

ARCHIVAL SURVEY

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A NEW HOME FOR THE ARCHIVES
Complete collection relocated to Newberry College



ANTIQUES Road Show

by Dr. Susan McArver

Moving an archive is a lot like moving a household – except that it is not. Most households do not contain documents and precious artifacts dating back to the 1400's, covering a region that reaches from Virginia to the Caribbean. From centuries-old handwritten manuscripts to stained glass windows, from frayed textiles to delicate filmstrips, and from rare books to architectural drawings, the James R. Crumley Archives of Region 9 has held it all – and in May 2026, it all had to be moved.

Friends of the Archives know that the past two years have proven a challenging time for the Archives. After three decades on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC, the Archives had to find a new

home when Lenoir-Rhyne University decided to move the Seminary to Hickory, NC.

The Hickory campus did not have room to house the Archives, so the Board of Trustees made an initial major decision: the Archives would remain in the Midlands of South Carolina, due to its central location in the middle of Region 9. The question was: where?

For the next several months, it seemed that members of the Archives Board considered, explored, and evaluated every possible location in and around central South Carolina. Congregations. Ministry sites. Institutional partners. Universities. State agencies. Existing buildings. Non-existent buildings. Warehouses. Empty fields. We spoke and

worked with bishops, pastors, deacons, church councils, architects, state government officers, museum directors, archivists, financial consultants, real estate agents, and sales representatives. Every single person we engaged in this process worked diligently and in good faith to help us. We are deeply grateful for all the faithful conversation partners who did their best on our behalf.

But nothing seemed to fit quite right.

And then, after a year of fruitless searching, a passing conversation at the June 2025 Southeastern Synod Assembly brought Newberry College back into view, after a very early initial inquiry had seemed to rule them out. Southeastern Synod Bishop Kevin Strickland,

a member of both the Newberry College and Archives Boards, quickly facilitated a meeting between then-Acting President (now President) Dr. David Harpool, Vice President for Administration Dr. Sid Parrish, and Campus Pastor David Coffman, with Harvey Huntley, Susan McArver and Shannon Smith of the Archives.

Newberry immediately recognized the possibilities of a partnership between these two ELCA institutions with a shared mission and the potential for collaboration between students, faculty, and the Archives. From that first meeting last summer, things began to accelerate, and Newberry's support has proven nothing short of remarkable. Newberry agreed to provide temporary housing for the Archives for up to five years while we searched for a permanent site – free of charge. Then Newberry College and its Board of Trustees donated a piece of land to the Archives on the campus, between the Alumni Music Center and the Scherrens Welcome Center (the old President's Home).

This extraordinary gift of land now provides the opportunity to build a dedicated facility that can house the Archives into the next century. (Of course, it will take a capital campaign to accomplish that – see article elsewhere in the newsletter about the coming launch of this campaign!) In the fall of 2025, the Archives' Administrative Office moved temporarily into the first floor of the beautiful turn-of-the-century Dufford

House on the Newberry campus, donated to the College in 1995 by civil-rights advocate, educator, author, and mentor, William Dufford and his family.

Finding a suitable home for the large archival collection itself on the campus proved a little more challenging, but through it all, the College worked long and faithfully with us. A site was finally found – two classrooms in the Center for Teacher Education (the refurbished Speers School) at Newberry. New, professional-grade mobile shelving was fabricated in California, designed specifically for our space, and then shipped across country. The shelving was installed the week of May 11th – and the moving trucks with the collection itself began rolling the week of May 18th.

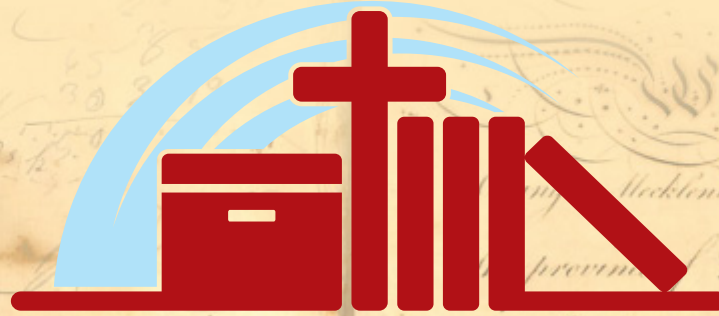
Under the watchful direction of Archivist Shannon Smith, Gamecock Movers of Columbia carefully packed and transported the collection to Newberry, and a small army of dedicated volunteers and staff met them there to help unpack boxes (and more boxes, and more boxes) for placement on the new mobile shelving (thanks, Trudy and Perry Bouknight, Susan and Alex McArver, and staff members Ashley Ragland, Scott Reeves and Despina Houlis). Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newberry answered another need by graciously allowing us to store the Archives' major office furniture for the foreseeable future in its Education Building.

What an adventure it has been

– and remains. The collection will continue to grow over the next few years, of course, and finding space for everything in our temporary quarters will remain a challenge until we can move everything again (for the final time, we hope!) into our new and beautiful building on the campus. We remain grateful beyond words to Newberry College, its faculty, administration, and staff for their gracious and generous welcome. We invite you to support our continued journey with your significant gifts toward our future. 📖

"Newberry College is proud to play a role in securing a permanent home for the James R. Crumley Jr. Archives. Newberry College began its life in association with Southern Seminary as "Luther College and Theological Seminary" in 1856 and continues to embrace its affiliation with the ELCA. As we celebrate our 170th anniversary we look forward to the scholarly contribution the Archives will make to our students, faculty, staff, alums, and visitors."

-David Harpool, J.D., Ph.D.
President, Newberry College



GENERATION TO GENERATION

MOVING THE PAST FORWARD

Many of you have asked for updates on our long-awaited capital campaign. The inquiries you've made into our progress toward relocating our archival collection, the encouragement that you've shared concerning our next steps, and the support you've shown as we've thoughtfully and prayerfully planned a way for the future of history is an incredible testimony into the great esteem you have for our organization and mission. The theme of our capital campaign - **Generation to Generation: Moving the Past Forward** - is our present goal. As our board president, Dr. Susan W. McArver has rightfully said:

"Whether we are cradle Lutherans or are new to the faith, we are shaped by the stories, people, and communities that have come before us. Generations of faithful Lutherans have witnessed and responded to God's call in their own time and place, answering many of the same questions we still ask today. While the way the church looks may have changed over the years, its mission is the same, and we follow gratefully in the footsteps and witness of those who have led the way in proclaiming God's grace and responding to the needs of God's people."

The launch date for our campaign will be later this year. As we continue to lay the groundwork for this very significant project, which will span all of Region 9, we ask that you "stay tuned" and look for ways to support our endeavors. We have an outstanding steering committee, led by Bishop Emeritus, Rev. Dr. Julian Gordy. You'll be hearing from many other familiar Lutherans who have led synods, churches, colleges, seminaries, and our organization as we continue to make history.

I look forward to sharing more with you in the coming months.

Yours in preservation,

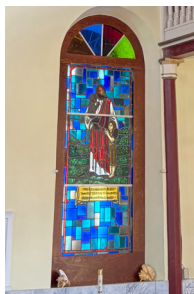
Shannon Smith



QUESTIONS or Comments?

We invite you to reach out and contact the Crumley Archives staff anytime! They can be reached by email at info@crumleyarchives.com or over the phone by calling (803) 331-9985.

We look forward to your partnership and support!



PONDERINGS from the Virgin Islands by Dr. Harvey Huntley

Recently while conducting oral history interviews in St. Thomas and St. John for a future episode of the *Unsung* documentary being produced by the Crumley Archives in cooperation with Fisher Films, I have been reminded of what a treasure the Caribbean Synod is for Lutherans in Region 9. This article is a brief sharing of some new awareness I gained from being among the beautiful and amazing people living and serving in the Virgin Islands.

1. Lutherans have been active in the Virgin Islands for 360 years. Frederick Church in St. Thomas is the oldest continuously worshipping ELCA congregation in the Western Hemisphere. It began a ministry with Danish Lutheran colonists as a state church. Some of the earliest pastors were also governors of the Virgin Islands. After more than 200 years of being affiliated

with a state church, in 1917 the congregations in the Virgin Islands became part of the United States and a radically different church polity..

2. Lutheran congregations in the Virgin Islands have experienced several major cultural transitions. Originally, they worshipped and read Scripture in Danish. Over time the Danish congregations reached out to enslaved people of African descent and included them in their ministry (albeit seated only in the balcony and worshipping in Danish). Eventually Danish Lutherans had the foresight to translate the liturgy and the Scriptures into Dutch Creole, so people of African descent could worship in their native language. Then in the early 20th century, when the U. S. purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark, Lutheran congregations began to worship in English.

A fascinating research project would be to trace how the foregoing transitions were experienced and how people in the congregations adjusted to such far-reaching changes in congregational life.

3. Lutherans in the Virgin Islands have much to share about how the Lutheran faith communicates with and touches the hearts of people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The stained glass window that sits above the baptismal font at Frederick Church (see photo) epitomizes the rich experience of Caribbean Lutherans. The image is of Christ holding a black child in His arms and hugging a white child who is beside Him and embracing Him. I cannot think of a more fitting way to express the meaning of Baptism and the message of the Gospel.

What a treasure indeed! 📖

WIN A FREE Archival Consultation!

Interested in learning more about how the Crumley Archives can help preserve the history of your congregation? Register today for the chance to win a free consultation **valued at \$250.**

Those interested are asked to send a message with the subject line **“Archival Consultation Giveaway”** and the following info to archivist@crumleyarchives.com

NAME + CONTACT INFO, HOME CONGREGATION, ROSTERED LEADERS, & ADDRESS.

2026 FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES Banquet



Pictured are the recipients of the 2025 banquet awards: representatives of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, ELCA, Rev. Daniel Locke of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Jacksonville, FL), and The Rev. Dr. William & Mrs. Karla Trexler.

Photo Credit: @FlaBahSynod

You are cordially invited to join us on **Friday, October 2, 2026**, for the 2026 Friends of the Archives Banquet. This year's event will be hosted at The Heritage at Lowman - Hoefler Gallery. The evening begins at **4:30pm** with a presentation of *Unsung: A Chronicle of Black Lutherans, SE Synod*.

Join us as we celebrate this year's honorees:

Walton H. Greever Award: *Dr. Dorothy Jeffcoat*

Congregational Heritage Award: *Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Atlanta, GA*

Synodical Award: *Southeastern Synod, ELCA*



Formal invitations will be sent by mail. We invite you to RSVP today by scanning the above QR code. We look forward to celebrating with you!

IN MEMORIUM



SCOTT HENDRIX - passed away on February 15, 2026. Scott represented the NC Synod for the Crumley Archives and was an At-Large member. An internationally renowned theologian and church historian, Scott's work on Martin Luther and the Reformation shaped the field for decades.



BRENTA KOCH POOLE - passed away on Monday, March 2, 2026, following a long illness (Parkinson's with dementia). Brenta was the wife of a long time board member, Rev. Don Poole, who was integral in the establishment of the Crumley Archives.



ED WOODWARD - entered into eternal rest on March 8, 2026, peacefully at home at the age of 77. Ed was an SC Synod representative and served as the Archives' legal counsel for more than two decades.

BECOME A "FRIEND OF THE ARCHIVES" TODAY!

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my/our gift of \$_____ for the support of the Archives.

In Honor/Memory (please circle) of: _____

Person to be notified of the gift : _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: **"James R. Crumley Jr. Archives"** and return to: **PO Box 214, Columbia, SC 29202**
Your gift helps fund the continuing work of preserving our shared Southern Lutheran history. Thank you for your gift!

DONOR REPORT // Thank you for your support!

*We are most grateful for the gifts received since the last edition of the Archival Survey. These gifts enable us to preserve our church's history and to assist researchers, congregations and institutions in their work. Gifts listed below arrived between **Sept 30, 2025 - June 20, 2026**. Please advise if your gift has been omitted. If you made an honorarium, please know that the person has been notified.*

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James R. Crumley Jr. Archives
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Columbia, SC 29202

This newsletter, in its title and masthead, pays homage to the American Lutheran Survey published by noted Lutheran leader, the Rev. Dr. Walton Greever. This newspaper was originally printed in the historic Eau Claire Print Building, two blocks from Seminary Ridge in Columbia, SC.

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The mission of the Crumley Archives is to document and preserve the history of Lutheranism in the South and Caribbean; function as a depository of historic records for its partners; offer archival, educational and interpretive services; and to provide a central source of collection inventories for the synods, congregations, agencies and institutions of Region 9 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).