

November 2019 Report from the Executive Director

Highlights from the past year:

At Your Fingertips capital campaign and the digital project it funds:

- The ABHS-hosted breakfast at the ABC/USA Biennial Mission Summit in Virginia Beach celebrated the culmination of the campaign.
- Campaign receipts total approximately \$485,000, including some grant funds (~\$15,000) from the Council on Library and Information Resources funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation underwriting an archival project spearheaded by Christ Church Preservation Trust; early records of First Baptist of Philadelphia held by ABHS are now available online at PhiladelphiaCongregations.org.
- We purchased a NextScan FlexScan microfilm scanner (\$28,000), which enables us to digitize and index microfilm. After an initial trial scanning the first 20 rolls of Missionary Correspondence, we began scanning ABHMS records that were identified last year as deteriorating.
- Using a loaned Archivist's Quill book scanner we scanned the 11 volume "Baptist Cyclopedica" as well as several other works. We plan to purchase a book scanner in 2020 (~\$16,000).
- Inventories for about 100 collections, consisting of over 1700 boxes, have been uploaded to ArchivesSpace, our online catalogue, including the inventory of our extensive congregational files collection, one of the collections most frequently added to. Congregational files hold histories, anniversaries, and various other documents for hundreds of churches.

Outreach

- ABHS has created traveling exhibits to be used at regional or congregational meetings. (Request one for your region!)
- We recognize and celebrate congregations' ministries through the awarding of the Younger Award (FBC, Salina, KS) and sending anniversary certificates (47 this year).
- We assist congregations in maintaining their own archives by providing an electronic resource (14 this year).

Research

- January-October we welcomed **69** researchers for a total of 103 research days. Researchers came from 23 different states and 10 foreign countries, including Burma, El Salvador, India, and Japan.
- We fulfilled an additional **65** research requests coming from as far away as Sweden, Germany, Qatar, China, and the United Kingdom.

American Baptist Quarterly

- As of September, four issues have been published this year, with one more currently at the print shop. We have concentrated extra time and energy this year toward getting the ABQ back on track after falling behind schedule over a decade ago.
- Upcoming issues will focus on ecclesiology, women in ministry, Baptists in Rhode Island, global warming, and the vocation of Christian laypeople.

2019 is the first year in the past four years that ABHS has not had a search for a new staff member. We have a full complement of skilled staff doing good work. It is a blessing to work with these colleagues, preserving and telling the stories of Baptist mission and ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla E. Espingü