"It all began with Judson," explained the guides, each narrating a chapter in the story of Adoniram Judson and the modern mission movement. The Judson bicentennial events in February kicked off three years of celebrations by bringing together churches from across New England and the nation. Each visitor came to honor these pioneer missionaries and to learn more about them.

A dozen groups in eastern Massachusetts hosted tours, receptions, exhibits, drama, worship, and a conference. Sites included First Baptist churches in Salem and Malden, Congregational churches in Wenham and Andover, and Andover Newton Theological School. The program concluded with a service on the wharf in Salem harbor, after which Ann Hasseltine (portrayed by Melinda Parry) and Adoniram (Thomas R McKibbens) walked off to board the ship *Caravan*—as they had done on February 20, 1812.

Crowding into three buses, vans and a caravan of cars, Judson pilgrims came from area churches, from two Judson colleges (in Alabama and Illinois) and from as far away as San Francisco and Myanmar (Burma). Talking, listening, and eating together at First Baptist churches in Malden and Salem, more than 200 individuals heard about Judson’s call to missionary service and how it challenged Christians in America to organize in support of a new concept of mission.

Many organizations had a role in the celebrations: *Andover Newton Theological School* where Adoniram Judson prepared for his ministry; *United Church of Christ, Salem* that commissioned him; the *Adoniram Judson Baptist Association* which keeps his spirit and legacy alive today; *First Baptist Church, Malden* and *First Baptist Church, Salem* which hosted events; and *American Baptist Historical Society* (ABHS) where Judson letters and memorabilia are housed.

Deborah Van Broekhoven, Executive Director of ABHS, attended the events on February 17-20, where she presented certificates to First Baptist Church, Salem, MA, The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts, and the Adoniram Judson Association of Massachusetts, commending them for their leadership in this memorial.

She noted that “America’s leadership in expanding the mission enterprise globally was built around an embrace of the Judsons and their Burma Mission as a permanent and growing work.” Baptists in the United States gathered in

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Book Talk on Judson Legacies

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rosalie Hall Hunt will lead a discussion of Ann and Adoniram Judson’s groundbreaking mission to Burma and its subsequent influence on the history of missions. Sponsored by the American Baptist Historical Society (ABHS), this event will be held at Mercer University’s Atlanta campus. Topics will include the Baptist beginnings of modern missions and ways that legacy continues today.

The springboard for the discussion will be Rosalie Hunt’s book, *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy* (Judson Press, 2005). Hunt served as a Baptist missionary in eight Asian countries, spent six years researching the book, and has led several trips to Burma, including one for Central Baptist Seminary in Kansas. On January 17-31, 2013, in association with ABHS and Dehoney Travel, she will lead the Judson 200 Legacy Tour to Burma (Myanmar), during which participants will trace the footsteps of the Judsons.

Ann and Adoniram Judson were part of the first group of missionaries commissioned by The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. They set sail for Burma in 1812, arriving in July 1813—after being baptized by immersion in Calcutta. Conflict and war in Burma led to Adoniram being imprisoned. Ann’s letters about the imprisonment and their work went to friends and churches back home, where they were widely reprinted in newspapers. The letters spurred great interest in the work of missionaries, made Ann and Adoniram Judson famous, and attracted more missionaries to the country.

The mission in Burma stressed the need for education, which stimulated the translation of the Bible into local languages. American missionaries spoke out for women’s rights, and involved women in mission work at a time when proper women stayed in the home. Missionaries and the mission societies that supported them worked to educate people in this country about the conditions in the foreign countries in which they worked. This lead to hundreds of missionaries working with even more people in Burma to build churches, schools, hospitals and clinics and a major printing and publishing operation. Through these endeavors, missionaries worked alongside local church leaders to develop and train indigenous church leaders.

To register for this book discussion, call or email the American Baptist Historical Society or visit the judson200 web site for a registration form. The deadline for registering is June 15; the fee is $20 and covers the cost of Hunt’s book, *Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy.* Each participant will receive a copy of the book.

Salem
Continued from page 1

May of 1814 to form a Triennial Convention in support of mission work. Over the years the convention changed names and forms, continuing today as the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society of the American Baptist Churches USA.

“Most profoundly moving,” commented Deborah Van Broekhoven, “was the Saturday evening service of singing, prayer, and testimonies—planned and led by Baptists from Burma.” The Rev. Saw Ler Htoo, Executive Secretary of the Karen Baptist Churches USA preached beautifully in English, Burmese, and Karen, concluding a worship service that honored leaders from our past and challenging all to continue the Judson legacy of cross-cultural ministry into the present day.”

Celebrations of the Judson Bicentennial will continue through 2012, 2013 and 2014. Visit www.judson200.org for information on upcoming events, or contact the Society if you are planning a public Judson event and would like it to be posted on the Judson200 web page.
Church Records Project Begins

Among the Historical Society’s most valued holdings are our original church records. State bodies, associations, and churches in forty-one states are represented in the more than 500 bound volumes and 900 linear feet of records in this collection. Treasures include records of Fifth Baptist (Samson Street) Church in Philadelphia, when it was pastored by William Staughton, the man who presided over the Triennial Convention that appointed Adoniram Judson in 1814.

Until recently, access to the church records was limited by a finding guide with only summary information about individual record groups. This January, the Society launched a project to create a more detailed inventory of the records, including notes regarding special conservation needs.

Spearheading this project are three excellent volunteers: Rev. Garth Brokaw, and Rev. Don and Ginny Rasmussen. All bring a wealth of special knowledge and skills to their work.

Hailing from Rochester, NY, Garth Brokaw retired from 32 years of ministry as the Executive Director at Fairport (NY) Baptist Homes. Most recently he has been asked to serve as the interim executive director of the American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries. He also serves on the Society’s board as vice president and chair of the Professional Standards committee.

When he is in the Atlanta area, visiting relatives or attending Board meetings, Garth makes time to roll up his sleeves and volunteer to work in the Society’s archives. Participation in the National Archives’ Modern Archives Institute, as well as processing the archives of First Baptist Church, Adrian, MI (1832-2010), has prepared him well for the church records project. Garth is currently inventorying the Society’s extensive collection of church records from New York State churches.

Don and Ginny Rasmussen are from Rhode Island, where Don retired as past executive minister of American Baptist Churches of Rhode Island and Ginny was the secretary of the Rhode Island Council of Churches. They escape the northeast winters by traveling South in their camper. To date, they have inventoried the records of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and have assisted with the New York state inventory.

The church records project requires finely honed research skills. Recently, for example, Thomas Diehl, a Pennsylvania genealogist, purchased an unidentified nineteenth century church record at auction. Diehl’s knowledge of regional churches led him to believe the record was from a Baptist congregation in New York or New Jersey, so he generously donated the volume to the Society. Using his superb sleuthing abilities and resources in the Society’s collection, Don was able to identify the volume as the clerk’s record book of Amity Baptist Church (New York City).

To date, volunteers have collectively spent five weeks on the church records project. Much work is left to be done, and more volunteers will be needed to bring this important work to a successful conclusion.

Volunteers Ginny and Don Rasmussen conduct research for church records project.

Volunteers Needed for Church Records Project

More volunteers are needed to assist with the Society’s Church Records Project. We seek active or retired ministers and others who have some broad interest, knowledge, and experience with churches and church history in the various American Baptist geographic regions. Some computer skills required; experience with Excel spreadsheets or word processing desired. Volunteers should plan to commit at least two days per on-site visit to Atlanta to work on the project. Although the Society is unable to reimburse volunteers for travel or lodging expenses, we will assist them in locating comfortable and affordable accommodations. Dorm rooms on the Mercer Campus may be available in the summer. For more details about volunteering for this project, contact the ABHS office.
Friendship Baptist Church Celebrates Sesquicentennial

One hundred and fifty years ago a boxcar became home to Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta’s first autonomous African-American congregation. Founded by Rev. Frank Quarles during the Civil War, the church survived the brutality of Reconstruction and the difficult Civil Rights era under the leadership of such luminaries as Dr. Edward R. Carter, Dr. Maynard Jackson, Sr., and Dr. Samuel Williams.

Committed to the finest education of black youth, Friendship opened its facility to Morehouse College in 1879, when the school moved from Augusta, Georgia, to Atlanta. The church was instrumental in founding Spelman College, which held its first classes in the basement of Friendship in 1881.

In more recent years the congregation has thrived on the corner of Mitchell Street and Northside Drive under the pastoral guidance of Dr. Vincent Guy (emeritus) and Dr. Timothy Boddie, who also serves on the Historical Society’s board of managers.

The Society joins in this milestone anniversary celebration by partnering with Friendship to preserve and provide public access to the church’s archived records.

The archives has been loaned to the Society for the summer to be professionally processed (cataloged) by archivist Jan Ballard, who will produce a finding guide to the collection. Additionally, key portions of the collection will be digitized in order to preserve fragile originals from excessive handling and to provide wider access to researchers wanting to know more about the history and ministry of this culturally significant congregation.

Both the finding guide and digitized products will be available through the Society. Watch the ABHS website for forthcoming details.

Is Your Church Celebrating a Special Milestone? ABHS Can Help! The Society offers resources to help you collect and preserve your church’s records, research and write the history of your congregation, or donate historical materials to the ABHS. We award certificates of recognition and congratulatory letters to churches celebrating significant anniversaries. Contact the ABHS office for details.

Tour Burma with Rosalie Hunt

Follow Rosalie January 17—30, 2013, in retracing the footsteps of Judson through Burma. Judson200 project archivist, Jan Ballard, is also on the tour, along with Executive Director Deborah Van Broekhoven. Both are excited to visit the places documented so thoroughly in the ABHS archives and to meet Burmese Christians who trace their spiritual lineage back to the Judsons.

This American Baptist Historical Society sponsored trip to Myanmar includes visits to all the noted Judson sites; Yangon (Rangoon), site of the first mission house; Inwa, where Judson was first imprisoned, and Mawlamyine (Moulmein) site of the mission compound. Also planned are visits to churches, schools and hospitals connected with the Judsons, Myanmar Baptist headquarters, and local markets and temples.

A full itinerary and registration for the Judson200 Legacy Tour are available on the event pages of www.judson200.org or contact the ABHS office.

ABQ: Why Baptist History Matters

The next issue of the American Baptist Quarterly (ABQ) is on the theme “Why Baptist History Matters.” Articles discuss the importance of Baptist history in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Russia, and throughout Eastern Europe.

Another upcoming issue focuses on “Baptist History and Preaching.” Baptist history can be a powerful resource for preachers, and this issue highlights how preachers have used or can use it in their sermons.

A subscription to the journal is a benefit of Society membership. For more information contact the ABQ Administrator, Kay Eland.
The Morning Star Exhibit Opens on Judson200.org

*The Morning Star*, one of the earliest and longest-running vernacular periodicals in Southeast Asia, was published in the Sgaw Karen language by the American Baptist Mission in Burma. This June, a digital exhibit of articles from *The Morning Star* will open on www.judson200.org. The curator for this display is Karen scholar Dr. William Womack, who became familiar with the publication while conducting research at the Society for his dissertation on literacy networks in Burma. The exhibit is especially intended to serve as a resource for immigrant Karen congregations in the United States.

*The Morning Star*, published between 1842 and 1942, was the brainchild of Francis Mason, an American Baptist missionary in Tavoy who served as its first editor. Although initial issues were written by American missionaries, the publication subsequently became a channel for Karen voices as well. Rev. Mason actively solicited articles for the paper. He wrote the Board, “It is my wish to make the paper a vehicle for the natives to convey their thoughts with precision.” In later years, the paper included summaries of Biblical history and Christian teaching alongside general news items, journals and letters from indigenous Karen missionaries, biographical sketches, Karen folklore and other features.

The significance of *The Morning Star* to Karen culture cannot be overestimated: the publication played a key role in developing a sense of common identity among Karen people in Lower Burma. Although the exhibit features an early issue translated by Rev. Mason and a folktale translated by Dr. Womack, most of *The Morning Star* was never translated into English. Due to Burma’s damp climate, official ethnic discrimination, and more than six decades of civil war, few copies of the publication remain available to those who can read it, either in Burma or elsewhere throughout the world. The Society’s collection is believed to be the most complete in existence, including most issues from 1898 to 1942, together with a good sample of issues from as early as 1846.

Through a generous grant from the Palmer Foundation, the Society will be able to digitize this publication so it may be used as a resource for Karen Christians trying to maintain traditions from the homeland and communicate their history to the next generation. As one local Karen pastor, upon perusing the Society’s collection, poignantly remarked, “Due to war, we Karen people have lost our history, and now you people are giving it back to us …. It is like the lost book story all over again.”

Will Womack doing research at ABHS.
Board of Managers 2012

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Email: abhsoffice@abhsarchives.org
Websites: www.abhsarchives.org
www.judson200.org
Phone: 678-547-6680
Mailing Address: 3001 Mercer University
Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341
Shipping Address: 2930 Flowers Road South,
Suite 150, Atlanta, GA 30341

Meet Our New Board Members

Time, talent and expertise are just some of the
gifts ABHS receives from volunteers. At the January
Corporate Annual Meeting of ABHS, during the American Baptist Churches General Board
meeting, five new managers were elected to the
ABHS Board of Managers: Kent Berghuis, Jon-
than Malone, John Douhan, Everett Goodwin, and
Heidi Holmstrom. New members bring a strong
array of experience, knowledge, networks, train-
ing and interests that will further the mission of
the Society and complement those who continue
on the board.

Kent Berghuis serves as Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of
Lansdale, PA. He feels a calling as scholar, pastor, and Christian
journeyman. Kent is part of the Emerging Theologians Task
Force, the ABC-USA Pastors Col-
loquium, and the Commission for Doctrine and
Christian Unity of the Baptist World Alliance.

Jonathan Malone is pastor at
the First Baptist Church of
East Greenwich, Rhode Is-
land. He recently completed
a PhD degree in theology at
the University of Dayton,
with his dissertation on Ban-
tist ordination. He serves on the Board of General
Ministry of the ABC-USA.

Everett C. Goodwin of Fairfax, VA, is an author of books and articles on
Baptist and American social and le-
al history. He received his edu-
cation at The University of Chicago,
Andover Newton Theological School
and Brown University. An ordained
American Baptist minister, Everett
Goodwin has been senior minister of five church-
es, including the historic First Baptist Church of
the City of Washington, DC.

He has recently completed MMBB: A Pio-
near in Employee Benefits - The First 100 Years, a
history of the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit
Board of the American Baptists Churches, USA,
soon to be available at Mercer University Press.
John Douhan retired in 1997 after a distinguished career in Massachusetts religious circles. He was the associate executive minister of The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM), and the executive minister of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford, MA. Since his retirement, he has been president of the Massachusetts American Baptist Historical Society and an ecumenical officer of TABCOM.

Heidi Holmstrom is a motion picture specialist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. She studied anthropology and film at Bowdoin College, and history and archives at Western Washington University. She interned at the National Archives, where she learned techniques of film preservation. She assisted the Society in successfully applying for a National Film Preservation Foundation grant to preserve the film, Good News, the story of the American Baptist Mather School for African-American girls in the rural South.

ABHS Volunteer Spotlight
Della Spearman—Public Historian

Della Spearman, a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA, began volunteering at ABHS in January. In her role as the Society’s public historian, she seeks to “interpret, engage and educate the public about the available collection of diverse Baptist historical information.” Currently she is working with Rev. Veronica (Ronny) Lanier, interviewing her and working through some of her papers in order to document the life and times of Rev. Ronny Lanier.

“I want to present mission work (beginning with Rev. Ronny Lanier), the social gospel movement and the history of the African American church,” Della explains, “utilizing social media, blogs, content communities and social networking sites to generate public interest in interactive dialog to learn more about ABHS archives and activities.”

ABHS at the Cincinnati Art Museum

The Art of Sound: Four Centuries of Musical Instruments will be on exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum from June 16 through September 2, 2012. The display will include two ABHS images of Howard Doane, a gifted musician who composed over 2,000 hymn tunes in his lifetime, including the music for several hymns by Fanny Crosby.

Annual Fund

Yes! I/We believe in a Ministry of Memory and enclose a gift of $________to support the ABHS. Or give online at www.abhsarchives.org (click on the “Donate Now” button)

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Make checks payable to ABHS and mail with this form to ABHS, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.
INSIDE
Cheers for Volunteers

Save the Date
September 21, 2012

On Friday, September 21, 2012 Dr. Lerone Martin from Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO, will give a talk on Rev. J. M. Gates (1884-1945). Gates was the pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA and achieved fame as an African-American preacher and gospel singer. He carried his ministry into the age of technology with hundreds of phonograph records of his sermons.

This annual event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Administrative And Conference Center (AACC) building at the Mercer University Atlanta campus, located at 2930 Flowers Road, South. There will be a reception following.

Update Your Passport