

## COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

In 2006, the CAH completed the long anticipated move of the Archives collection from the third floor of Conference Building to the newly renovated space on the first floor. Unfortunately, the timing of move was such that we were unable to culled the collection or properly organize its placement before its transfer into the new space. Consequently, there was about a 6-week period when the Archive was unable to take research requests. However, through the hard work of our Archivist, Lynn Lubekman; Researcher, Mary Schroeder; and Volunteers, Bob Gruetzmacher and Ed Schroeder there has been considerable progress made in transforming the Archives into more professional and functional agency.

Although service was disrupted for time, we were able to we assisted a number of people with historical research. These included those interested in genealogy, church anniversaries, conference history and others. In 2006, the Archives responded to 73 phone inquiries, 25 walk-ins and 87 inquiries via emails.

At the 2006 Annual Conference, the CAH was instrumental in the remembrance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association. A large display was mounted that retold the history of Jacob Albright and the Evangelicals in Wisconsin. The display was prominently located in the lobby where Conference delegates were able to view it at their leisure. In addition, Sandy Kintner and Wil Bloy prepared a 20-minute DVD that told the story of the Evangelicals and featured an interview with retired pastor Rev. Rollie Fertch. The DVD was shown at the Tuesday evening banquet. In addition, "historical minutes" were prepared and read at the end of each Conference Session.

We also continued the practice of preparing and presenting Service Awards at Annual Conference to pastors with 25, 50 and 75 years of service in the Conference.

In November 2006, the hard work of our Museum committee was capped off with the dedication of a new exhibit entitled "Native Americans in Wisconsin Methodism" at our Conference Museum in Greenfield, WI. The dedication ceremony was a very exciting event and attended by over one hundred people. Following the dedication service, activities included drumming, dancing, Native American foods, and a viewing of the exhibit. The exhibit will be on display through the upcoming year.

We published three editions of Flashbacks, a newsletter that contains tips for preservation of church records, announcements of upcoming historical events as well as local church histories. Flashbacks is sent to every congregation with a local church historian. It is also available by subscription. The latest issue is available on-line at our website. In addition, we have bound previous issues of Flashbacks (Vol 3-Vol 30). A copy is now located at the Archives. In addition, a copy was sent to the UMC General Archives and to the Wisconsin Historical Society Archives.

Work continued on two histories that we hope will be published some. First, an account of Afro-American Methodism in Wisconsin by Lois Olson and secondly a history of the Evangelical's work with the Italians in Wisconsin by Tony Farina. We anticipate that these will be published in 2007.

Our website continues to be updated and maintained. A pdf file of our "Family Tree" poster is now available for down loading.

*Sandy Kintner, Chair CAH*