future.

Please feel free to contact us by visiting our website, www.crumleyarchives.org, emailing us crumleyarchivist@gmail.com, or phoning us at 803-461-3234. ♦

An Easy Way for your Congregation to Support the Archives

Please consider giving the Archives an annual contribution equal to \$1 for each year your congregation has been organized. This size gift is small in terms of congregational budgets, but huge in terms of what it collectively means to the Archives and our ability to continue serving congregations with anniversary, archives and history support. Thank you!

The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives 2014-15 Board of Trustees

The Rev. Mark Scott, President (At Large, SC)
Dr. Susan McArver, Vice President (LTSS-LRU)
The Rev. Mel Amundson, Secretary (Region 9)
Ms. Karen Sumner, Treasurer (FL-Bahamas Synod)

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The Rev. Donald Poole (At Large, NC)
The Rev. Dr. Clayton Schmit (LTSS-LRU)
Mr. Edward Woodward, Jr., Esq. (SC Synod)

James R. Crumley, Jr. Archives - Summer Hours

Monday: 11 AM - 4 PM
Tuesday: 8 AM – Noon, 1 - 5 PM
Wednesday: 11 AM- 4 PM
Thursday: 9 AM—Noon, 1 - 5 PM
We are closed Fridays.



The Rev. Dr. James R. Crumley, Jr

By Dorothy Jeffcoat

The Rev. Dr. James R. Crumley, Jr, former Bishop of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the one for whom the Region 9 Archives is named, died on April 7, 2015. We celebrate his life of faithfulness and his committed service to the mission and ministry of the church, including the preserving and maintaining of our history and archives. Dr. Crumley was 90 years old and suffered complications from a fall.

Dr. Crumley was born March 30, 1925 in Bluff City, TN. He earned a BA degree from Roanoke College, Salem, VA and in 1951 received his Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. Crumley served the church as pastor of congregations in Tennessee and Georgia from 1951-1974. In 1974, he was elected secretary of the LCA and served until 1978 when he was elected President (1978-1980) and Bishop (1978-1987). At his 1974 election, Crumley said, "When God calls us, God also gives us the resources to fulfill our responsibilities." These words rang true throughout his ministry.



In 1988 he retired having completed 23 years as a parish pastor and 13 years in churchwide leadership. He and his wife Annette Bodie Crumley moved to Batesburg-Leesville, SC and later to Heritage at Lowman in White Rock, SC. He is survived by Annette; three children, Frances Holman of Baltimore, MD, James III of Savannah, GA, and Jeanne Lindemann (deceased); 8 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

During his tenure in churchwide leadership, he was a member and leader of the Commission for a New Lutheran Church (CNLC) for forming the ELCA; he served with the Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, and National Council of Churches in USA. His ecumenical insight and commitment are foundational for existing as well as potential ecumenical partnerships. He travelled to the Soviet Union, Germany, Switzerland, Scandinavia, and many churches in Africa and Asia. He visited the Orthodox church and the Vatican, including four audiences with Pope John Paul II. He held honorary degrees from 9 colleges and universities, including Newberry College and the University of South Carolina. After retiring and returning to South Carolina, he taught at Newberry College for two years and at Southern Seminary for six years and continued his role as parish pastor by serving as interim pastor in several congregations.

At his memorial service on April 11, 2015 at Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton recounted his foundational ecumenical contributions and characterized him as "a churchman in the truest sense; a faithful custodian of the church, humble, gracious, faithful, and powerfully gifted."

Bishop Herman Yoos of South Carolina described Crumley as one with humility, a serving heart, and willingness to follow in trust; one with understanding, insight, authenticity, and faithfulness; a person of patience and persistence. He identified the theme of Crumley's life as "What best serves the mission of Jesus Christ in the world and serves the whole church."

The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives of Region 9 is proud to be a legacy to Dr. Crumley. As secretary of the Southeastern Synod for a number of years and later as secretary of the LCA, his responsibilities included oversight of church archives and records. In these roles he learned more about the importance of archives and preserving and maintaining our historical records and documents. When Region 9 was establishing the archives, it was natural to turn to Dr. Crumley for advice. In 1992 Dr. Crumley was asked to serve with the archives team and to review and suggest long range plans for archives in Region 9. As part of that review, an archives consultant (Dr. Roland Bowman, LCA archives staff) suggested asking Crumley, a son of the region, a pastor of the region, and a national and world leader in the church, to allow the group to use his name for fundraising and to name the archives in his honor. The board eagerly accepted the suggestion. Crumley reluctantly agreed with his love for church, history and archives winning over his natural humility.

On June 13, 1994, Region 9 celebrated the naming of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives in Region 9 dedicated to documenting and preserving the history of Lutheranism in the South. In the celebration event Dr. Crumley said, "It is my wish that this celebration will emphasize the importance of archives in the life of the church and the value of the archive collections held here at Southern Seminary which preserves our Southern church's history and heritage." Crumley continued to serve with the Board as an integral part of the vision and decision making. In 2012 the archives recognized him again with the *Walton H. Greever Award*, presented at the annual Banquet of the Friends of the Archives.

We are grateful for the life and ministry of Dr. James R. Crumley and now with his death proudly continue the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives of Region 9 as a legacy to him. Dr. Crumley's vision, thoroughness, careful attention to detail, organizational skills, and love for history continue to guide the purpose, goals and ministry of the archives as we give thanks for his life and seek to be faithful to his legacy. ♦ *Editor's note: Dot Jeffcoat first worked with Dr. Crumley when he was pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Savannah, Ga. She also served as the first Coordinator of the ELCA Region 9, during which time she was instrumental in helping to set up the Archives.*

Donations to the Archives in memory of Dr. Crumley may be sent to the James R. Crumley, Jr Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203.

**2015 Honorees to be Honored at the Annual Friends of the Archives Banquet
September 18, 2015**

Walton H. Greever Honoree: Ms. Jeanette Bergeron

Ms. Bergeron retired as Archivist and Director of the *Crumley Archives* in the fall of 2014, having held the position of Archivist since January 1999.



Congregational Honoree: Frederick Evan. Lutheran Church, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Frederick Church, which traces its history back to 1666, is preparing to celebrate its 350th Anniversary. It is the oldest congregation in the ELCA.

Synod Honoree: The ELCA Caribbean Synod, hq. Dorado, Puerto Rico

Bishop Felipe Lozada-Montañez serves the Caribbean Synod which includes Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.



Friends of the Archives

Since the last issue of the *Archival Survey* (Fall 2014), 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 the Fall of 2014 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 [although an exception was made for this issue].

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. Many thanks for your gifts!

Contributions in Memory of James R. Crumley, Jr.

Mary & Peter Agre, Lexington, SC
Mel & Nancy Amundson, Columbia, SC
Jim & Ginny Aull, White Rock, SC
Michael & Cindy Bodie, Lexington, SC
Raymond & Margaret Bost, Hickory, NC
Bill & Ginger Caughman, Batesburg-Leesville, SC
Donald & Emily Crumley, Bristol, TN
Anna Deriu, Port Washington, NY
James & Sara Deriu, Towson, MD
Carl & Miriam Fisher, Charlotte, NC
Tommy & Evelyn Hayden, Leesville, SC
Ozzie & Virginia Herlong, Chapin, SC
Kathy & Dave Lindenstruth, Towson, MD
Tom & Barbara O'Brien, Lexington, SC
Harold & Betty Park, Chapin, SC
Don & Brenta Poole, Asheville, NC
Carolyn Price, Gilbert, SC
Boddie & Nelle Rinehart, Batesburg, SC
Nancy Speir, Atlanta, GA
Jim & Saralyn Summer, Matthews, NC
John & Merlyn Watkins, Leesville, SC
WELCA Morning Circle, Wittenberg Lutheran Church, Leesville, SC

Other Contributions, September 24, 2014 – April 22, 2015

From Individuals:

James & Celie Addy, West Columbia, SC
Randy & Mary Alice Akers, Columbia, SC
Mel & Nancy Amundson, Columbia, SC
C. W. Bartholomai, Atlanta, GA
Roger & Jean Beaver, Conover, NC
Jeanette Bergeron, Columbia, SC
Bill & Margaret Bingham, Garner, NC
Henri & Carolyn Bishop, Pomaria, SC
Paulwyn & Betty Boliek, Augusta, GA
Raymond & Margaret Bost, Hickory, NC
Henry & Rose Brandt, Prosperity, SC
Mack & Jennie Branham, Irmo, SC
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Keith & Genie Brown, Roanoke, VA
Dick & Becky Campbell, Mount Pleasant, NC
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Jim & Annette Crumley, Chapin, SC
Ann Dasher, Arden, NC
Rachel Davis, Savannah, GA
David & Carolyn Donges, Columbia, SC
Betty Eckard, Hickory, NC
Derald & Vicky Edwards, Chapin, SC
Donald & Leola Fanning, Beaufort, SC
Dwayne, Catherine & Jacob Fink, Salisbury, NC
Eric Fink, West Columbia, SC
Mary Finklea, Effingham, SC
Carl & Miriam Fisher, Charlotte, NC
Jeremy & Katie Fisher, Hickory, NC
Mary Flekke, Lakeland, FL
W. Richard Fritz, Jr., Hickory, NC
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Donald & Janet Hanberry, Snellville, GA
Raymond & Julie Hendrix, Columbia, SC
Scott & Emilee Hendrix, Pittsboro, NC
Ozzie & Virginia Herlong, Chapin, SC
John & Frances Holman, Towson, MD
Harvey Huntley, Jr., Boone, NC
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Jerry Johnson, Jacksonville, FL
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David & Diana Keck, Mooresville, NC
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Kathryn Link, Prosperity, SC
Jerry & Janice Livingston, West Columbia, SC
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Joyce Lybrand, Columbia, SC
Gary & Dottie Lyerly, Columbia, SC
Kenneth & Sue Marks, Apex, NC
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Tom & Ann Ridenhour, Concord, NC
Helen Sanders, Chapin, SC
Armand & Julia Shealy, Irmo, SC
Melba Shealy, Lexington, SC
Murray & Christine Shull, Moore, SC
Doug & Ruth Smiley, Oak Ridge, TN
Mark & Kimberly Smith, Savannah, GA
Marilyn Stauffer, Chapin, SC
Kevin Strickland, Chicago, IL
Virginia Strickland, Augusta, GA
Paul & Debra Summer, Columbia, SC
Ted & Mary Thuesen, Hickory, NC
Bill & Karla Trexler, Arden, NC
Robert & Cheri Wallace, Mount Pleasant, SC
Jonne Walter, Atlanta, GA
Roy Wise, Atlanta, GA
Larry & Judy Witmer, Davidson, NC
Deborah Wood, Fort Mill, SC
Ed Woodward, Columbia, SC
Judy Woolly, Columbia, SC
Herman & Cindy Yoos, Columbia, SC
Joe & Margaret Zeigler, Chapin, SC

Institutional Support:

Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA
North Carolina Synod, ELCA
South Carolina Synod, ELCA
Southeastern Synod, ELCA
Virginia Synod, ELCA
Region 9, ELCA
Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary of Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lutheran Homes of South Carolina
Newberry College
NovusWay Ministries
Lutheran Advocates for Maritime Mission

Congregational Support:

Corinth, Saluda, SC
Christ, Columbia, SC (disbanded)
Resurrection, Greensboro, NC (disbanded)
Saint Philip, Raleigh, NC
St. James, Concord, NC
Salem, Lincolnton, NC

Other:

Mission Investment Fund, ELCA
Thrivent Financial

We Are History: Reflections from the Archives

Susan Wilds McArver

The day finally comes to us all. The realization may dawn gradually or sweep in abruptly, but eventually, it comes, whether we like it or not: we suddenly realize that “we are history” to a younger generation.

The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives houses many treasures accumulated over the three-century history of the southeastern region of the Lutheran church. Another growing part of the collection, however, contains some of our “newest” history. The Archives is becoming home to an increasing number of oral histories: interviews conducted, transcribed and deposited there by current students at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Students in the Lutheranism in North America class choose to write in their senior year on any topic related to the history or tradition of the denomination, and subjects range widely. As one among many options, students may choose to interview a person or persons of interest about some facet of their lives, ministry, or experience in the 20th century. Students then transcribe the interview, write an interpretive reflection paper setting the interview in historical context, and finally deposit the interview in the Archives for future generations to study.

Over the last few years, oral history interviews have provided students an opportunity to hear first hand about both momentous moments in the church’s life and also about the ordinary lives of pastors and laypeople in the middle of the 20th century. Even though the events narrated may have taken place only fifty or sixty years ago, for some students, these events can seem as foreign and distant as if they had occurred in the Middle Ages.

Students have interviewed pastors who toiled to establish local mission congregations, both successfully and unsuccessfully. They have talked with foreign missionaries to Africa and Japan about their experi-

ences on the field. They have learned about seminary life in the 1950’s, the formation of the ELCA in the 1980s, campus ministry, military chaplaincy, social service, and even about folklore that has survived in certain regions of the South for nine or ten generations.

Oral histories have considered issues that seemed controversial at the time, such as the civil rights movement of the 1950’s and 60’s, and the ordination of women in the 1970’s. Other students have interviewed individuals about subjects much closer to their own experience, such as recent churchwide decisions on homosexuality or on a local congregation’s decision to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

Students have interviewed presidents and bishops about large changes they shepherded, but they have also talked with a host of pastors and laypeople about “ordinary” life in the church, discovering both the joys and sorrows that come in the gift and challenge of everyday ministry.

By holding these conversations and by transcribing these interviews, students have presented us with a lasting legacy, while at the same time they have received a great gift as well. The students who have participated in these conversations have left a bequest to all future scholars, who will now have the opportunity to peruse these records as they attempt to gather glimpses into the life of the

20th century church. More immediately, however, each of these students has grown in their own understanding of ministry in times of great change, crisis, and opportunity. As they take with them the insight and experiences of those who have lived through the enormous changes of the 20th century, they can find strength and encouragement as they face the issues that will inevitably confront them in the 21st.

Mark Twain is reputed to have once said, “History doesn’t repeat itself. But it does rhyme.” Through these oral histories and this personal dialogue, students have received a glimpse into that truth. ♦



George and Elizabeth Moore and children, missionaries in Zorzor, Liberia, early 1950’s



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:

The James R. Crumley Jr. Archives.

Donor name(s): _____

Email address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please find enclosed my/our gift for the continuing support of the Archives.

___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ \$500 ___ \$1,000 ___ Other

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Name & address of person(s) to be notified of gift:

Mail to: James R. Crumley Jr. Archives, 4201 N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203

Don't forget to make the Archives your choice with Thrivent Choice!

Thank you for your gifts!