

Archives Report

Submitted by: Nancy Donohue

List of members currently serving:

- ❖ Rae Conley; Bob Schneider, co-archivist; Nancy Donohue; co-archivist

As you look at your goals for 2019, what were you able to accomplish?

- ❖ The Historical Society of Pennsylvania said they would accept additional pastoral records materials (baptisms, deaths, marriages) from the Old First Church archives, but that there would probably be a charge.
- ❖ The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts is conserving the charter and the 1684? German language book, Catechismus Oder Kurtzer Unterricht Christlicher... found in the 1836 cornerstone.
- ❖ Answered eighteen research requests from outside Old First.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? What 2019 goals were not accomplished? What is your group pondering?

- ❖ Yet to discern which books in the Fox Building library should be kept.
- ❖ Yet to discern if Old First Church insurance policies cover the charter, the dove, the eagle, etc.
- ❖ The archives database should not reside on a personal computer.
- ❖ Ideally, the archives database should be publicly available online.
- ❖ Yet to discern where/how archives should be stored during JVMT project construction.
- ❖ There has been no discussion with the JVMT or the architects re the needs of the archives in the proposed new building.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2020?

- a. Store and label backlog of Sunday bulletins in archival boxes.
- b. Speak with the architects and/or JVMT re archives needs.
- c. Create more displays.
- d. Bob Schneider to familiarize himself with the database.
- e. Reassess the archives collection and rearrange the vault.
- f. Be a resource for the architects and the JVMT.

What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals?

- ❖ Financial support.
- ❖ Continue noticing the displays.
- ❖ Ask questions.

The church will be 300 years old in 2027. How do you see your ministry evolving in the next seven years? What will it take to achieve those goals?

- ❖ The archives will be an important resource for planning and promoting the 300th anniversary of Old First and as such will support a variety of interests.
- ❖ Figure out work-arounds for when there will be little or no access to the archives immediately prior to and during the JVMT construction project.
- ❖ Make use of Old First materials at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
- ❖ Refurbish the historical displays in the lower narthex.