

February 10, 2009

Always willing to publicize the Archives of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, I should like to add to the story: "One Year Later."

1. We started an Archives History Library for the research and study, by clergy and Lay, of the History of the Episcopal Church in the nation, in Texas, in the dioceses and in the parishes. Through donations and a few minor purchases, there are over 70 publications in our library one year later.
2. As our documents archive is under the control of others, we created our own documents archive to combine with it. One year later, we now have over 60 folders within which are filed documents such as the invitation to the consecration of Bishop Davies, the service bulletins to the ordinations of both The Rev. Susan Slaughter and Rev. ClayOla Gitane, a copy of a letter written in 1856 to the Board of Missions, an autographed copy of the Bishop Gulick's speech at the 2009 Annual Diocesan Convention, etc.
3. Our ephemera archive is just beginning with the purchase of six pen and ink drawings of parishes and donations of a CD of St. Andrews' choir in 2004 and a 2004 cookbook "Feeding The Flock" from St. Vincent's Episcopal Cathedral.
4. We will begin our Parish Photograph Preservation Project (P4) in about six weeks or so. In the meantime, a team of volunteers from St. Albans, Trinity, CTK and All Saints has visited the archives at TCU and the Fort Worth Public Library to gain knowledge of the preservation processes used in those institutions. We have scheduled a visit to the Congregation Beth El archives on February 24th. Out of this project, we hope to begin a diocesan photograph archive as well as a photograph archive in each parish.
5. Volunteers have started a number of research projects to increase the information in our archives. These include:
 - A study of Episcopalian African Americans in Fort Worth and the surrounding area in the early 1900's and late 1800's.
 - A study of The Rev. Lee Heaton situation occurring in the 1920s, from the perspective of the Baptists and the Klu Klux Klan.
 - A study of the history of All Saints Hospital with respect to its connection and disconnection with the diocese.
6. We have discussed a project with individuals at Brite, at All Saints School, and within several parishes, as well as the Bishop, to create a body of information to be used for the education of Episcopalians in the diocese on the history of The Episcopal Church, Episcopalians in the state of Texas, the Episcopal dioceses in Texas, and the parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth. This project is still in its embryonic stage.
7. The Historiographer will tour and conduct research at the National Archives of the Episcopal Church in Austin, TX in mid March 2010.

We are very proud of our achievements in one year and look forward to achieving even more in the year and years to come.

David Leedy, Historiographer