

Meet the New Members to the Board of Managers

Gifts to the American Baptist Historical Society come in many different forms – money for shelves or letters and sermons for the collections. Some of the greatest gifts the Historical Society receives are the time, talent and expertise of its volunteers, including its board members.

“Each one helps ABHS further its goal to be the premier interpreter and keeper of the Baptist historical witness in the world,” stated the Rev. Dr. Trinette V. McCray, ABHS President. “Our vision to tell our story to new generations – now and into the future – is the aim of our newest measure of progress: developing a stronger Board of Managers for ABHS. This is what we have accomplished with these persons who have joined the ABHS Board.”

At its corporate meeting in November during the ABC General Board meeting, the American Baptist Historical Society elected several new members to its Board of Managers. “Our new members bring a strong array of experience, knowledge, networks, training, and interests that will support and sustain our progress as we further our work to fulfill the Society’s mission by building capacity that will secure our future and our purpose,” noted Dr. McCray. “I am delighted that God chose to bless us with these leaders. We all look forward to serving together and with our other volunteers.”

The Rev. Dr. Timothy Boddie is the Pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, which is dually-aligned with American Baptist Churches, USA and the



Progressive National Baptist Convention. He is also the former Executive Secretary of the nationally acclaimed Hampton University Ministers’ Conference.



Mrs. Shirley Fair from Alden, KS, is retired from a career in banking and economic development and has been a regional and national officer with American Baptist Women’s Ministries. She currently serves on the General Board of ABC, USA, and is Treasurer of the North American Baptist Women’s Union.

Dr. Lawrence E. Carter, Sr. serves as the Dean of the Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Professor of Religion, and College Curator at Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA.



Dr. Barbara Chicks, Sunnyvale, CA, has served in numerous roles as a volunteer leader including: as an officer with American Baptist Women’s Ministries on the local, regional and national levels; as treasurer of the ABC of the West; and president of the American Baptist Homes Foundation of the West. She and her husband, Charles (Chuck) received the Sparrowk President’s Award in 2005 for “long-standing service to Christ through American Baptist ministries.”

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The Rev. Dr. Adam Bond is the Assistant Professor for Historical Studies and the American Baptist Liaison at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA. He has given

numerous talks about Samuel DeWitt Proctor and published an article on Proctor and M. L. King, Jr. in the *American Baptist Quarterly*.

Mrs. Averett Shannon is a retired school teacher and university administrator. A former Superintendent of the Children's Department at Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, she is leading a group writing a biography of Baptist minister and former slave George Liele.

Mr. Joe Stoner is the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, DeKalb County, GA. He has served as missions chair for American Baptist churches in New Jersey and Georgia, and served in leadership roles on the associational, regional and national levels, including serving on the Board of International Ministries and the ABC General Board.

Special Memberships

The American Baptist National Executive Council appointed two staff members to the ABHS Board. **Louis Barbarin** is the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, in New York City. **Alyson Stratton** is the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for International Ministries.

The Rev. Dr. David Laubach, Associate Executive Director for Strategic Missional Relations for ABC National Ministries, has been appointed to serve as the Judson Press Representative.

Continuing Members

Those continuing on the Board include Dr. Loris Coletta, Aptos, CA; Rev. Dr. Leroy Gilbert, Fairfax Station, VA; Ms. Melva Gray, Indianapolis, IN; Dr. Beverly Mitchell, Washington, DC; Rev. Dr. Wesley Roberts, Boston, MA, and Dr. John

C. B. Webster, Waterford, CT. Re-elected to serve a second term on the Board of Managers were Rev. Garth Brokaw, Rochester, NY; Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray, Milwaukee, WI; and Rev. Henry (Hank) Pedersen, Warwick, RI.

Elected as officers were the Rev. Dr. Trinette McCray, President; Rev. Dr. Wesley Roberts, Vice President; Rev. Hank Pedersen, Secretary and Ms. Melva Gray, Treasurer.

Those retiring from the Board at the end of 2009 were: Dr. Sally Dodgson, Rochester, NY; Dr. Carla Romarte-Knipel, Jeffersonville, PA; Mrs. Mary Alice Brake, Nashville, TN; Dr. Mary Purcell, Lansdowne, PA; Dr. Samuel Escobar, Valencia, Spain; and Dr. William Scott, Allentown, PA. "ABHS has maintained faithful and supportive board members," said McCray. "Completing their terms were members who have led the Society to where we are today. We are grateful for their leadership and service."

Members of the Board of Managers are willing to give presentations or bring greetings or exhibits about ABHS work to regional meetings. Call 678/547-6680 for information.

Vacation in History

Summer Volunteers Needed!

ABHS needs volunteers with a variety of interests and skills. Spend a day or a week during your vacation exploring your Baptist and American history.

Projects can include creating an inventory for 150-year-old, handwritten church records, researching a missionary, or checking correspondence collections for old paper clips and staples (which rust and damage the paper) and putting materials in acid-free archival folders.

As a bonus, you can visit the other attractions the Atlanta area offers.

Contact ABHS for more information or to plan your visit. 678/547-6680 or abhs@abhsarchives.org.



Researcher David Laubach from ABC partner National Ministries, and ABHS exec. dir. Deborah Van Broekhoven examine pallets needing processing.

Lunch & Learn

Dr. George Tooze Discusses New Book Series on Emily Judson

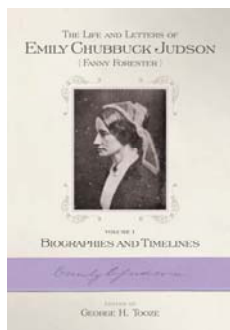


Dr. George H. Tooze took time from a busy grandparenting schedule in the Atlanta area last semester to discuss his forthcoming book series, *The Life and Letters of Emily Chubbuck Judson*, published by [Mercer University Press](#).

Before becoming the third wife of widower and Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson in 1846, Emily was known as Fanny Forester, a nationally known novelist, essayist and humorist, with works appearing beside Edgar Allan Poe and Walt Whitman.

Their marriage created somewhat of a scandal – his friends felt she was too ‘worldly’, her friends felt he was taking away a great talent.

“Their story,” says Dr. Tooze, is a love story.” And it was a love



Dr. George Tooze uses tools from across the centuries to share the story of Adoniram and Emily Judson with students: facsimiles of Judson letters from the early 1800s and a laptop slide show.

not only for each other, but for their family, their God, their work in Burma and, after Adoniram’s death, Emily’s continuing work as a religious writer in the United States.

The first book in the series is scheduled for distribution in February 2010 and is a compilation of biographies and timelines of Emily’s life, friends and work.

Many of Emily’s letters are undated. To put them in sequence, Dr. Tooze researched the

events, places, and people within the letters, identifying them so the letters could be read and interpreted correctly.

“The work that Dr. Tooze has done is of immense value to scholars,” said Dr. Deborah Van Broekhoven, ABHS executive director. “Not only has he compiled the previously unpublished letters of an amazing woman in our American and Baptist history, but he has created a resource for researchers across a wide spectrum of disciplines.”

The Rev. Dr. Tooze served for 40 years in pastoral ministry in Garder, Beverly and Malden, MA, and Indianapolis, IN, retiring in December 2003.

Intern Rachel Trent Becomes New ABHS “Web Empress”

There’s a new look to [ABHS’s website](#), and it’s all because Rachel Trent loves to design websites in her spare time.

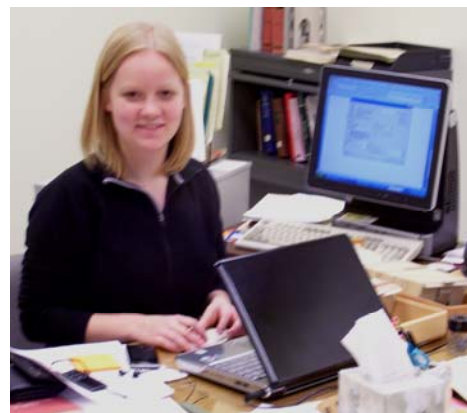
Rachel, who grew up in St. Louis, graduated from the University of

Pennsylvania and spent the last two years in Japan teaching English. In December she took two weeks from her busy schedule to intern at ABHS.

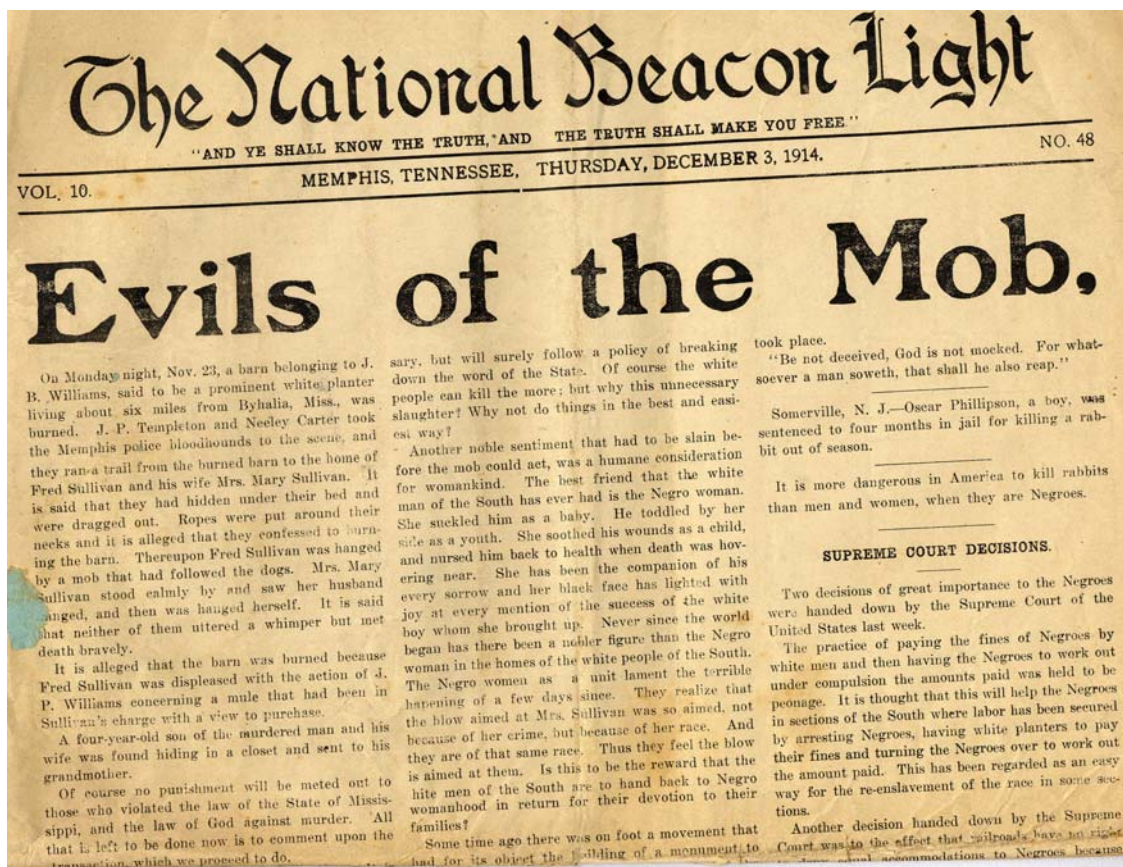
Before that, she had designed a new look for the Society’s website over the Thanksgiving holiday. “Plus,” said Betsy Dunbar, head of communications and reader services, “she’s enthusiastically agreed to serve as our ‘web empress’ – my nickname for the role commonly known as ‘webmaster’. That means we can give her new information for the website, and she’ll tackle the codes and programming that are necessary to get it up and running.” And she’s doing all of it as a volunteer.

One of the exciting updates already in place is

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Multi-tasking: Rachel used two computers during her internship.



Mrs. Averett Shannon, new ABHS board member, and Dr. Julia White (not pictured) have volunteered the many hours needed to preserve this fragile collection and make it available to researchers.

This protest of mob violence and lynchings from 1914 is one that Rev. Charles H. Hampton (1903-1979) saved in his collection of press coverage of race and church matters. Many clippings deal with schism among the National Baptists, the largest organization of African American Baptists.

For many years Hampton served as a Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, USA Incorporated, as well as on their mission board and the board of the National Council of Churches.

Beginning in 1931 (with a brief leave after WWII to work for the Foreign Mission Board of the NBC USA Inc) and continuing until his death in 1979, Rev. Hampton pastored the Bethel Baptist Church in San Diego (<http://www.bethelbc.com/churchhistory.htm>).

His collection of clippings and programs was donated to ABHS by Rosemary Hampton, Rev.

Hampton's sister-in-law, who also provided ABHS with the photograph of Rev. Hampton as a young colporter.



Rev. Charles H. Hampton with Colporter Missionary Auto No. 10 in 1925. Rev. Hampton served in southern California for the American Baptist Publication Society and the American Baptist Home Mission Society.

In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. Edwin H. Tuller, General Secretary, ABC, USA 1959-1970

“Dr. Tuller was committed to social issues, including marching in Selma and appearing on the speaker’s stand with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He displayed real trust in democracy and was unwilling to force his ideas on others. He brought optimism during times of dissent and a stabilizing influence in the midst of turmoil... Fairness, honesty and integrity – were among his finest contributions to the life of the ABC.”

Edwin Tuller, general secretary of American Baptist Churches, USA, from 1959 to 1970, died August 25, 2009, in Pittsburgh, PA at 95. A special memorial service was held at the American Baptist Mission Center, Valley Forge, PA, in January 2010.

Tuller served as assistant pastor at Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, DC, 1939 to 1944; director of Christian education and assistant executive secretary of the Connecticut Baptist Convention, 1944-1950; exec. sec. of the Connecticut State Council of Churches, 1950-1955; exec. sec. of the Massachusetts Baptist Convention, 1955-1957; and took up the position of associate general secretary of ABC, USA in 1957, directing the convention’s fundraising program before being named general secretary in 1959, presiding over

the completion of the American Baptist Mission Center in Valley Forge, PA, in 1962.

Tuller was instrumental in helping to broaden and diversify the membership of the denomination by welcoming the American Baptist Black Caucus in 1968. He was a strong supporter of the Civil Rights Movement led by Martin Luther King, Jr., participating in the “I Have a Dream” march on Washington, DC, in 1963 and in other Civil Rights demonstrations.

He served on the Executive Committee of the Baptist World Alliance and the BWA Commission on Religious Liberty and Human Rights, and played significant roles in past Baptist World congresses.

After leaving the general secretary position, Tuller and his wife, Rose, were appointed special service workers by the ABC’s International Ministries, serving as pastor of the American Church in Paris, France, until his retirement.

If you have stories of Ed Tuller, take a minute to put them in writing and send them to us by mail or by email to bdunbar@abhsarchives.org.



Rachel

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a functioning on-line slide show featuring the scanned images from glass slides used to promote missions in the early 1900s.

To view the Magic Lantern slide show, go to www.abhsarchives.org and click on “Gallery” under the “Collections” menu.

The work Rachel did as an intern included creating finding guides for church and personal records, making them accessible to future researchers.



This shelf holds the newly processed records of First Baptist Church, Pendleton, OR, work Rachel did while an intern with ABHS.



Want to lend a hand? Promote ABHS!

Be an advocate in your area for the American Baptist Historical Society. [To find out more](#), OR to [give a gift to the Historical Society](#):

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INSIDE Three Cheers for Volunteers!



Thanks for Your Support!

Thanks to friends of ABHS in 2009, YOU provided needed shelving in the reading room, offices and holding room, a book cart, plus phone service and many other practical needs that support our mission to preserve and share Baptist history with leaders of generations to come.

This year we continue to need your financial support. One example: Since the devastating earthquake in Haiti, stories are beginning to trickle out of the cultural loss of the nation. According to an article in the *NY Times*, the Haitian National Archives documents do not appear threatened by the building's structural damage. But the reality is that after "years of government dysfunction" many of the country's most valuable historical texts were preserved by individuals at their homes.

ABHS cares for the history of American Baptist work and partnership with Haiti. We'll continue to so, with your help. **It matters!**

BMTS to Celebrate Alum Association's Centennial



The Baptist Missionary Training School will celebrate its alumnae association's 100th anniversary during Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School's annual Alumni Reunion, April 28-29. ABHS will be there, displaying gems from the School's archives, which we care for in partnership with CRCDS.

Founded in 1881 with the motto "Be Mine To Serve," BMTS offered a rigorous education program for women to serve in church-related ministries and mission endeavors, both home and abroad.

Check www.crcds.edu for events open to the public during the Reunion.

And if you are an alum — or the relative or friend of an alum — share your stories! Jot down your memory, then mail it to ABHS (or email us at bdunbar@abhsarchives.org). We'll see that it gets included in the archives.