

# PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

Spring 2019 / Vol. 32, No. 1



## A SILENT PROTEST

*Human Sexuality Committee,  
203rd General Assembly, 1991*

The nine Presbyterians carrying a large wooden cross through the Baltimore Convention Center did not walk alone.

Hundreds of commissioners and observers rose from their seats to join the solemn procession. Others attending the 1991 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly reached out to touch the cross as it passed. When the nine reached the front of the Assembly, they laid the cross down and hammered nails into its wood. The blows echoed throughout the silent auditorium until voices began to sing, "We are gay and straight together, and we are singing, singing for our lives."

*(continued on page 4)*

PRESBYTERIAN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

2018  
Annual  
Report

*inside*

*(page 5)*

## FOUR FEATURE INITIATIVES

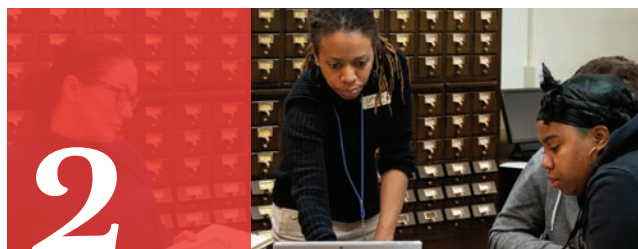
By collecting more widely, providing increased access to Presbyterian and ecumenical archival materials, and forming innovative partnerships, PHS is transforming the ways we serve.

Our four feature initiatives for 2019 show PHS advancing its historic mission in new ways. We're a national church archives for the 21st century, an engaged educational resource, and a friend to histories of faith around the world. Find out more at [www.history.pcusa.org/4initiatives](http://www.history.pcusa.org/4initiatives)



### African American Leaders & Congregations

This collecting initiative documents the lives, work, and witness of African Americans in the history of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—from the organization of the First African Presbyterian Church in 1807 to the election of the first African American Stated Clerk of the General Assembly in 2016. Financial support is provided by the PHS African American Leaders & Congregations Fund.



### Building Knowledge & Breaking Barriers

This archives-based learning project utilizes PHS collections to teach Philadelphia community college students research and critical-thinking skills. In the summer of 2020, student leaders will create an exhibit describing their research journeys and sharing ideas for helping more students. Building Knowledge & Breaking Barriers has been supported by The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.



### LGBTQIA+ History

In honor of Pam McLucas Byers, the first executive director of the Covenant Network, this initiative is collecting, preserving, and sharing stories from across the theological spectrum documenting the forty-year movement for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Financial support is provided by the PHS Pam Byers Memorial Fund.



### Religious News Service Photographs

PHS holds a vast collection of RNS photographs: over 60,000 images covering domestic and international religious news between 1945 and 1982. This pilot project is adding almost 500 RNS images to Pearl, the Society's publicly accessible digital archives, and planning for the future digitization of the entire collection. Financial support is provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



# Preserve Your RECORDS

## AT THE PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The PC(USA) *Book of Order* encourages congregations, mid councils, and national agencies to deposit vital records of permanent value in PHS's secure, climate-controlled archives. **Other than shipping, this service is free.**

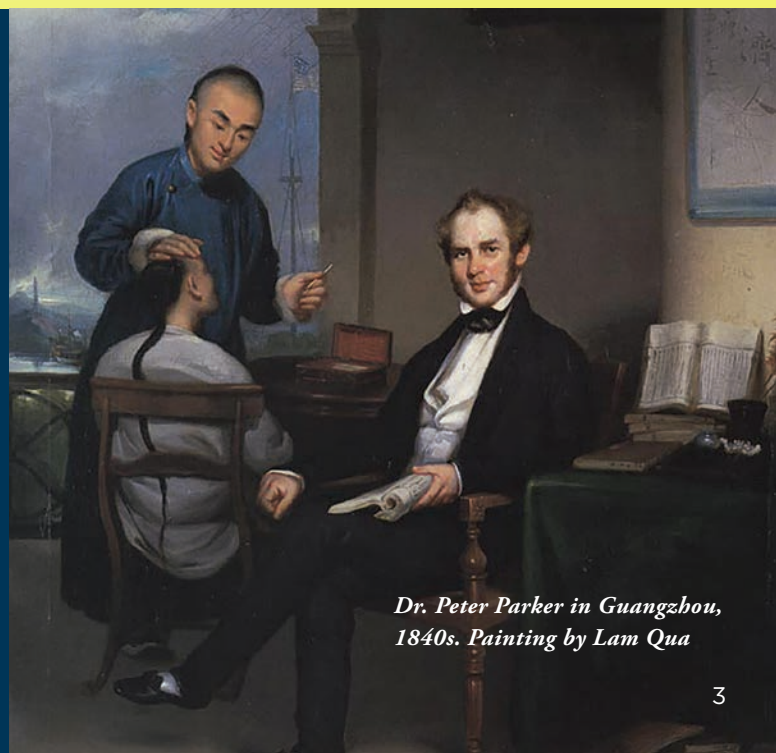
PHS also provides in-house digitization services for PC(USA) congregations, mid councils, and national agencies. High-quality digital facsimiles give you unlimited remote access to collections and protect materials from damage and deterioration by eliminating the need to handle fragile paper originals. All PC(USA) entities receive a discounted rate for this service. Congregations and mid councils with a PHS membership receive further savings.

Find out more about preserving church records: [www.history.pcusa.org/records](http://www.history.pcusa.org/records) | [records@history.pcusa.org](mailto:records@history.pcusa.org)  
215-627-1852. Learn about group memberships: [www.history.pcusa.org/joinphs](http://www.history.pcusa.org/joinphs) | 215-928-3865

## JOURNAL PREVIEW

In the Spring/Summer 2019 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History*, Roberto Flores de Apodaca analyzes the religious beliefs and practices of Revolutionary War soldiers, Dr. Xu Guangqiu examines medical missionaries in Guangzhou (formerly Canton) and their contributions to the introduction of Western medicine in China in the mid-nineteenth century.

Call 215.928.3865 to receive *The Journal* or visit [www.history.pcusa.org/journal](http://www.history.pcusa.org/journal)



*Dr. Peter Parker in Guangzhou, 1840s. Painting by Lam Qua*

## A SILENT PROTEST

*(continued from page 1)*



*GA203 Moderator  
Herb Valentine*



*Media attention on  
human sexuality report*

Three years earlier, the 1988 General Assembly had decided that the church needed to “rethink human sexuality.” A special committee was appointed and charged with studying the church’s previous statements on the issue. Sixteen members comprised the group, with John Carey serving as chair.

The committee looked beyond sexual orientation. For three and a half years it held meetings across the country—including open hearings and visits with local congregations—where it listened to church members’ heartbreaking stories of sexual trauma and injustice. The committee’s final report advocated for the ordination rights of gay and lesbian Presbyterians, while also writing that Presbyterians should follow an ethic of “justice-love” in all relationships regardless of sexual orientation or marital status.

The report, titled “Keeping Body and Soul Together: Sexuality, Spirituality, and Social Justice,” was debated for hours on the floor of the 1991 Assembly before most of its recommendations were rejected, an action that Harlan Penn, president of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, characterized as leaving gay and lesbian church members in “a second-class status,” according to the *New York Times*. Moderator Herb Valentine called for the Assembly to allow LGBT Presbyterians and their allies to show their disappointment with a silent protest.

“There are persons who feel it is important to affirm the authority of Scripture,” Valentine explained. “They have been listened to. There are also persons who have acknowledged themselves as gay and lesbian, bisexual, partners, family, and supporters. They need to be pastored to and understood and need to have their voices heard.”

What followed was the largest demonstration up to that point in the movement for a fully inclusive church. Virginia West Davidson and Tony De La Rosa led the silent walk to the front of the Assembly, with Jane Adams Spahr, Chris Glaser, and five others close behind bearing the cross. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that the protest grew to nearly five hundred as others left their seats to join the procession. When the group broke its silence to sing Holly Near’s song for lesbian and gay liberation, “We Are a Gentle, Angry People,” more than solidarity was achieved. In the “More Light Update” of August 1991, James Anderson would describe the protest as “an event that showed the church, and ourselves, the breadth and depth of our conviction and support. It will never be forgotten.”

The Presbyterian Historical Society recently discovered and digitized a General Assembly Media Services video of the silent protest as part of the Pam Byers Memorial Collecting Initiative. In honor of Pam McLucas Byers, the first executive director of the Covenant Network, the initiative collects, preserves, and shares records, media, and oral histories related to the forty-year movement for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the PC(USA). Not only is the silent protest never to be forgotten, it can now be witnessed by any member of today’s Church.

View the silent protest and other materials related to LGBTQIA+ history in the PC(USA):

**<https://digital.history.pcusa.org/lgbtqia>**

Learn more about the Pam Byers Memorial Collecting Initiative or support its work:

**[www.history.pcusa.org/pb](http://www.history.pcusa.org/pb)**

# PHS ANNUAL REPORT 2018

## DEAR FRIENDS,

In December, two great champions of Presbyterian history joined the great cloud of witnesses: Jim Smylie and Bill Miller. Jim ably charted the course of *The Journal of Presbyterian History* for years. His calling as teacher, pastoral leader, and historian was to connect today's concerns with our past. Bill led the Society for thirty-two years until his retirement in 1986. Under his leadership PHS built and moved into our home at 425 Lombard Street. Their examples along with those of countless other historians, archivists, administrators, and visionary Presbyterians inspire our staff and board to continue moving PHS in relevant, creative, inclusive, and vibrant directions.

Throughout 2018 our programming and services expanded in exciting ways, including the formation of partnerships with college students and instructors, congregations, and mid councils that continue growing in 2019. Our redoubled efforts to collect theologically diverse stories around LGBTQIA+ ordination and marriage, and to partner with African American congregations and our sisters and brothers in Puerto Rico, are ensuring that all Presbyterian history is well-represented in our holdings. These initiatives are building on PHS's 167-year mission, energizing the reflective spirit of Presbyterians across the PC(USA). We are tearing down fences, opening doors, and strengthening our communities. We are keeping faith with the past by preserving its lessons for the future.

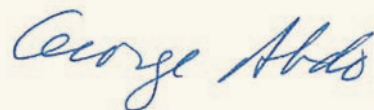
Thank you for supporting our ministry with your continued engagement, donations of historical materials, and gifts of financial support. Together we are making one of the nation's great denominational archives an innovation leader for the 21st century.

Grace and peace,



**The Reverend Dr. Beth Shalom Hessel**

Executive Director



**The Reverend Dr. George Abdo**

Chair of the PHS Board of Directors





## HELPING RESEARCHERS

PHS STAFF PROVIDED **3,162** DETAILED REFERENCE RESPONSES TO PATRONS IN OUR BUILDING, OVER THE PHONE, AND BY EMAIL

PEOPLE FROM **36** DIFFERENT STATES AND **12** COUNTRIES VISITED OUR BUILDING

**2,989** COLLECTION ITEMS WERE RETRIEVED FOR RESEARCHERS

**537** GENEALOGY RESPONSES PROVIDED

**105** COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA STUDENTS EXPLORED PHS MATERIALS

**158** INQUIRIES PERTAINED TO THE CREATION OF A BOOK



## SERVING THE PC(USA)

**824** INQUIRIES FROM PC(USA) CHURCHES, MID COUNCILS AND NATIONAL AGENCIES—OUR LARGEST PATRON GROUP

**307** CHURCHES RECEIVED PHS REFERENCE HELP



## ADDING RECORDS AND PERSONAL PAPERS

**54** ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS SENT RECORDS TO PHS

**240** CUBIC-FOOT BOXES FROM **10** LARGE COLLECTIONS PROCESSED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS



## PROVIDING DIGITIZED HISTORY

IMAGES AND PAGES DIGITIZED: **93,835**

ITEMS ADDED TO PEARL DIGITAL ARCHIVES: **2,400**



## REACHING PATRONS ONLINE

VISITORS TO PEARL: **10,767**

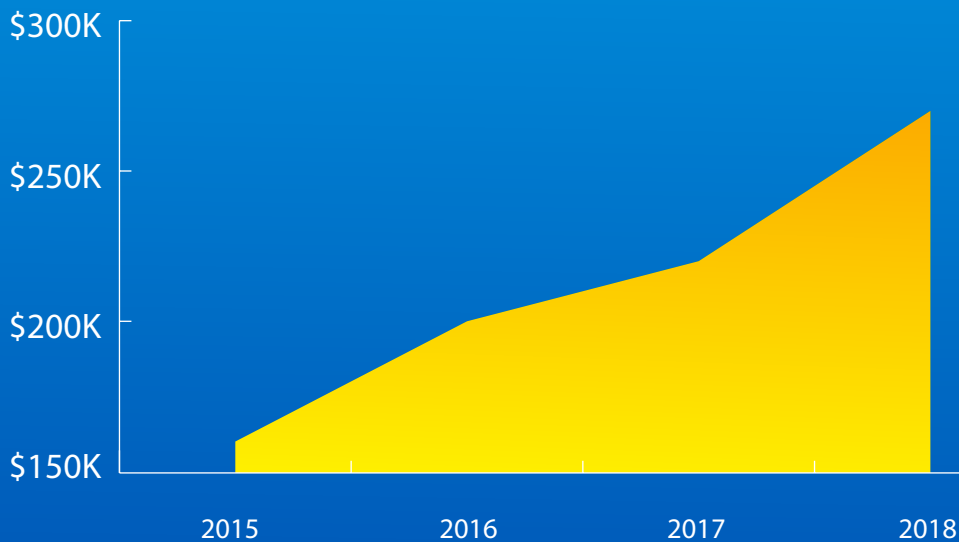
VISITORS TO PHS WEBSITE: **110,139**

# Your Support Adds Up

With gifts from 734 different supporters, PHS continued its upward trend and accelerated growth in fundraising, far exceeding the national average in many areas. Our family of donors from across the United States and around the world is helping us expand our capacity to collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian experience. Thank you!

## Fundraising Results 2015–2018

**Increase of 56%**



**Total contributed revenue**

↑ 13%

**Board and Council giving**

↑ 37%

**Congregational support**

↑ 65%

**New donor revenue**

↑ 29%

**Online giving**

↑ 29%

### WHY I GIVE: SUSAN AGGARWAL

Involvement at PHS has helped me appreciate the keepers of the faith who have taken the gospel to the ends of the earth.

From churches across the country and beyond, the Presbyterian Historical Society has records, artifacts, and histories from steadfast Christians and churches who have entrusted us with their passions and concerns through the years. I am inspired by the dedication and expertise that the staff brings to the critical task of ensuring that we are all connected to those known and unknown who have gone before us.



*Susan Aggarwal is a member of the PHS Board and Delaware Valley Council*

I support PHS because every time I attend a meeting, conduct research at the building, or use our online resources, I learn more of the impact we are having—not just in the United States and the PC(USA) but around the world. I am honored to be a part of such a respected institution.

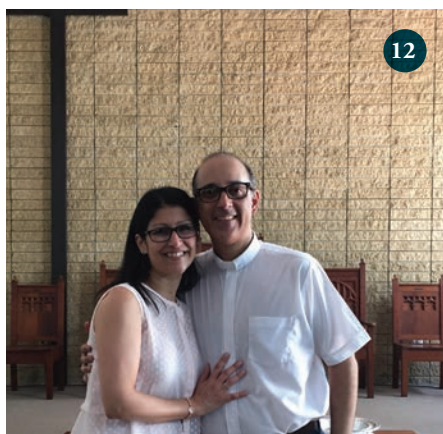
New researcher tools for 2018 included our Sheppard digital catalog and interactive Historic Sites Registry. We joined Office of the General Assembly colleagues at this summer's GA, strengthened friendships from Puerto Rico to California, and explored ecumenical history at home and abroad. PHS's outward focus helped us collect vital Presbyterian history—and brought hundreds of gifted researchers and four international film crews through our doors.



- 1 PHS Board and Advisory Council members and staff viewed Rachel Henderlite collection materials, May
- 2 Beth Hessel of PHS with Sharon Rogers and Steve Yamaguchi in Los Angeles, December
- 3 Crystal Sanders delivered the keynote address at the PHS GA luncheon in St. Louis, June
- 4 David Staniunas of PHS visited Dean Lewis in New Mexico, February
- 5 Chinese film crew with Nancy Taylor of PHS in back center, August
- 6 The Sheppard Digital Catalog named for William Sheppard, here with his mother circa 1900, was introduced in March







- 7 PHS Archives Intern Marcus Baldwin and Archivist Jenny Barr in Archives Annex, December
- 8 Videographer Brelin Tilford helped PHS create overview videos, April
- 9 Elizabeth Wittrig began her work as Pam Byers Memorial Fund Project Archivist, September
- 10 RNS pilot project panelists reviewed historic photographs, October
- 11 T. J. DeMarco and Cindy Kohlmann deposited records from the Presbytery of Boston, October
- 12 Luis José Ocasio Torres and Aracelis Fernandez Nieves at Hugh O'Neill Presbyterian Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico, May
- 13 Francisco Marrero visited PHS with the Cuba Partners Network, October

We also wish to thank the following organizations and individuals for depositing or donating church records and other archival materials to PHS in 2018.

Sue Althouse, Sue Althouse photographs and presentations

Amity Presbyterian Church, Dravosburg, PA

Jerry Andrews, Jerry Andrews papers

Eugene C. Bay, Eugene C. Bay papers

Paul R. Bergstresser, Golden and Dick Baird correspondence

Sara Black, Sarah Shaw Dager papers

The Board of Pensions

Bridesburg Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA

Robert A. Briggs, Robert A. Briggs papers

John C. Bush, Michael David Bush papers

Jeff Byers, audio of Pam Byers memorial service

Margaret McDaniel Byers and Ruth Anne Byers Fraley, Arthur M. Byers Jr. papers

Jeanette Cadwallender, McLean-Wilson family sermons

Calvary Presbyterian Church, Staten Island, NY

Jane Carl, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church (Bartlesville, Okla.) records

Jonathan T. Carlisle, Dorothy Carlisle Presbyterian Women photographs

Center Presbyterian Church, Seaton, IL

In Soon Chi, National Korean Presbyterian Women and other records

Doris Cole, John Holladay scrapbook

Audrey Colombe, records of Presbyterian groups in California

Columbia Theological Seminary

Congregational Ministries Publishing

J. Keith Cook, J. Keith Cook photographs

Covenant Community Presbyterian Church, Schofield, WI

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Trenton, NJ

Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Blue Ridge, TX

Deerfield Presbyterian Church, Deerfield, NJ

Robert DeLuryea, American and Foreign Christian Union records

Bettie J. Durrah, Bettie J. Durrah papers

Elizabeth D. Earle, Clifford J. Earle papers

Janet Edwards, Janet Edwards papers

David Elder and Alice Elder Leake, Elder family papers

Charlotte Elsner, Frances Thornton Wooding papers

Brad Emalfarb, William H. Brauer papers

Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Sandy Lake, PA

First Presbyterian Church, Berthoud, CO

First Presbyterian Church, Boise, ID

First Presbyterian Church, Kendallville, IN

First Presbyterian Church, Michigan City, IN

First Presbyterian Church, Waltham, MA

First Presbyterian Church, Lapeer, MI

First Presbyterian Church, Brainerd, MN

First Presbyterian Church, Independence, MO

First Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO

First Presbyterian Church, Kearney, NE

First Presbyterian Church, Haddonfield, NJ

First Presbyterian Church, Santa Fe, NM

First Presbyterian Church, Dryden, NY

First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY

First Presbyterian Church, New York, NY

First Presbyterian Church, Sylva, NC

First Presbyterian Church, Salem, OR, COEMAR publications

First Presbyterian Church, Ardmore, PA

First Presbyterian Church, Finleyville, PA

First Presbyterian Church, Levittown, PA

First Presbyterian Church, Everett, WA

First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, WA

First Presbyterian Church, Winneconne, WI

Peter Fish, Fish family papers

Mark Ford, Crosby-Ironton Presbyterian Church (Crosby, Minn.) records

Forest Grove Presbyterian Church, Forest Grove, PA

Catherine Forman, Ruth Forman papers

Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY

Jack Haberer, Jack Haberer papers

Phil Hanna, Ed and Arpiné Hanna papers

Bert Hansen, Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Women's Board of Foreign Missions paper dolls

Heritage Presbyterian Church, Lincoln, NE

Hugh O'Neill Memorial Presbyterian Church, San Juan, PR

Irving Park Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL

Elenora Giddings Ivory, Elenora Giddings Ivory papers

Andy James, Presbyterian Peacemaking Conference digital images

John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Henrietta, NY

Winfield R. Jones, Winfield Jones sermons

Sherry Jordon, Joan Martin oral history

Carol Brantley Kendall, Peter Marshall sermon

Laura Greig Krauss, Greig family papers

Marjorie Landfried, Mark Landfried papers

Langhorne Presbyterian Church, Langhorne, PA

Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, Placitas, NM

Laurelhurst Presbyterian Church, Portland, OR

Dean Lewis, Dean Lewis papers

Flynn V. Long, Jr., Flynn V. Long presentations

Mary Ann Lundy, Mary Ann Lundy papers

Cecilia Jones Lutz, McCune family papers

Lee Lybarger, Lee Lybarger papers

Zandra Maffett, Zandra Maffett papers

Meg Mann, Archibald Campbell papers

Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, PA

J. Oscar McCloud, J. Oscar McCloud photograph album

Debra Apel McKee, Henry William Apel papers

Marie Melrose, Marie Melrose papers

Memorial Presbyterian Church, Midland, MI

Nancy Miller, Norman Miller papers

Jerilynn McFarland Millvan, Evelyn McFarland letter

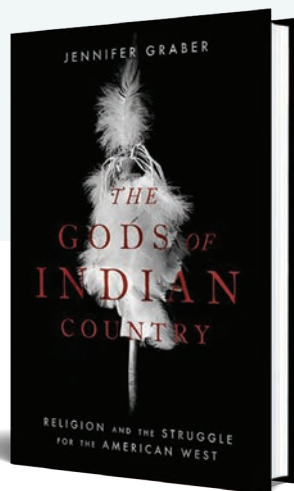


*The interactive Historic Sites Map was launched in May*  
[www.history.pcusa.org/sitesmap](http://www.history.pcusa.org/sitesmap)



Murray Milner, Murray Milner papers  
 Florence Reeder Morrison, Charles Vincent and Frances Abernethy Reeder papers  
 Mount Horeb Presbyterian Church, Jefferson City, TN  
 National Association of Presbyterian Scouters, Harriet M. Taylor scrapbook  
 Nebraska State Historical Society, William Putnam letter  
 Judy Nebrig, Margaret Flory papers  
 New Life Presbyterian Church, Livonia, NY  
 Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church, Oak Ridge, NJ  
 Office of the General Assembly  
 Pacific Presbyterian Church, Pacific, MO  
 Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY  
 Marty Payne, 1935 General Assembly panoramic photograph  
 Agnes Peebles, Peebles family papers  
 Penfield Presbyterian Church, Penfield, NY  
 Priscilla Peters, Priscilla Peters papers  
 Olwen Peterson, J. R. Jones sermons and photograph  
 Ruth Pettis, Ernest and Dollie Pettis papers  
 Ken Phillips, George Phillips papers  
 Elizabeth Rue Pink, A. O. Rue papers  
 Plain Grove United Presbyterian Parish, Plain Grove, PA  
 Pleasant Run Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, OH  
 Plymouth Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MN  
 Kerry Poethig, Kerry Poethig papers  
 Presbyterian Church of Floyd, VA  
 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Investment and Loan Program  
 Presbyterian Foundation  
 Presbyterian Hunger Program  
 Presbyterian Mission Agency  
 Presbyterian Publishing Corporation  
 Presbytery of Albany  
 Presbytery of Arkansas  
 Presbytery of Boston  
 Presbytery of Carlisle  
 Presbytery of Chicago  
 Presbytery of Cincinnati  
 Presbytery of Coastal Carolina  
 Presbytery of Denver  
 Presbytery of Des Moines  
 Presbytery of East Iowa  
 Presbytery of Eastern Oregon  
 Presbytery of Genesee Valley  
 Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy  
 Presbytery of Glacier  
 Presbytery of Grace  
 Presbytery of Great Rivers  
 Presbytery of Hudson River  
 Presbytery of Huntingdon  
 Presbytery of Indian Nations  
 Presbytery of the Inland Northwest  
 Presbytery of Kiskiminetas  
 Presbytery of Long Island  
 Presbytery of Maumee Valley  
 Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky  
 Presbytery of Monmouth  
 Presbytery of National Capital  
 Presbytery of New Castle  
 Presbytery of New Hope  
 Presbytery of New York City  
 Presbytery of Newark  
 Presbytery of North Central Iowa  
 Presbytery of Northern New England  
 Presbytery of Northwest Coast  
 Presbytery of Palo Duro  
 Presbytery of the Peaks  
 Presbytery of Philadelphia  
 Presbytery of Pittsburgh  
 Presbytery of the Redwoods  
 Presbytery of San Diego  
 Presbytery of San Gabriel  
 Presbytery of Santa Barbara  
 Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois  
 Presbytery of Southern Kansas  
 Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley  
 Presbytery of Tampa Bay  
 Presbytery of Transylvania  
 Presbytery of Wabash Valley  
 Presbytery of Winnebago  
 Princeton Theological Seminary  
 Providence Presbyterian Church, Burlington, NJ  
 Lil Rea, Harry C. Gray Bible  
 Elisa Redfield, William H. Marbach correspondence  
 Betsy Rice, Theron Rice papers  
 Ridley Park Presbyterian Church, Ridley Park, PA  
 José Colón Rodríguez, José Colón Rodríguez papers  
 Susan Seipp, 1962 General Mission Program phonograph record  
 Sewickley Presbyterian Church, Sewickley, PA  
 J. Barrie Shepherd, J. Barrie Shepherd papers  
 Diane Shoaf, Y. Jacqueline Rhoades slides  
 Peter Sime, Peter Sime papers  
 South Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY  
 Strasburg Presbyterian Church, Strasburg, PA  
 Mike Stuart, Mike Stuart papers  
 Sunny Hills Community Presbyterian Church, Chipley, FL  
 Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA  
 Lou Tharp, Lou Tharp history  
 Cecil Thompson, Cecil Thompson slides and photographs  
 Sylvia Thorson-Smith, Voices of Sophia records  
 Bobbette Timmermann, Friedrich Wilhelm Lemmke confirmation certificate  
 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Dallas, PA  
 Eugene Turner, Eugene Turner papers  
 Valmont Community Presbyterian Church, Boulder, CO  
 Village Presbyterian Church, Village, KS  
 West Nottingham Presbyterian Church, Colora, MD  
 Westminster Gardens Library  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Westminster, CO  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Grand Rapids, MI  
 Westwood Presbyterian Church, Los Angeles, CA  
 Charles and Betsy Wiley, 1988 General Assembly slides  
 Dr. Zhong Yunpeng, Logan family photographs

PHS makes every effort to accurately maintain its donor and collection listings. If you find an error or omission, please contact the development office at 215-928-3865 or email: [development@history.pcusa.org](mailto:development@history.pcusa.org)



*Recent works by PHS Researchers are featured on our website all year*  
[www.history.pcusa.org/recentworks](http://www.history.pcusa.org/recentworks)







# PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

**Presbyterian Historical Society**  
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and Collections Contributors

**Sign up for our monthly newsletter at our homepage  
and follow us on social media.**



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J. Herbert Nelson, II, PC(USA) Stated Clerk

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David Staniunas  
Elizabeth Wittrig  
Gabriela Zoller



*Henry Highland Garnet*

## MAY 19: HERITAGE SUNDAY

### *Henry Highland Garnet*

Last summer the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved an overture to recognize the prophetic witness of Rev. Henry Highland Garnet, an African American pastor who in 1865 preached to the U.S. Congress about the end of slavery. Download the free Heritage Sunday bulletin insert from our website:

[www.history.pcusa.org/hs](http://www.history.pcusa.org/hs)