



The American Baptist Historical Society continues to fulfill its vision of advancing Baptist identity, promoting historical literacy and inspiring spiritual and social transformation. 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 historical records of the American Baptist Churches, USA.

We are using technology effectively to manage and increase access to our collections:

- Archivist Jill Sweetapple and digital archivist Jenny Manasco have added numerous collections to our online catalog and are setting up infrastructure for our digitization project;
- We are party to a collaborative grant to digitize, among other items, the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century records of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia; this work is worth approximately \$13,000.

In the ongoing work of helping tell our Baptist stories:

- from September 2017 through August 2018, we hosted 38 researchers who spent a total of 62 days in our Reading Room; we received 41 research inquiries via our web site; we responded to 27 research-by-mail requests;
- we have increased our posting of Baptist history facts to Facebook; the number following ABHS has increased by 44% since 1 October 2017 (we invite you to follow us on Facebook!).

We enhanced our institutional relationships by:

- holding virtual workshops and consultations with Valley Forge staff, as they prepare to move offices and transfer records to Atlanta;
- participating in the initial ABWIM 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning meeting.

Outreach among Baptists and others included:

- sending 74 certificates celebrating congregations' or regions' anniversaries;
- providing 21 of our electronic Local Church History resources;
- Executive Director Priscilla Eppinger leading the Ministers' Council retreat for the ABC of Mid-America;
- Executive Director Priscilla Eppinger being inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr., College of Ministers and Laity;

Ongoing Development

- We continued fundraising efforts for the *At Your Fingertips* campaign; donations received in 2018 total \$13,909; total revenue (January 2014 – August 2018) totals \$430,000, with about \$42,000 in pledges outstanding.

The American Baptist Historical Society is committed to using its collections to enrich the body of Christ. Serving a God who works within history, we are dedicated to the ministry of telling the "Gospel according to Baptists" and inspiring spiritual and social transformation.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla E. Eppinger  
Executive Director  
November, 2018