

2017 has been a year of transition. In addition to me being new, our archivist of six years resigned in December, 2016. A search committee screened applicants, interviewed candidates, and offered the position to Jill Sweetapple, who joined our staff in May.

We enhanced our relationships with ABC/USA partners:

- attending the National Leadership Council and the ABC Women Leaders' Retreat;
- hosting the Executive Committee of the Board of General Ministries;
- concluding a formal deposit agreement with ABHMS;
- holding virtual workshops, helping our partners prepare to move offices and transfer records to Atlanta.

Among Baptists:

- I continue to visit congregations to introduce myself and ABHS to these pastors and congregations;
- we had a successful exhibit and breakfast at the Biennial; I spoke at the Theologians' Conference, the Roger Williams Fellowship dinner, and the Women in Ministry Mission Table conversation;
- we hosted the annual ALABI conference in May;
- we exhibited materials at the New Baptist Covenant summit meeting; I spoke at the banquet;
- I participated in the Baptist Classics seminar, composed predominately of scholars affiliated with CBF and NBC in America, Inc.;
- we have sent 65 certificates celebrating congregations' or regions' anniversaries;
- we have provided 16 of our new Local Church History resources;
- we are planning the co-hosted conference on the legacy of Walter Rauschenbusch (April, 2018).

In the ongoing work of making our collections accessible and helping tell our Baptist stories:

- I spoke at the 2016 regional meeting of ABC of Metro NY, the semi-annual meeting of the Oklahoma Indian American Baptist Association, and North Shore Baptist in Chicago, and provided consultation for FBC of Oakland, CA;
- we digitized the addresses of Martin Luther King, Jr., to various ABC gatherings;
- September 2016 - August 2017, we hosted 36 researchers over a total of 69 days;
- we responded to 25 research-by-mail requests;
- we did research for the communications office of ABC/USA, the denominational development office, and the committee planning a service of thanksgiving for the Mission Center, among others;
- we have increased our posting of Baptist history facts to Facebook; the number of people following ABHS has increased by 42%;
- we created an updated, electronic Local Church History resource (available to order for \$15);
- we hosted groups including a Chin Baptist congregation and seminary Baptist history classes.

Our Future

The American Baptist Historical Society is committed to enriching the body of Christ. Our mission includes fostering and promoting a knowledge and appreciation of Baptist history through the ongoing collection, preservation and interpretation of the work of the diverse family of Baptists. Central to our mission is the preservation of the records of ABC/USA and the advancement of the high value of the traditions of Baptist religious life. Serving a God who works within history, we are dedicated to the work of telling the Gospel according to Baptists and inspiring spiritual and social transformation.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla E. Eppinger
Executive Director