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C. Wesley Christman Archives New York Annual Conference

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

F O R S U C H A T I M E A S T H I S

Your Church's History

Why write a history of your church?

- ♦ *to tell the story of God at work in the life of your congregation*
- ♦ *to gather and preserve the record of faithful witnesses through the years*
- ♦ *to teach the members and friends of the congregation, now and in the future*
- ♦ *to help your church see its ministry and mission as an ongoing pilgrimage*

A good church history will faithfully record the past. It can also educate, entertain, and inspire. You want to tell the story of real people's lives, not tabulate dry statistics and lifeless facts.

It is important to remember that your church's history has not happened in isolation. Your church has been a part of the community, both local and national and has been affected by political events and social change. Its members have been concerned about the events of the world around them—tell the story of your church in the context of its time and place.

Another resource available is the booklet *CHURCH HISTORIAN: REMEMBERING THE PAST AND INSPIRING THE FUTURE*, available through the Cokesbury bookstore. *For more information about writing a church history, contact us at archives@nyac.com.*

Got records? We can help!

Need help with your church records? You are not alone. Sometimes it's hard to know what to keep (for how long) and what can be thrown away.

The Archivist and members of the Commission on Archives and History can help your church create a records retention schedule. We can prepare workshops for your local church and also can provide your group with records manuals and pamphlets created specifically for the United Methodist Church.

Welcome to our New Archivist

Mary Robison joined the C. Wesley Christman Archives in February 2009 as Archivist for the New York Annual Conference. Mary comes to the Archives with a wealth of experience. She interned as a processing archivist at the New York Public Library and is also a library assistant at the St. Mark's Library at The General Theological Seminary in New York. Mary helps with the archives at the (Episcopal) Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Manhattan, where she is a member of the parish.



Mary comes to the New York Annual Conference by way of Richmond, Virginia where she worked for the Supreme Court of Virginia, among other state agencies. She earned her

undergraduate degree from Hunter College and her Masters in Library and Information Science from Long Island University. She is a member of the American Theological Library Association, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and the Archivists' Round Table of Metropolitan New York. Mary lives in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City with her two cats.

In publication...

GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF THE
BEDFORD STREET METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, MANHATTAN, 1838

If you are interested in purchasing this book, send an email to archives@nyac.com. You will be added to the list and contacted when it becomes available.