

Thank you for your support through a trying year!

What a year it was! A global pandemic as yet uncontrolled, economic uncertainty and nearly unprecedented unemployment rates, social unrest over injustice and racially-motivated violence: The year 2020 was one for the history books!

Amidst it all, ABHS received inquiries like, "ABHS, tell us the story of churches during the 1918 flu pandemic . . ." "ABHS, tell us about ministry during the Civil Rights movement . . ." "ABHS, can you find the song sung at the regional meeting that took place the weekend after the verdict in the Rodney King trial was announced and there were riots across Los Angeles?" (We found and shared it.) We might imagine inquiries decades from now: "ABHS, tell us about when churches were renewed after the pandemic of 2020." "ABHS, did any churches participate in the Black Lives Matter movement?" At your local church, you might imagine

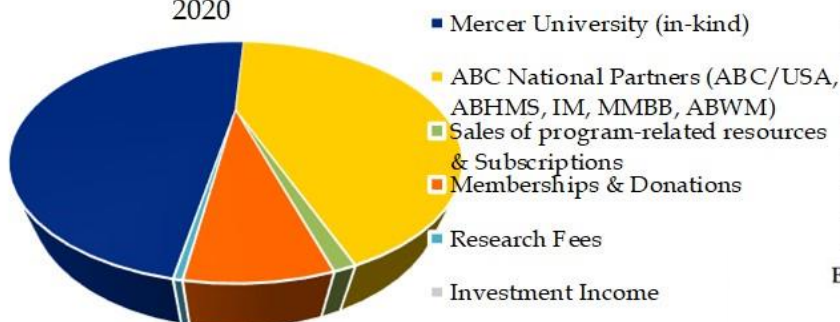
Our society is confronting questions of history, remembering and sometimes mis-remembering. How is one to know what "really" happened? Where do different experiences and perspectives come into play? Today's church records will shed light on future history. Pastoral letters disseminated via a blog, video recordings of worship services or of pastors marching in a protest, electronically-mixed performances of choirs whose members were singing in different locales, "Zoom" Bible studies and prayer groups, discussions about how to celebrate communion when we are not co-located: *your* records will illuminate the historic time we live in.

Thanks to members and supporters, the American Baptist Historical Society continues to "bring our legacy to light." Our ministry is that of story-keeping, making remembrance possible. We also help create legacies for the future.

In the fulfillment of our mission, we rely on you, friends, and supporters of ABHS who ensure that this ministry of story-keeping continues. This year, you've made possible the cataloguing of roughly 350 rare books, dating from 1523, into the WorldCat online catalog. You've made possible the

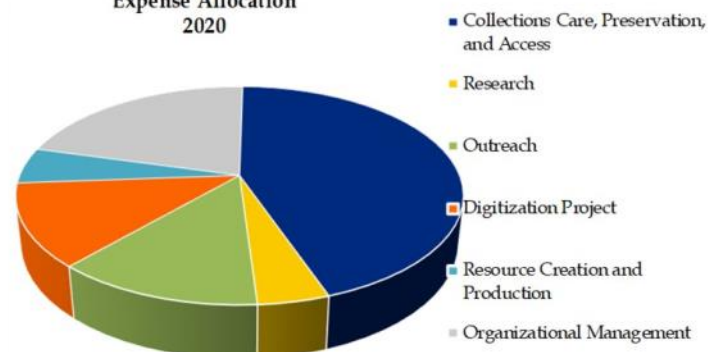
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Sources of Income
2020



questions like: "When was it that deacons began preaching monthly?" "Why do we use 'jazz hands' for passing the peace?" "You mean that congregations used to all gather at the meeting house at the same time and the preacher wasn't on YouTube? When was that?" "Did *our* church lose any members to the COVID-19 pandemic?"

Expense Allocation
2020



Annual Fund Donors

Thank you to these supporters of the Historical Society,
whose generosity enables us to continue our ministry.

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** indicates 2020 member of ABHS Board of Managers

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Have you included the American Baptist Historical Society in your will?

Legacy giving is one way of
supporting ABHS into the
future.



Gifts have been given in Memory of:

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American Baptist HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bringing our legacy to light

From the Archives Highlights of 2020 Donations



Seven volumes of original church records of Lower Providence Baptist Church in PA, founded in 1810, arrived via Neil Jones.



Karen hill tribe traditional dancers, 1968. Donated by Neil Sowards for addition to the Erville and Genevieve Sowards Papers RG 1160.

From John Malcus Ellison Papers RG 1676, first African American president of Virginia Union University. Donated by Debbi Carter.



Additions to Robert A. Fisher Papers RG1626 include this photo of missionaries to El Salvador and Nicaragua in 1965 and a program related to the ground-breaking of Primera Iglesia Bautista in San Salvador.

***RG** stands for
"Record Group."

Post this page on your church's bulletin board. When you use information from "From the Archives" remember to give credit to the American Baptist Historical Society.

Thank you, donors to ABHS collections!

Documentation of ministry takes many forms. Some are meeting minutes, membership registers, or financial records. Other materials are more personal, like photos and letters. All tell aspects of the story of Baptist ministry and mission, and the variety of ways that God continues to work in the world.

We appreciate those who donated materials last year.

Donors of Personal Papers

Marian Boehr: additions to Marian Boehr Collection

Garth Brokaw: additions from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, First Baptist Church, Fairport, NY and First Baptist Church, Adrian, MI; article on Colporter covered wagons

Debbi Carter: JM Ellison papers

Kenneth V. Dodgson: Jorhat Christian Medical Center scrapbook and autobiography for Kenneth V. Dodgson Collection

Robert A. Fisher: addition of photos and letters to Robert A. Fisher Collection

Clifford M. Gilson: addition of photos to Gilson Family Collection

Robert and Penelope Gipson: addition to Gipson Collection

Douglas Bruce Heusser: ABC youth materials

Nancy Hoffarth: additions to William Quint Collection

Robert Hudson: additions to Robert Hudson Collection

Joe H. and Virginia Leonard: 1928 BYPU photo

Miriam Malkasian: Clara G. Minkwitz and Harold C. Bonell Collection

MaryBeth Robertson: book: *Favorite Recipes of American Baptist Wives*

Donna St. John: addition to Dorothy Gates Collection

Robert E. Smith: electronic Congo Perspectives and digital photos for Robert E. Smith Collection

Dale E. Soden: oral history addition to Samuel McKinney Collection

Neil Sowards: additions to Erville and Genevieve Sowards Collection

Jack C. Straton: addition to G. Douglas Straton Collection

Stephen Trimble/First Baptist Church, North Attleborough, MA: books: *Ann Judson, Pioneer Missionary, Biography of a Country Church* and Northern Baptist Convention 5-year plan

Nancy Uhlinger: book by Philip Uhlinger - *Minsamu: Stories from the Congo and Haiti*

Ken Valles: Emmanuel Chapel Car digital photographs

Debbie Williams: addition to J.N. Williams Collection

Dana R. Younger: additions to George Younger and Dodie Younger Collections

Donors of Materials pertaining to Institutional work

Robert J. Crandall: Killdeer, ND, Baptist Church and Max, ND, Baptist Church church records

Gene Guill: materials on Third Baptist Church, Barnstable, MA

Nancy Juntunen: *Beacon* yearbooks from Baptist Missionary Training School, 1933 and 1941

George B. Kimsey: cufflink, pin, and BYPU materials

Neil Jones/Lower Providence Baptist Church: church records, 1810-2013

Beverly Maville-Letter: Temple Baptist Church, Rochester, NY, church records

Bill Poland: documents for American Baptist Men, Central Region

Barbara Ricketts/Central Baptist Church, Norwich, CT: church records

Warren Tichenor: transcripts of church records from Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church, Columbia, MO



A look back at 2020:



The ABHS Board of Managers met virtually, spring and fall.



Being secluded at home meant many people had time to sort through attics and basements for records to send to ABHS!



Digitizing microfilm is time-consuming, but renders an electronically-accessible copy.

Primary Source
is published quarterly by the
American Baptist Historical Society

Priscilla E. Eppinger, Executive Director
Jenny L. Manasco, Digital Collections Specialist
Kay Eland, Financial and Subscription Secretary
Patty Evers, Administrative Assistant
Denise Hanusek, Rare Book Cataloguer

Website: www.ABHSarchives.org

For Research appointments, donations to collections,
reference desk, general questions: (678) 547-6680 or
ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org

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(Continued from page 1)

purchase of a freezer to preserve film. You made possible a series of webinars to assist individuals and congregations in preserving their records. You made possible our crowd-sourced transcription project.

Thanks to you, we can assist congregations in keeping and telling their stories. Thanks to you, we can welcome researchers from around the world as they search for information on an amazingly wide variety of topics. Thanks to you, we can seek out documentation of the ministry of under-represented communities. Thanks to you, we can expand access to all of these stories through better cataloguing and digitizing. Thank you!

A special thanks goes to Mercer University, which hosts ABHS. We are grateful for this partnership. We also appreciate our national American Baptist partners, which provide the bulk of our funding in return for our care and keeping of their stories. What a wonderful story we share!

The circumstances of 2020 showed the importance of accessing archived materials from a distance. While we look forward to conditions that will allow researchers to do research in person, the need for further digitization will only but increase. With your continued support, ABHS will have the capacity to respond to these needs.



Denise Hanusek, ABHS Volunteer of the Year! In retirement Denise has used her professional cataloguing skills to benefit ABHS.



Some of our newly-catalogued books are found nowhere else in the world.

Join the Historical Society and
Become a Time Traveler

American Baptist Historical Society membership circles are named for some of our significant Baptist forebears. Look for a profile of Samuel Colgate in the next *Primary Source*.

Membership Circles (Memberships are for the calendar year)	Annual Gift of
Ann Hasseltine Judson Circle	\$1-50
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Henry Lyman Morehouse Circle	\$51-125
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★ participation in "Time Travelers," reciprocal museum/archives program http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/	
Louise Cecilia Fleming Circle	\$126-250
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ 1 hour of "Research-by-mail" discounted by 50%	
★ listing as donor in annual report	
Jitsuo Morikawa Circle	\$251-500
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ Baptist history publication -- potluck!	
★ pair of tickets to Biennial event	
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle	\$501-1000
★ benefits listed above, plus	
★ subscription to <i>American Baptist Quarterly</i> discounted by 50%	
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Helen Barrett Montgomery Circle	\$1001-5000
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★ private archives tour (subject to staff availability)	
Samuel Colgate Donors	\$5001 & above
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ABHS is a 501(c)(3) organization; your membership is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. *ABQ* subscriptions are not tax-deductible.

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*Thank you, ABHS
friends and supporters!*

Nominations Open for George D. Younger Award for Excellence in Local Baptist History

George D. Younger (1926-2001) was a historian, minister, ecumenical leader, and lifelong enthusiast for Baptist history. Seeking to honor his achievements and to continue his legacy of encouraging others to share their own part in Baptist history, in 2004 the Historical Society's Board of Managers created the George D. Younger Award.

The next George D. Younger Award will be presented during the 2021 ABC Virtual Mission Summit. The deadline for submission is May 1, 2021. For detailed information and instructions, go to www.ABHSarchives.org.

Torbet Prize

Emerging scholars are invited to submit essays in any area of Baptist history for the Torbet Prize competition. Deadline: Sept. 1.
For details, go to: www.ABHSarchives.org.

Our Mission

The American Baptist Historical Society, as a premier religious historical society, advances Baptist identity, promotes historical literacy, and thereby inspires spiritual and social transformation.