

Look what you did last year!

As we observe events in the world around us, we become increasingly aware of the lessons we might learn from history. Over the past year ABHS Board of Managers members Don Ng, writing about “living history,” Jeff Jones, writing about Roger Williams, and Dennis Johnson, writing about Walter Rauschenbusch, all helped readers of this newsletter make connections between past and present. This is at the heart of ABHS’s ministry: preserving historical records and making them accessible so that the stories can be told and the lessons, remembered. Your generous support makes this work possible.

In 2025 you helped:

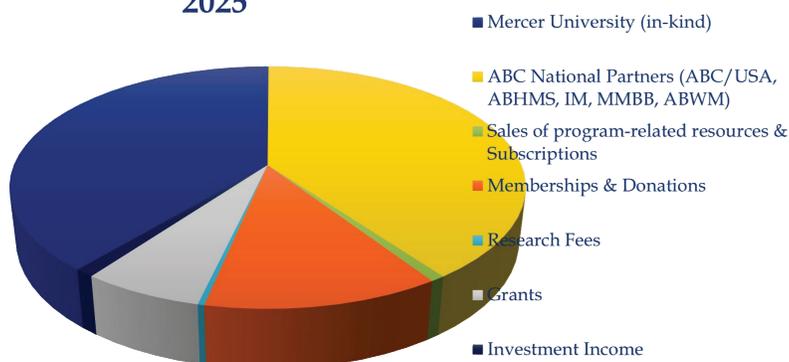
- ✦ produce an online exhibit and a traveling exhibit that recount part of the experience of Japanese Americans during World War II, and the ministry and advocacy offered by Northern Baptists;
- ✦ mount a booth with multiple exhibits, offer workshops, and host a dinner at the 2025 American Baptist biennial convention in Omaha;
- ✦ celebrate **47 congregations’** milestones with Anniversary Certificates;
- ✦ welcome **17 researchers** on-site for 55 research days, and fulfill more than **30 Research-by-Mail** requests;
- ✦ continue a collaboration with Ancestry.com. The first set of the **over 350,000 digitized pages** comprising ABFMS missionary sailing cards and biographical files is accessible on the Ancestry.com website;
- ✦ upload **10,140 files** to our digital preservation platform. You can browse these files (photos, documents, and audio recordings) online at <https://abhs.access.preservica.com/>;
- ✦ facilitate **13,953 public downloads** from the digital preservation platform;
- ✦ add **2256 digital objects** to our searchable and browsable online catalog, including *Hope* magazine (1885-1917), *New Hampshire Baptist Register* (1840-1844), *The American Baptist* (180-1866), and Adoniram Judson correspondence.

Funding to carry out this work comes from institutional partners and individuals. We are grateful to Mercer University and President Bill Underwood for hosting ABHS on their Atlanta campus. We appreciate financial support from American Baptist Churches USA, American Baptist Home Mission Societies,

International Ministries, the Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board, and American Baptist Women’s Ministries, all of whose records of ministry we preserve and manage.

Thank you, members of and donors to ABHS, for your financial contributions! You collectively helped ABHS exceed our Annual Fund goal by \$10,000. **We are extremely grateful** for your support. Together we are able to preserve, share, and celebrate a living legacy of centuries of American Baptist mission and ministry.

Sources of Operating Income
2025



Annual Fund Donors

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

Institutional Supporters

American Baptist Office of the General Secretary
American Baptist Home Mission Societies
American Baptist Women's Ministries
American Baptist International Ministries
Mercer University
Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board



Samuel Colgate Donors

**Garth and Karen Brokaw
Sybil Eppinger
David S. & Robin Hanna

Helen Barrett Montgomery Circle

Dr. & Mrs. John Douhan
Priscilla E. Eppinger
**William L. & Roberta Frederickson
Everett C. & Jane Goodwin
Catherine Holmes
Thomas J. Litwiler
Dr. John F. Mandt, Sr.
John C. & Dale Murrow
Richard V. Swindle
William Tatum
James O. & Janet Wolfe



Samuel DeWitt Proctor Circle



Susan Gillies
Esther & Rick Irish
Barbara Jones
James & Liz Lamkin
Dr. David C. Laubach
Larry & Sue McSwain
**James & Sandra Napolitan, Ph.D.s
Eric H. Ohlmann
José L. & Haydee Ortiz
Rev. Carol F. Sutton

Jitsuo Morikawa Circle



Duane & Marcia Binkley
Cheryl F. Dudley
John & Sylvia Grisham
**Josué Gómez-Menéndez
George Hancock-Stefan
Stephen W. Handy
Paul & Jeri Higgins
**Douglas Hill
Eric & Virginia Holmstrom
**Mitch Homma & Stephanie Stone
Robert R. Hudson
**Dennis L. & Holly Johnson
**Jeffrey and Judith Jones
James & Betty Layton
Greg & Lisa Mamula
Timothy C. Phillips
Gunta Plostnieks
Paul N. Rumery
Christine C. Smith
William Stone
Joseph P. & Jane Stoner
Robert & Elaine Tiller
Reid S. Trulson
Gary & Shirley Wall
Dana R. Younger

Louise Cecelia Fleming Circle



Joy & John Amick
Diane L. Badger
Marcellus C. Barksdale
Nancy Bennett
Michaele D. Birdsall
George Boltnew
Mary Alice Brake
Leigh Barker Cheesebro
Pamela L. Claassen
Daniel C. Clemens
Thomas & Audrey Clifton

** indicates 2025 member of ABHS Board of Managers

(Continued on page 3)

Annual Fund Donors

(Continued from page 2)

Ronald Cooper
Ruth Cramer
George & Liz Daniels
Glen & Bonnie Dappen
Marty & Tracy Dexter
James & Jean Dunson
Janice W. Fletcher
Leroy Gilbert
Larry L. Greenfield
Mary Day Hamel
Anne Harris
Colin & Faye Harris
Shawn E. Hast
Dick Hepler
Darlene Herod
Heidi Holmstrom
David G. Hunt
Margaret Karns
Margie A. P. Latham
Gayle Foster Lewis
William & Mary Beth Mankin
A. Roy Medley
Randolph T. Miller
Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Mohon
Carmen J. Pagan
Wayne & Julia Paulsen
Kathleen E. Sampson
Doug Scalise
Don & Meg Shuler
John A. Siewert
Barry N. Sisk
J. Alfred Smith
Nick D. Swanstrom
Leo & Yvonne Thorne
Dorothea A. Tierson
Thomas A. Tupitza
Marilyn K. Tyson
Nancy Uhlinger
**Jeffrey Waldrop
Dr. and Mrs. John C.B. Webster

Church Anniversaries January - March 2026

We celebrate the faithful ministry of American Baptists and their pastors! The following churches have notified ABHS that they are celebrating anniversaries this quarter:

200 Years

First United Church, Bloomington, IN
Rev. Jessica Petersen-Mutai, pastor

150 Years

Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Scott Depot, WV
Rev. Keith A. George, pastor

If your church is celebrating a significant anniversary, notify ABHS and request a certificate. We want to celebrate with you!

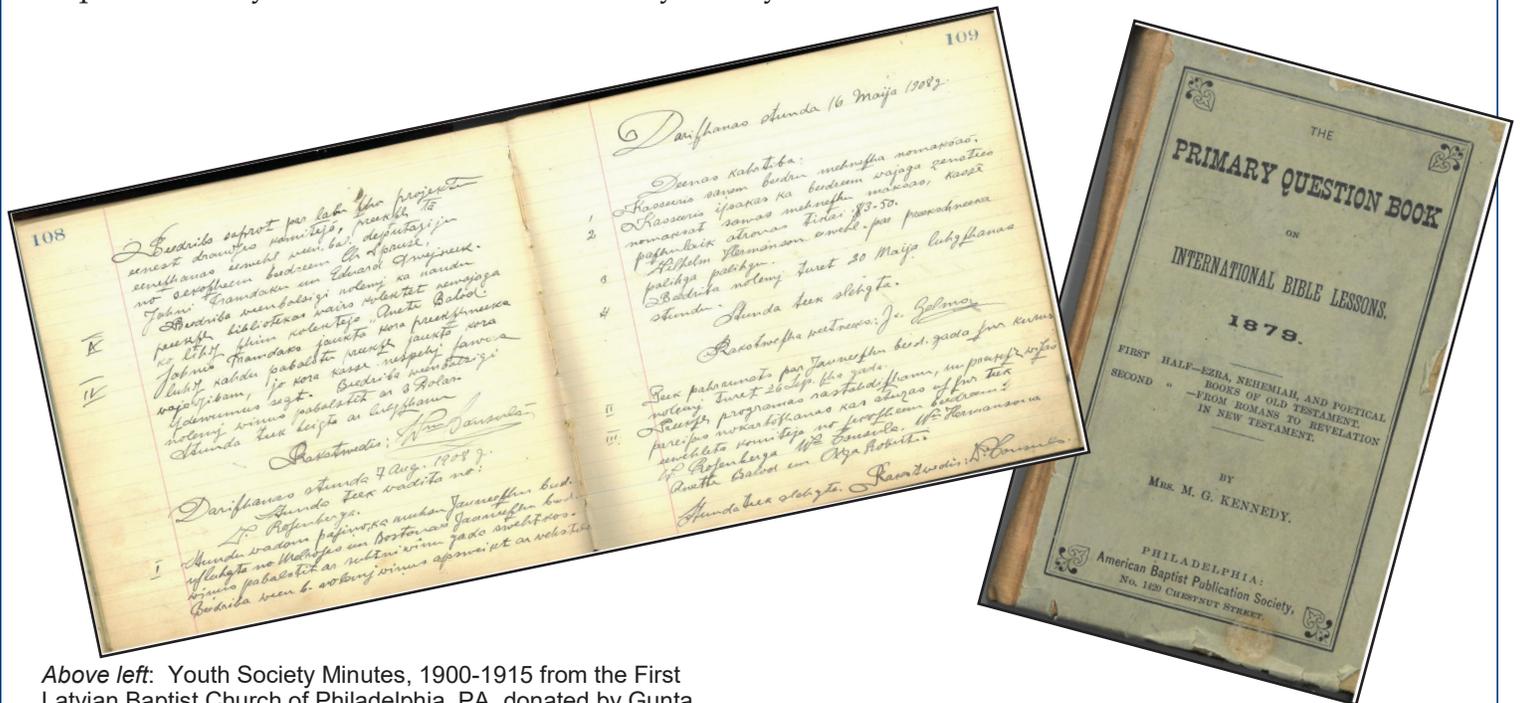


Supporting Congregations and Foundations

The American Baptist Community Church,
Big Flats, NY
Baptist Church of West Chester, PA
Baptist History & Heritage Society
First Baptist Church, Ann Arbor, MI
First Baptist Church, Dayton, OH
First Baptist Church, Somerville, NJ
Lake Ave. Memorial Baptist Church, Rochester, NY
Market Street Baptist Church, Zanesville, OH
North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL
Stannard Foundation
R. J. Tidland Christian Discipleship Fund

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.



Above left: Youth Society Minutes, 1900-1915 from the First Latvian Baptist Church of Philadelphia, PA, donated by Gunta Plostnieks

Above right: Primary Question Book on International Bible Lessons, donated by Wesley Anderson

Donors of Materials pertaining to Institutional work

- Bruce Aikin: ABC of New York State minutes 2020-2023
- David and Charlene Daniels: Congregational annuals
- Paul Miller: records from American Baptist Community Church (Big Flats, NY)
- Gunta Plostnieks: First Latvian Baptist Church (Philadelphia) Records
- Shawnee Heights Baptist Church, Muncie, IN: church records
- Robert E. Smith: *Congo Perspectives*, #88 – 91

Donors of Books and Pamphlets to the ABHS reference library

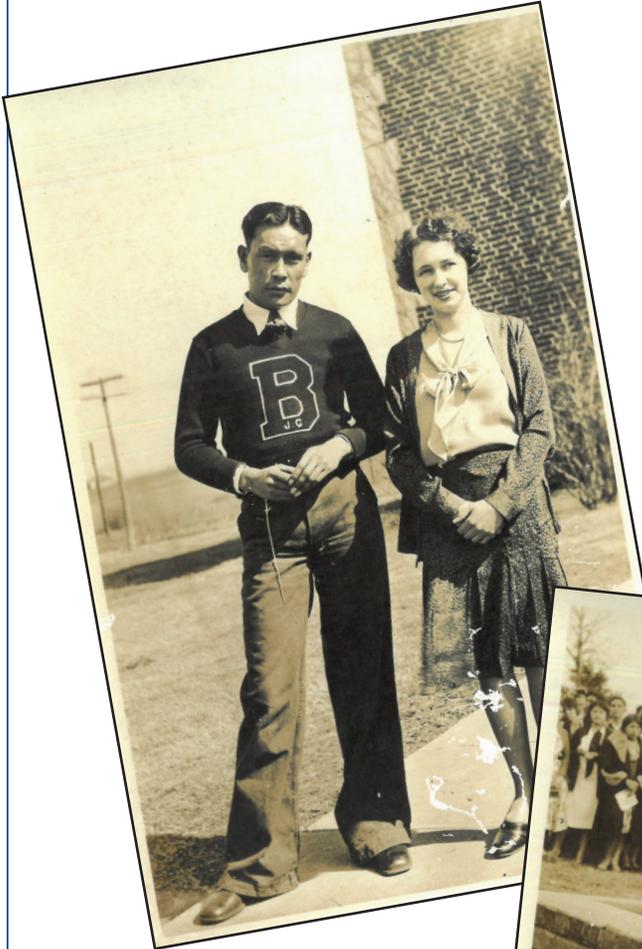
- Wesley Anderson: *The Primary Question Book on International Bible Lessons* (1879).
- Garth Brokaw: Ottawa University clippings Congregational Library & Archives (Boston, MA): Baptist publications, associational reports
- Susan Deer: 2 Books about Ioleta McElhaney
- Mark Gardiner: ABPS picture lesson cards
- Ruth Leine: American Baptist pamphlets Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum: *Our Boys and Girls* (1898-1900)
- Richard Mann: copy of autobiography, *Feet on the Mountain*
- Jan Ezung Nienu: 2 books about Lotha Naga missions

“RG” stands for “Record Group.”
 “MP” stands for “Missionary Papers.”

Donors of Personal Papers

Ed Baxter: William Baxter pastoral records
Donald Brown: Guest books of Ethel and Harry Brown (Congo missionaries)
Robin Campbell: Robert Campbell papers
Margaret Cowden: personal papers (ABWIM and AWAB)
Sybil Eppinger: additions to Paul Eppinger Papers
Philip Holbert: additions to Charles Lamont Conrad papers

Bruce Johnson: 2 cassettes of an interview of W.W. Adams, July 9, 1971, by Dr. William Thompson (EBTS)
Carol Kautz: James and Debby Kelsey missionary newsletters
David MacPherson: James MacPherson correspondence, register of sermons, Broadway Baptist Church (Denver, CO) membership reports
Harry B. Parrot, Jr.: additions to the Parrott Family papers
Neil and Diana Sowards: Additions to RG1160, Erville and Genevieve Sowards papers
Warren H. Stewart, Sr.: personal papers
Bill Stone: L. Edgar Stone Papers
Dora Tiller: personal papers
Peter White: additions to Carolyn Gleich Papers
Marilyn Färdig Whiteley: additions to Francis Färdig papers, including two sand painting drawings by Bill Tajachine
Florence Wright: additions to S. Hollingworth
Carol Yenne: papers of Marion Jefferson McPike (minister in Montana, 1889-1982)



Photographs of Bacone College campus, Muskogee, OK, ca. 1930s. Additions to RG1098 Francis Färdig Papers, donated by Marilyn Färdig Whitely.

Above left: Lewis Durant and Virginia Head

Above right: Baptismal service held on February 1, 1931, with 29 people baptized.

We appreciate those who donated materials last year.

Here's an overview of the ministry that your gifts fund:



ABHS provides resources for local congregations and publishes a scholarly journal.



Brice Bongiovanni was the Project Archivist for the JACS project.



A RESILIENT FAITH

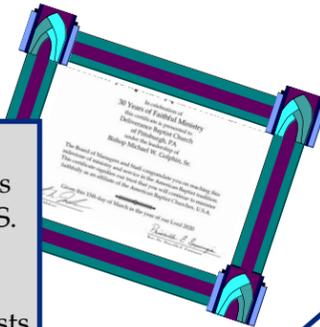
Japanese American Baptists during World War II

During World War II, over 42,000 Japanese migrants and 70,000 U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast of the United States were sent to incarceration camps. Among them were ordained Baptist pastors and their congregations, numbering about 2,000, who would hold on to their faith as they struggled to understand and find hope in their experience.

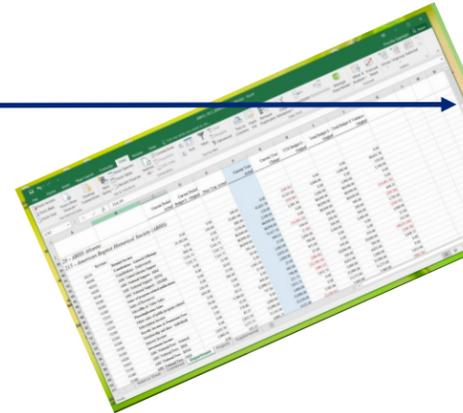
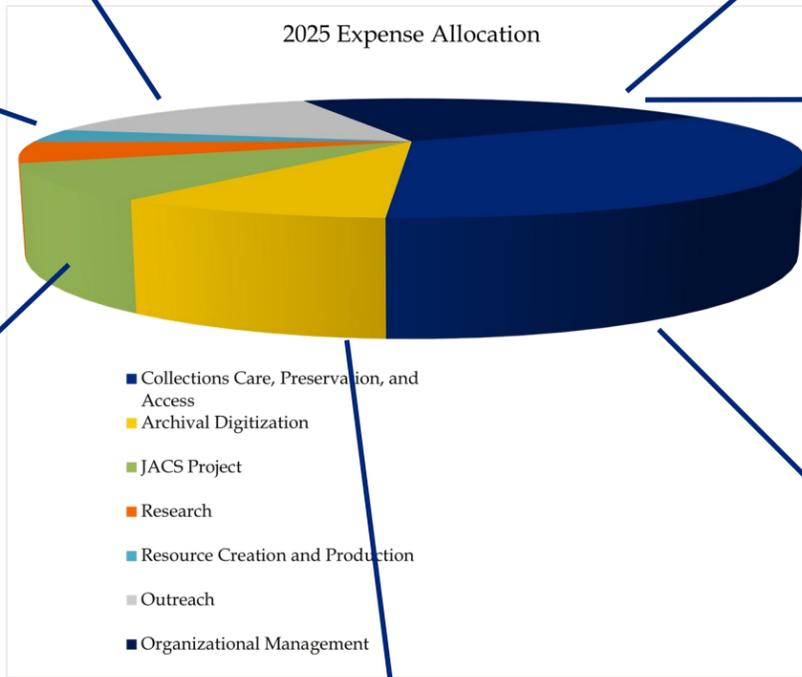
Visit our online exhibit to learn more about this project and the history of Japanese American Baptists.



Administrative Assistant MaShani Allen is most people's first point of contact with ABHS. She facilitates research requests, sends out church anniversary certificates, prepares mailings, and posts to social media.



Executive Director Priscilla Eppinger enjoys preaching and loves telling people about the ministry of ABHS. She is responsible for strategic vision as well as day-to-day organizational management.



Financial Clerk Gusmar Chavarría ensures good financial record-keeping as he records donations, processes invoices for payment, and manages *Foundations* subscriptions.



Archivist Mariah Hamby catalogues archival collections and ensures that materials can be easily found and retrieved. Mariah also assists researchers, curates exhibits from ABHS collections, and leads tours of the archives for special groups.

Digital Archivist Jenny Manasco oversees ABHS digital archives, digitizing primary documents and managing the digital preservation platform. She served as Project Manager for the JACS project.



Gifts have been given in Memory of:

Gordon Bennett

Dick Hepler

Morley Bray

Nick D. Swanstrom

Larry & Marivene Brown

Claudia M. Brown

Marguerite Alice Calder

Christine C. Smith

Beverly Carlson

Pat & Ron Schlosser

Grace Cooper

Ronald Cooper

Frederick S. Downs

Dr. and Mrs. John C.B.
Webster

Ulysses Dozier

Minnie Haynes

Paul D. Eppinger

Priscilla E. Eppinger
Sybil C. Eppinger
José L. Ortiz

John H. Finney

Margaret A. and John H.
Finney

Esther Fisher

Anne Bohli

Lester Garner

Susan Hartman Zeager

Clifford M. Gilson

Rosemary L. Gilson

Matthew R. Giuffrida

Susan Gillies

David Gregg

Jonathan A. & Rebekah A.
Malone

Robert T. Handy

Stephen W. Handy

Richard G. Harris

Anne Harris

Charles T. Hast

Shawn E. Hast

Clara & Sidney V. Hollingworth

Florence Wright

Homma & Wada families

Mitch Homma & Stephanie
Stone

Henry Hosek

Lynda Hosek

Morris B. Hutchins

Paul N. Rumery

John T. & Nellie Proctor, and

Mildred Proctor

Margaret Karns

Verner R. Matthews

William J Key

Trinette McCray

Michaele D. Birdsall
Adam L. Bond
Mary Alice Brake
Judith Dean
Priscilla E. Eppinger

Ernest James Murphy

Phyllis Lyday

Yoshiko Nakagawa

Eric & Virginia Holmstrom

Fannie Napolitan

James & Sandra Napolitan,
Ph.D.s

Ramon & Flora Ortiz

José L. Ortiz

Ellen Josephine Peterson

Anonymous

William Pettigrew

Themshang Horam

Richard Pierard

Julia P. Coulter

Jean Ann Linder

Charlene Pierard

John Ramer

Lisa Spiro

Deborah & Harold Van
Broekhoven

Donald Rasmussen

Virginia Rasmussen

Bill & Betty Rice

Thomas N. Rice

Vergie Gillespie Spiker

Gayle Foster Lewis

James & Pearl Sprigg

Sheri K. Sprigg

Olive Tiller

Robert & Elaine Tiller

Philip & Rose Uhlinger

Nancy Uhlinger

Faris D. Whitesell

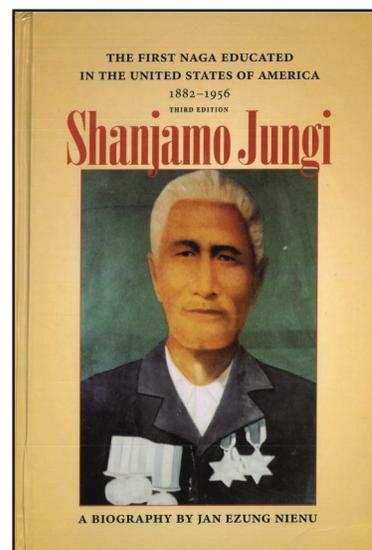
Dr. & Mrs. Willis Lucas

**George D. & Doris Anne
Younger**

Dana R. Younger

Paul A. Younger

Dana R. Younger



Gifts have been given in Honor of:

Phyllis F. Ashford

Nikita McCalister

William Baxter

Edward Baxter

Rev. Garth E. Brokaw

Thomas A. Tupitza

Priscilla E. Eppinger

James & Liz Lamkin

Jo Ann Vredenburg

Sybil Eppinger

Priscilla E. Eppinger

José L. Ortiz

Jo Ann Vredenburg

Benjamin Hardee

Harold D. Wolgast

Jeffrey Jones

Barbara Jones

Jonathan Malone

Anthony & Marilyn Malone

Donald Ng

A. Roy Medley

Walter L. Parrish, II

Lacey S. Alford

Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven

Marty & Tracy Dexter

Robert R. Hudson

Donors to ABHS Living Heritage Endowment

American Baptist Homes and Caring Ministries

Claudia M. Brown

Allen B. Carlson estate

Julia P. Coulter

Judith Dean

Robert R. Hudson

Jean Ann Linder

Diane Moore

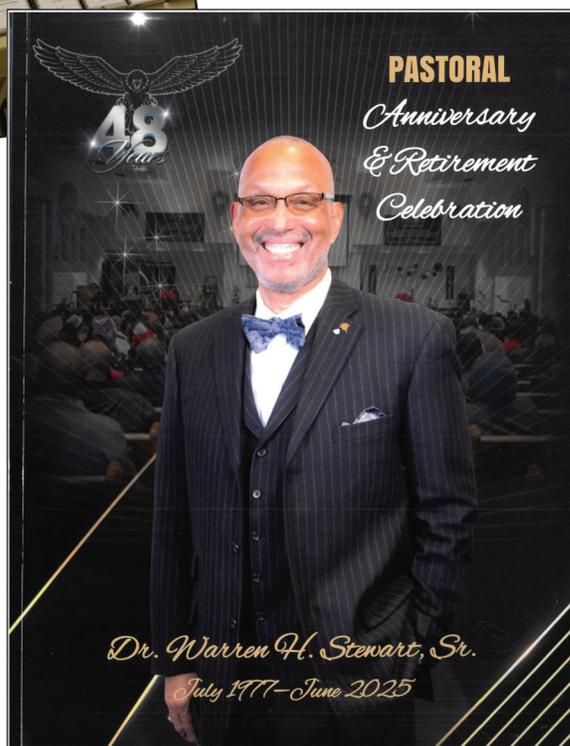
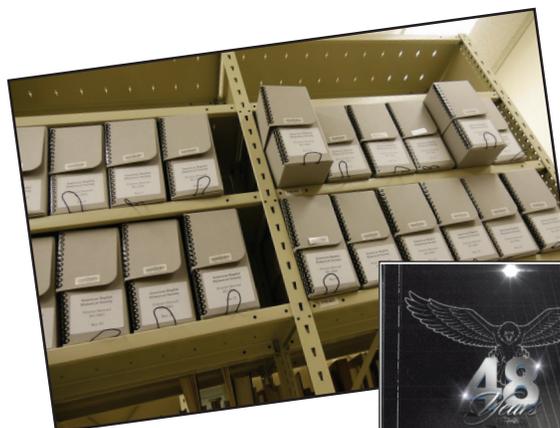
Charlene Pierard

John Ramer

Lisa Spiro

Deborah & Harold Van Broekhoven

John W. Woodbury



One of the larger collections received in 2025 was the Rev. Dr. Warren H. Stewart, Sr. papers, RG 2061

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

Legacy giving is one way to support ABHS into the future. Your bequest will help ensure professional preservation and increased accessibility of historical materials for generations to come.

Please let us know if you plan for your estate to include a gift to ABHS.

A Resilient Faith: Japanese American Baptists during World War II

A century ago, Northern Baptists had developed active ministries with Japanese families in the US. When, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt authorized the exclusion of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast, entire congregations and communities were forcibly removed to internment camps in other states. People who later became well-known American Baptists, including Paul Nagano, Yosh Nakagawa, Herb Tsuchiya, Jitsuo Morikawa, and Tai Shigaki, were incarcerated with their families.

ABHS archives hold records of those who ministered with Japanese Americans: Japanese and Japanese American pastors, missionaries from the Home Mission Societies who had been appointed to serve Japanese American congregations and Christian centers, International Ministries missionaries to Japan who returned to the US during the war years and ministered among internees, and denominational leaders from ABHMS and Los Angeles Baptist City Society.

With funding from the Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) program of the US National Park Service and the ABC of LA, the Southwest, and Hawai'i (ABCOFLASH), ABHMS, Roberta Stephens estate, Brokaw Charitable Fund, and North Shore Baptist Church, as well as donations from several individuals, ABHS has created an online archive of records that document the experience of Japanese American Baptists and the work of Northern Baptists among them during World War II. The project also produced an online exhibit and a traveling exhibit.

The online archive is available at <https://abhs.access.preservica.com/>. We invite you to browse through these documents.



Garth Brokaw helps set up the exhibit in Omaha.



At the ABHS dinner at the Omaha biennial, Doug Hubbard of ABCOFLASH accepted a certificate of appreciation for ABCOFLASH's support of the JACS project.



Kathryn Ray accepts a certificate of appreciation for North Shore Baptist Church's support of the project.

Primary Source

is published quarterly by the American Baptist Historical Society

MaShani Allen, Administrative Assistant
Gusmar Chavarria, Financial Clerk
Priscilla E. Eppinger, Executive Director
Mariah Hamby, Head of Archives and Special Collections
Jenny L. Manasco, Digital Archivist

Website: www.ABHSarchives.org

Contact us at : (678) 547-6680 or
ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org

Postal Address: 3001 Mercer University Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341

GPS Location: 2930 Flowers Road South, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30341

Opportunities to see the JACS Exhibit in 2026:

February	Atherton Baptist Homes, Alhambra, CA
March – April	Franklin College, Franklin, IN
April	Brewster Baptist Church, Brewster, MA
May	Amache National Historic Site, Grenada, CO
May – June	First United Church of Christ, West Hartford, CT
June	Calvary Baptist Church, Newark, DE
August – September	Denison University, Granville, OH
September	Berkeley School of Theology, Berkeley, CA
October	ABCOFLASH

Join the Historical Society and Become a Time Traveler

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



American Baptist HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bringing our legacy to light

**Yes! I/We want to support the
American Baptist Historical Society
by becoming a member.**

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 http://timetravelers.mohistory.org/	
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>Foundations</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	

Please Print

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Birthdate _____

Donations of \$100 or more may be given as a tribute.

This donation is given in honor of in memory of

Under what name(s) would you like your
donation to be acknowledged?

Membership \$ _____

Foundations subscription:

\$50/annually \$ _____

Add \$75/year for postage to Canada, \$100/year
to other non-US countries

Gift to Endowment \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to ABHS and send to: ABHS,
3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341.

To use a credit card go to our secure
website: www.bit.ly/ABHS_Give_Now
or use this QR code:



ABHS is a 501(c)(3) organization; your
membership is tax-deductible to the full extent of
the law. *Foundations* subscriptions are not tax-
deductible.

PRIMARY SOURCE

American Baptist Historical Society

3001 Mercer University Drive

Atlanta, GA 30341

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Athens, GA
Permit No. 11

INSIDE: Thank you,
ABHS friends and
supporters!

Torbet Essay Contest

Emerging scholars are invited to submit essays in any area of Baptist history for the Torbet Essay competition.

Each year ABHS invites essays from authors who have not already published a major scholarly work. The Research and Publication Committee of the ABHS Board of Managers serves as judges, and the winning essay is eligible for publication in an upcoming issue of *Foundations* and its author awarded a cash prize.

Entries should be no more than 25 double-spaced pages (excluding notes) with citations following the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Contact ABHSoffice@ABHSarchives.org for submission instructions. The submission deadline is September 1.

Robert George Torbet (1912-1995) was an American Baptist historian and educator. His significant contributions to Baptist research and publication led the American Baptist Historical Society to establish a prize in his honor to encourage development of young scholars in the field of Baptist history studies.

JACS Exhibit on Display

The JACS traveling exhibit may be coming to a location near you! Check the schedule on page 10.

If you would like to reserve the exhibit, please contact Jenny Manasco

(J.Manasco@ABHSarchives.org). There is no charge for borrowing the exhibit; the only cost host venues bear is the shipping.

The panels are easy to assemble and disassemble, as shown.

