

ARCHIVAL SURVEY



Representing the Lutheran Southeast and Caribbean

Fall 2023

A Publication of the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

Issue 37

4201 N. Main St., Columbia SC, 29203

This newsletter, in its title and masthead, pays homage to the American Lutheran Survey published by noted Lutheran leader, the Rev. Dr. Walton Greever. This newspaper was originally printed in the historic Eau Claire Print Building, two blocks from the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

HISTORY AS GROWTH INDUSTRY

By Dr. Susan W. McArver, Board President

Have you ever thought about history as a “growth industry”?

It’s true. That’s because every day, there is more of it. Every year, it accumulates. Over the course of my teaching career at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, for example, I have had to add entire sections in the latter portion of various church history courses, to cover events that have happened in the last five years, the last ten years, or even longer.

I suppose this means that teaching history or collecting archival material provides one with a sense of “job security”. It’s a field where the source material will never run out - although the space to hold it all might.

The Crumley Archives has been the guardian of this history for over three decades, cherishing every document, photograph, artifact, and story that defines our spiritual and cultural heritage.

If you are looking for reasons to support the Archives, consider these:

1. Preserving Our Heritage: History is the foundation upon which we build our identities. The Crumley Archives safeguards the documents, records, and relics that help us understand where we come from, the struggles we’ve faced, and the adversity we have overcome, so that these stories can be told to future generations.

2. Uncovering Hidden Gems: History is a treasure trove of untold stories and forgotten riches. Think of our recent documentary on Frankie San, who provided a prison ministry on Death Row in South Carolina for almost half a century. Your contribution enables us to continue our tireless efforts to unearth overlooked narratives, forgotten saints (and sinners), and the small moments that have shaped our church. These discoveries breathe life into our history.

3. Learning from the Past: History is an unending source of knowledge. By supporting our archives, you invest in education, research, and the opportunity for present and future generations to learn from our past. The wisdom of history can guide us in addressing current challenges and making informed decisions.

4. Adapting to Modern Times: History is not static. It evolves as new information emerges and our understanding deepens. Your support helps us adapt to modern technology, digitize

“History as Growth Industry” Continues on page 4

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UNSUNG: TELLING THE FULLER STORY OF BLACK LUTHERANS THROUGH FILM

By T. Scott Reeves



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the award-winning Nigerian author, has an amazing lecture in which she discusses the danger of a single story. As she explains it, the danger of the single story is the potential for a well-meaning person to form stereotypes of others because they only know one story about the other. To go further, she notes that when she first came to the US for college, her roommate expected her new Nigerian friend to be the manifestation of some profoundly foreign tribal culture...and shocked to realize that English was a national language of Nigeria which Adichie had spoken her whole life and disappointed when she produced a Paula Abdul tape in response to the request to hear some of her favorite music. In another story, Adichie relates a recent experience while on a book tour:

I recently spoke at a university where a student told me that it was such a shame that Nigerian men were physical abusers like the father character in my novel. [And in 'mild irritation'] I told him that I had just read a novel called American Psycho --and that it was such a shame that young Americans were serial murderers.

She explains the problem further as she says, "The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."

Adichie's lecture is a friendly admonition from a fellow traveler through life, not a heavy-handed criticism. She notes that she found herself slipping into the tendency on a recent trip to Mexico. Having been very aware of immigration issues and talk of poverty and

crime and the mass exodus of tens of thousands of Mexicans seeking to cross the US border, she suddenly realized that she had formed negative stereotypes of Mexico. Walking through a Mexican town during her visit and observing Mexicans going about town in everyday life... working, eating, and interacting with friends and family... she experienced a sense of shock and shame that she too had unwittingly reduced a group of people to a single story. The lesson of the experience was not lost on her, and we do well to learn from it.

The value of seeking the broader story is that it allows us to see others as our equals. It reduces our capacity to reduce others to objects. This, I think, is the value of our upcoming "Unsung" project.

Many people who are aware of Lutheran history in region nine of the ELCA are familiar with the fact that the oldest Lutheran Church in the Western Hemisphere in the Bahamas, though founded by Dutch settlers, is made up of people of African descent. We are aware of the history of slavery in churches in the south where slaves are sometimes recorded in church registers in lists that include their owners. It is understood that many of our Lutheran heroes like John Bachman defended the institution of slavery. But if we reduce the history of black Lutherans to the matter of slavery, we will miss the reality of the rich history of black Lutherans that Harvey Huntley summarizes in his interview in this edition of the Survey.

"Unsung" is our next venture into documentary film work. It will share some of the story that Harvey has found in his research into the archive's collection of materials about black Lutherans. We anticipate our first film shoots to take place in Atlanta in mid-December. Our hope is to eventually document Lutheran congregations and ministries among people of African descent in all the synods of Region Nine of the ELCA. The trailer for the project is now viewable in the archive's website and Facebook page. ♦

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: James R. Crumley Jr. Archives

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Thank you for your gift!

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Office Hours

Monday: 10 – 3

Tuesday: 9 – 3

Wednesday: by appointment

Thursday: 9 – 3

Friday: 9 – 3

Please contact us at:

crumleyarchivist@gmail.com

803-461-3234 for an appointment.

If you'd like to unsubscribe from our newsletter, please email crumleybookkeeper@gmail.com.



Tithe.ly is the preferred online giving provider for the ELCA. Please visit

<https://www.crumleyarchives.com/donate> and designate your gift today. We thank you for your support!

FINDING AIDS

The Crumley Archives is continuing to make our collections more accessible. Ashley Ragland has been creating finding aids, which are shared on our website, www.crumleyarchives.com. Below is a current listing.

Crumley Archives

Crumley Archives Archival Collections Inventory
Crumley Archives Service Books Collection Inventory
Crumley Archives Ready Reference and General Library Inventory

People

Collection Guide to John Bachman Documents
Collection Guide to Bishop Leonard Bolick
Collection Guide to Rev. A.J. Stirewalt
Collection Guide to Frankie San (Kyuzo Miyaishi)
Collection Guide to Rev. J.P. Margart
Collection Guide to Rev. Adam Miller

Congregations

Finding Aid for to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Charleston SC
Finding Aid for St Matthew, Charleston, SC
Finding Aid for Trinity, St Nicholas, Prospect Congregations, Allendale Co., SC
Finding Aid for Pilgrim, Lexington, SC
Finding Aid for St Peter, Lexington, SC
Finding Aid for St John, Pomaria, SC
Finding Aid for Mt Tabor – West Columbia, SC
Finding Aid for Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Concordia – Thornsby, AL
Finding Aid for Amazing Grace, Granite Falls NC and Predecessors (St. Paul, Hickory and St. Matthew, Granite Falls)
Finding Aid for Holy Trinity – Hickory, NC
Finding Aid for Bethlehem – Lake City, FL
Finding Aid for St Paul – Roanoke, VA
Finding Aid for Frederick Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Thomas VI
Finding Aid for Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Chamblee GA

Ministries

Finding Aid for Lutheran Association for Maritime Ministry (LAMM)
Finding Aid for Williams-Henson Home for Boys

Other Collections

Finding Aid for LTSS publications
Finding Aid for LTSS Bulletins and Catalogs
Finding Aid for Lenoir Rhyne College – Hickory, NC
Finding Aid for Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary: Photographs circa 1830-2015
Collection Guide to the Salzburger Collection
Collection Guide Cruse Collection Catalogue

INTERVIEW WITH HARVEY HUNTLEY

By T. Scott Reeves and Dr. Harvey Huntley

SCOTT:

Harvey, thanks so much for joining us.

To start, can you tell us about yourself and give us a quick overview your work with the Archives?

HARVEY:

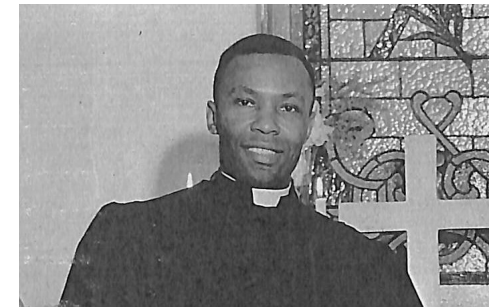
I'm Harvey Huntley. I'm retired, and I'm a board member of the James R. Crumley Archives. I'm trying to develop what I would call an annotated bibliography of the holdings of the Archives that pertain to the history of congregations in the South that are either historically and/or even presently predominantly African descent or black membership.

I served a congregation that was predominantly African descent, so I had some experience and knowledge of Lutheran congregations that were significantly impacted by people of African descent.

What got me started on this project was a discussion at an Archives board meeting back in the spring of 2022. Bishop Kevin Strickland, of the Southeastern Synod, who is also a member of the board, gave a devotion and in the devotion he referred to the fact that the Martin Luther congregation in Mobile AL was a historically black congregation celebrating a centennial. That fact lodged in my mind, and I thought, my goodness, I didn't realize there was a congregation that was predominantly African descent which was that old, other than Frederick Church in the Virgin Islands.

Later in that board meeting, the Archives director, Shannon, said we had a scholarship in honor of Dr Scott Hendrix for people to come and do research in the Archives. Shannon made known to the board that no one had applied for the scholarship and that the application deadline was approaching. In light of the lack of applications, Shannon said if any on the board were interested in doing research, to let her know.

So, what occurred to me during the meeting was, I wonder if there's a way of connecting what Bishop Strickland was talking about in his devotion with a research opportunity in



Unknown Lutheran pastor

the Archives? I followed up with an e-mail describing this project to Shannon. She thought it an excellent idea, so I wrote a proposal and the project was approved for funding by the Hendrix Scholarship.

SCOTT:

What do you think is the primary value of your work, and is there a specific hoped-for outcome that you have in mind for this project?

HARVEY:

My hope is that it will make more accessible to other researchers the materials that are in the Archives relating to Lutherans of African descent in Region 9, without their having to do all the initial digging to find out where the materials are. What researchers will have when I am done is a finding aid that describes what's in the Archives relating to the topic of Black Lutherans. And then researchers can go to the materials directly and do their own research. Anyone, such as a student or maybe a scholar from some other institution or someone on the faculty here, will be able to access this material much more efficiently.

SCOTT:

What have you found to be the most interesting discovery from your research?

HARVEY:

Well, a couple of things. I was surprised to find that there was as much history of black Lutheranism in the South as there is. I had no idea. I've identified approximately 40 different congregations, not all of which are still active.

records, and make our archives accessible to a global audience, ensuring our history remains relevant and influential in today's world.

By contributing to the Crumley Archives, you become a vital part of the "growth industry" of history. Your generosity fuels our commitment to expand and enhance the invaluable resources we provide for our congregations, scholars, students, and anyone interested in our church's remarkable journey.

Please consider donating to the Crumley Archives today. Your support will help us continue our important work in collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of our church.

To make a donation, please visit our website at crumleyarchives.com/donate or use the enclosed donation form. Consider making the gift in honor or in memory of someone who has been part of YOUR history. Every gift, no matter the size, is deeply appreciated and makes a significant impact on our mission.

Thank you for being a part of our history. Together, we can ensure that our stories will still be told for generations to come. ♦



Inside the Crumley Archives

James R Crumley Jr. Archives

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Since the last issue of the Archival Survey the following friends have made gifts to us. We are most grateful for these gifts which enable us to preserve our church's history and to assist researchers, congregations, and institutions in their work. Gifts listed below arrived between May and October 2023. Please advise if your name has been omitted. If you made an honorarium, please know that the person has been notified.

Again, **THANK YOU**, for your generosity.

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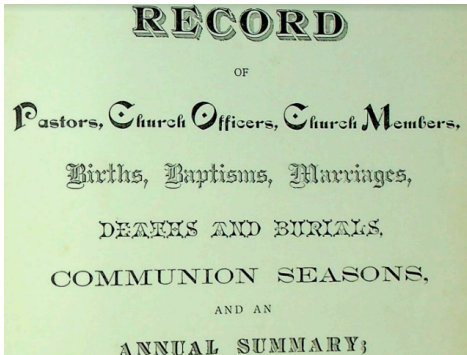
"Friends of the Archives" Continues on next page

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Shannon Smith

Have you wanted to check out long list of Lutherans who came before you? Well, it's possible! The Crumley Archives frequently receives requests for scans of parish registers, that unique and indispensable "Big Red Book" that all congregations must keep. Some registers go back centuries, depending on a church's age, while others, maybe just a few decades. Registers can offer great insight into a pastor's itinerary (especially if he was an itinerant!), the incorporation or merger of a congregation, genealogical facts, and of course, birth dates and death dates.

Recently, we had a request to scan the register of Bethel Lutheran Church in Salisbury, NC. The incorporation of that church dates back to just before the Civil War. During this period, parish registers were also diaries of pastors as well as a place to maintain council minutes. It provides valuable insight into the church's unique history. ♦



The Bethel Lutheran, Salisbury NC Parish register dates back to before the Civil War.



A rendering of Bethel Lutheran Church, Salisbury NC



L to R, Rev. Dr. Ed Counts, Sallie Doscher, Shannon Smith, and Rev. Dr. Mark Scott pictured in St. John's Archives and History Room. The couch on the left belonged to the Rev. Dr. John Bachman, along with many other artifacts preserved onsite.

In November, Shannon Smith traveled to Charleston to meet with St. John's Lutheran Church's Archives and History Committee. They had a chance to discuss the rich history that the church maintains and how the congregation might share their history with a wider constituency. Check out the Crumley Archives's website, <https://www.crumleyarchives.com/finding-aids>, after the new year to view finding aids and indexes pertaining to St. John's collection, including an index of the church's cemetery. ♦

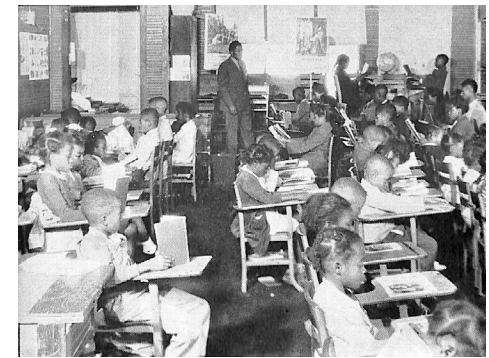
"Interview with Harvey Huntley" Continued from page 3

Many of them still are active today. So, this is not just something that happened in the past.

Also, the roots of this go back much farther than I had ever realized, which magnifies the significance of the research. It is known that there have been black Lutherans from the 17th century onward, if you include the Virgin Islands. But the surprising part was that even excluding the Virgin Islands, there have been black Lutherans from the early 19th century on in many parts of the South, and I had no idea of that. There was even a black Lutheran Synod in the 19th century. It didn't survive very long, but it didn't go out of existence. It just got absorbed into other bodies.

There were seminaries, not part of any existing seminary, but separate institutions established to train black clergy in the South. There were parochial schools established for black children, and they ranged from preschool all the way through high school. Some of them had several hundred students. These weren't Missouri Synod institutions, they were ALC. So that was a surprise...the scope of this subject matter and the richness of the history.

The second thing that surprised me, to be quite honest, was the amount of material that the Archives has on-hand. When I began the project, I thought, there is not going to be a lot of material so I can probably do this in a few months. I've been working on this finding aid for almost a year and a half and I'm still not at the end of it. Every time I think I'm getting near the end, I discover more material that's



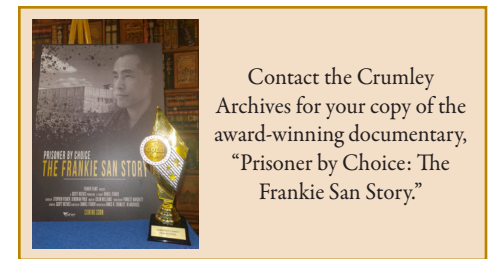
Christian Day School, Jackson, Miss.

in the archives. That was another big surprise that I had.

The diversity of black Lutheranism, broadly conceived, was something I would not have anticipated. We've got a congregation that goes back to the early colonial period. Then we have congregations that were started by a Lutheran denomination as a mission outreach going back to the early 20th century, around the time of WWI. Some of these have disappeared but some continue down to the present day. Also, there are congregations that have gone through racial transition. So, those are churches that started out as all white or predominantly white and then there was a population shift in the neighborhood and those churches remained and tried to minister to the new community. Some did that successfully, and that's an interesting story to follow. Unfortunately, we don't know all the details of some of that history the congregations but this project has created an ongoing possibility of trying to add more material about some of those congregations to the Archives collection so that people other than just those congregations have access to it. ♦



Alabama Lutheran Bible Institute, Montgomery, Ala.



Contact the Crumley Archives for your copy of the award-winning documentary, "Prisoner by Choice: The Frankie San Story."

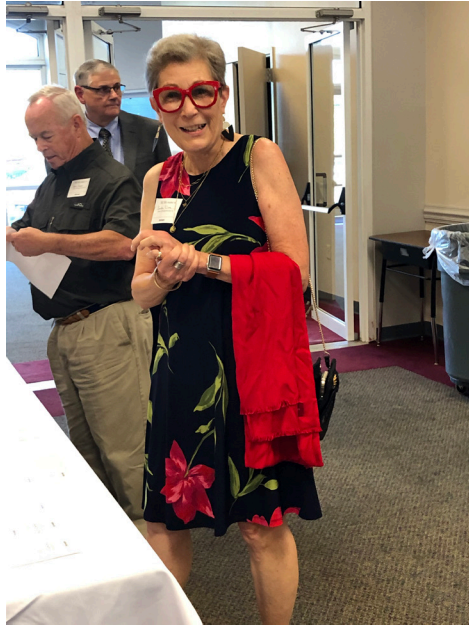
FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES BANQUET

By Shannon Smith

We celebrated the Friends of the Archive Banquet on September 29, 2023, and what a historic night! Recognized for their achievements in preservation were retired Bishop Robert Humphrey (Walton H. Greever Award), the Virginia Synod, ELCA (Synodical Award), and Grace Lutheran Church, Winchester VA (Congregational Heritage Award). Congratulations to our award recipients, and thank you for your efforts in preservation! ♦



The Rev. Jean Bozeman receives the Synodical Award on behalf of the VA Synod, ELCA



It's not a party without Sandra Cline!



Left to Right: Jane Holmes, Annette Metz, Judy Woolly



Long time advocates of the Archives, Crumley Archives treasurer Virginia Herlong and retired board member Don Poole.



The Rev. Dr. Wayne Kannaday, board member and Master of Ceremonies



The Rev. Jonathan Boynton, pastor of Grace Lutheran, Winchester VA, offers comments on the congregation's long history.



Rev. Derron and Mrs. Jean Sox