

## Historical Society Transitions:

### New Members on ABHS Board of Managers

Felipe Candelaria is pastor of Iglesia Bautista de Quebrada in Puerto Rico. He has been on the Board of General Ministries, the ABC Biennial Planning Committee, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Puerto Rico Region Board.



Beverly Fink has been active with ABHS for many years. **“Because of my long involvement and interest in American Baptists, I appreciate and value the work of the Historical Society,” she said recently. “I count it a privilege to be on the Board of Managers as it gives me a first-hand view of what is**

happening behind the scenes. The more I see, the more respect I have for those who have preceded me in all areas of our faith.” **Bev is currently the coordinator of the Advanced Placement program at Manhattan High School, Manhattan, KS.**

Janice Fletcher resides in Rhode Island, and is a member of First Baptist Church of East Greenwich. Her experience on the Board of General Ministries and ABC World Relief Committee as well as Rhode Island regional committees gives her a **perspective on Baptist history. “I have never been directly involved with an Historical Committee, but have a strong background and interest in history. After retiring**



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### Farewell to Two Staff Members

At the end of December we will bid farewell to two valued members of the ABHS team.

For almost nine years, Jan Winfield has been **ABHS’s voice on the phone, responder to emails, and poster on social media.** Jan has prepared and sent countless church anniversary certificates and member letters, coordinated arrangements for Board of Managers meetings and ABHS Biennial Meeting activities, and produced dozens of **newsletters and fundraising mailings. If you’ve received it from ABHS, Jan has probably touched it!**

During her tenure Jan developed an appreciation of Baptist history and a particular love of Association records. Among staff, Jan most frequently responds to research-by-mail requests, searching the archives to answer questions from people who are not in a position to do on-site research.

Jan had earned a Masters of Religious Studies from Pacific School of Religion before her 18-year career with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist church. Her knowledge and experience of the wider Christian church has often benefitted ABHS. In addition to her **administrative skills, Jan’s unfailingly positive attitude is a real blessing.** We wish Jan a very satisfying retirement!

In her time at ABHS, Jill Sweetapple has



Jill Sweetapple, left, and Jan Winfield, right

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# Church Anniversaries

## October – December

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptist Congregations and their pastors! The following churches mark anniversaries this quarter:

### 275 years

First Baptist Church of Hightstown, NJ;  
Rev. Bruce J. Wood, pastor

### 200 years

First Baptist Church of New Albany, IN;  
Dr. James G. Ivey, pastor  
Second Baptist Church of Bowdoinham, ME;  
Rev. John P. Ross, pastor

### 175 years

Underwood Memorial Baptist Church of  
Wauwatosa, WI; Rev. Jason Mack, pastor

### 150 years

First Baptist Church of Council Grove, KS;  
Rev. Christopher L. C. Carlson, pastor  
Baptist Church, South Haven, MI; Jerry Koller,  
pastor



## Primary Source

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[ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org](mailto:ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org)

For ABHS memberships or *American Baptist Quarterly*  
subscriptions: (610) 768-2269 or [Kay.Eland@abc-usa.org](mailto:Kay.Eland@abc-usa.org)

Postal Address: 3001 Mercer University Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30341

Location and shipping address for non-USPS carriers:  
2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 150  
Atlanta, GA 30341

### 125 years

First Baptist Church of Attleboro, MA;  
Rev. Cheryl Harris, pastor

### 100 years

Lynhurst Baptist Church of Indianapolis, IN;  
Rev. Benjamin Wakefield, pastor  
Queen Missionary Baptist Church, Marks, MS;  
Rev. Bernard Handy, pastor

### 75 years

New Era Church of Indianapolis, IN;  
Rev. Clarence C. Moore, pastor

### 50 years

Mid-American Baptist Churches of Iowa and  
Minnesota; Rev. Jacqueline L. Saxton, Executive  
Minister  
Solomon Temple Missionary Baptist Church,  
Denver, CO; Rev. Dr. John LaMar Tellis, Jr.,  
pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant  
anniversary, request a certificate from ABHS.

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**“moved us forward by eons”** (as former ABHS  
president and volunteer Garth Brokaw put it) in  
her expert processing of both backlogged and  
new collections. Shortly after her arrival, Jill  
staffed the ABHS booth at the ABC Biennial  
Mission Summit in Portland, OR, beginning her  
familiarity with the American Baptist community.

Over the course of 3-½ years, she has processed  
dozens of collections, organizing, indexing, and  
cataloging thousands of folders of materials. Jill  
delved in to the ArchivesSpace cataloging soft-  
ware and, in tandem with digital archivist Jenny  
Manasco, added hundreds of catalog records to  
our online catalog. Materials archived at ABHS  
**are far more accessible because of Jill’s work.**

The M.S. in Library and Information Studies  
and 8 years experience as a professional archivist  
**that Jill came with, as well as her “can-do”**  
attitude, have served her well. We deeply  
**appreciate Jill’s work with ABHS and wish her**  
well in her future endeavors.

# ABHS copies of *Philadelphia Confession of Faith* and **Rauschenbusch's** *Christianity and the Social Crisis* exhibited in Geneva



*Philadelphia Confession of Faith*, far right, on loan from ABHS

From Gabriel de Montmollin, Head of the International Museum of the Reformation: We are very proud to be able to present two emblematic works of your Society in our exhibition “Calvin in America” in the International Museum of the Reformation.

*The Philadelphia Confession of Faith* (1743) is an important part of our exhibition on the Protestant identity of the United States. We explain to the public that the development of the churches of the Reformation was very different there than in Europe. They were able to grow without finding the religious and political resistance of the Old World, hence this dynamism and great diversity. Confessions of faith are like identity cards that allow us to measure the differences and convergences with other traditions. Moreover, this edition is particularly interesting because it was printed by Benjamin Franklin himself. It is a beautiful testimony that underlines the extraordinary personality of one of the Fathers of American Independence.

As for the first edition of Walter Rauschenbusch's book *Christianity and the Social Crisis*, its exhibition allows the European visitor to understand that the United States and its churches have been strongly involved in social justice. It is often thought on this side of the Atlantic that the USA is the land of freedom and money. With his book, Rauschenbusch testifies to a very different reality defined by poverty, which, like elsewhere, alienates millions of people. His book is next to the *Gospel of Wealth* by Andrew Carnegie, also in its first edition, where the question of poverty tries to solve itself with instruments more philanthropic than political.



*Christianity and the Social Crisis*, right, on loan from ABHS



One section of the “Calvin in America” exhibit at the Musée International de la Réforme, Geneva

These two important books of the early 20th century remain of obvious relevance. We would like to thank you again for your presence in our museum and hope that other collaborations are now possible between our two institutions.

The exhibit will run through April, 2021, at which time the items on loan will be returned to ABHS.



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from a teaching career I took over the Office Manager/Secretary position at my local church. ABHS information and the *American Baptist Quarterly* passed over my desk on a regular basis and made for very interesting reading. This led me to realize how important it is to preserve historical information. By working with ABHS I am hoping to be able to contribute to **that purpose.**"

Josué Gómez-Menéndez is the CFO of the Baptist Academy in Puerto Rico, and a member of the Baptist Church in Rio Piedras. He brings experience in the fields of accounting, fundraising, and investments. As past president of the Board of General Ministries of ABCUSA, Josué has a broad knowledge of American Baptist work.



Dennis Johnson is a retired church pastor, having served churches in Chicago and West Virginia. A self-proclaimed bridge-builder, his activities now focus on ways to do that in the community and within **the Baptist family.** Dennis says, "I believe that we do not outgrow the past; we grow out of the past, which is why the preservation of our Baptist family documents is so vital. My special interest in the ABHS archives is Walter Rauschenbusch, who has been for me a model of **Baptist spirituality for Baptists today.**"



After practicing psychology in Chicago, James Napolitan (M.A., Ph.D. University of Illinois, Chicago) became a commodities trader at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. "My mother had attended the Baptist Missionary Training School in **Chicago," James says. "I was interested in what information they had on the college and lo and behold, they had whole boxes of archives! I found materials written by my mother as the class secretary. Since none of this was digitized I quickly appreciated the importance of archival access if one wanted to do real research."**



We are grateful for the commitment of these new members of the Board of Managers.

## Ways to Support ABHS

Many people would like to support the work of **the Historical Society, but don't have** discretionary money available. There are ways to support ABHS outside of your current funds.

1. If you make your philanthropic gifts via a donor-advised fund, add the American Baptist Historical Society to the organizations designated to receive a gift from your DAF.
2. Legacy giving is another way of supporting ABHS with future giving. Let us know that you have included ABHS in your will, and **we'll add you to the Living Heritage Society.**
3. Donations of stock are always welcome. Have your broker contact us for transfer instructions.

**Research Snapshot** — During most of 2020 public health restrictions have prevented researchers from visiting ABHS — and requests for Research-by-Mail have increased. The variety of requests that come in mirrors the variety of collections in the archives.

The greatest number of requests are for Missionary Correspondence. A researcher in Japan contacted us for information for an article they are writing about Harry Baxter Benninghoff and his service in Burma. A doctoral student in China requested correspondence of Adele Fielde for their dissertation.

ABHS also holds personal papers from pastors, seminary presidents, ABC executives, and others. **One request related to the "Death of God" theology of the mid-1960s; the correspondence files of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School President Gene Bartlett held a thick stack of letters regarding this controversy, including both complaints and affirmations. Bartlett's practice of filing his reply along with the letters received made researching this question much easier.**

Some of the easiest research requests to fulfill are requests for a copy of a magazine article, pamphlet, or newspaper article. People writing a church history or searching for genealogical information often request obituaries of prominent Baptists from the *Watchman-Examiner*. Obituaries are often found in the state Annuals or Association minutes as well.

# Join the Historical Society and Become a Time Traveler

American Baptist Historical Society membership circles are named for some of our significant Baptist forebears.



Membership Circles (Memberships are for the calendar year)	Annual Gift of
Ann Hasseltine Judson Circle	\$1-50
* subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i>	
Henry Lyman Morehouse Circle	\$51-125
* subscription (digital or print) to <i>Primary Source</i>	
* participation in "Time Travelers," reciprocal museum/archives program <a href="http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/">http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/</a>	
Louise "Lulu" 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 breakfast	
Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle	\$501-1000
* benefits listed above, plus	
* subscription to <i>American Baptist Quarterly</i> discounted by 50%	
Helen Barrett Montgomery Circle	\$1001-5000
* benefits listed above, plus	
* private archives tour (subject to staff availability)	
Samuel Colgate Donors	\$5001 & above
* benefits listed above, plus	
* 2 hours free consultation with staff archivist	
Living Heritage Society	inclusion in estate plan
* inclusion on a special plaque in ABHS Reading Room	

Yes! I/We want to join the American Baptist Historical Society.

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Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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To use a credit card go to our website: [www.ABHSarchives.org](http://www.ABHSarchives.org)  
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## Join the Transcription Project!

In the archives there are numerous congregational record books dating from the late-17<sup>th</sup>- to early-20<sup>th</sup>-centuries. Because they are handwritten, they are not searchable electronically, so finding information can be a laborious task. This is where you come in: We invite you to help us transcribe these records using the crowd-sourcing platform **Zooniverse**. **You'll see images of the pages and type in your transcription.** This work will result in a version of the records that can be searched for names or keywords, helping genealogists and other researchers in their work.

The only requirements for participating in this project are a computer (it will not work on phones) and the ability to read cursive handwriting. Come transcribe online: [bit.ly/ABHS\\_transcription\\_project](https://bit.ly/ABHS_transcription_project).

Support the American Baptist Historical Society as you shop this holiday season:

If you shop on Amazon, please use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com) to designate the American Baptist Historical Society to receive a small donation each time you shop.

## Our Vision

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