

PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

Spring 2018 / Vol. 31, No. 1



Classroom photo from Adams family missionary album, circa 1920.

THE MARCH 1ST MOVEMENT

Mansei! The shouts rang out in support of Korean independence on March 1, 1919. After nine years of Japanese colonial rule, thirty-three activists—including pastors of Korean Presbyterian churches and other leading Christians—gathered in Seoul to read aloud the newly drawn up Korean Declaration of Independence. That same afternoon, crowds filled the streets in locations around the country, waving Korean flags and shouting their support for independence.

Marchers had called for peaceful, non-violent protests. But Japanese authorities did not respond in kind. Over the next several weeks, many protestors—men, women, and children—were arrested, some beaten, and hundreds killed. Supporters of the March 1st Movement varied in age, occupation, and religious belief. Korean Presbyterians were notable among them.

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PRESBYTERIAN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

2017
Annual
Report

inside

PRESERVING CONGREGATION HISTORY

PHS has awarded 2018 Heritage Preservation Grants to four PC(USA) congregations. These grants help small, historic churches preserve and use records that document their unique past.

This year's winners include a historic Japanese American congregation, a worship community with Puritan roots, a church built on land owned by a former Revolutionary soldier, and the spiritual home of the 48th speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives:

Union Church of Los Angeles
(Los Angeles, CA), organized 1906

First Presbyterian Church
(Cedarville, NJ), organized 1838

First Presbyterian Church
(Waynesville, NC), organized 1875

Grace First Presbyterian Church
(Weatherford, TX), organized 1876

Heritage Preservation Grants were established in 2001 in celebration of PHS's 150th anniversary. Sustained this year by donations to our annual fund, each in-kind grant of \$500 covers much of the cost of digitizing a church's vital records, including session minutes and registers. Many grant winners store their original, paper records at PHS and use the digitized surrogates for congregation business.

If your church is older than fifty years and has fewer than 250 members, we encourage you to apply for this year's grant cycle. The deadline is October 31.

www.history.pcusa.org/hpg

Postcard image of Presbyterian Church, Waynesville, N.C.



COLLECTING IN 2018

Since 1852, PHS has collected, preserved, and shared American Presbyterian history. In 2018, we're placing special emphasis on that first mission goal.

PHS is an active collecting repository, meaning we continually add to our published materials that go back 500 years and to our 36,000 cubic feet of unique items. As the national archives of the PC(USA), we gather vital records from churches and mid councils across the country, and from national church agencies, ecumenical organizations, and individual Presbyterians. There is no charge for PC(USA) groups to store items with PHS—something recommended by G-3.0107 in the *Book of Order*.

PHS collection materials document the traditions, deliberations, and actions of the PC(USA) and its predecessor denominations. In 2018, we're filling gaps in the historical record from the last fifty years, with Korean American, African American, and LGBTQ collection materials a few of those set to grow. We're bringing in records and personal papers that reveal the work of PC(USA) leaders, and recording oral history interviews with Presbyterians that document reflective, first-person points-of-view.

As we collect more broadly, our online search resources enable history enthusiasts to access collections information online. Complementing the Calvin library catalog and Pearl digital archives, our new Sheppard integrated search tool allows researchers to explore seven databases at once, including the Archives, Museum, and Communion Tokens databases that were previously restricted to staff.

Have a genealogy or church history project set to begin? Find PHS materials that can help using the Collections tab on our homepage or www.history.pcusa.org/collections

www.history.pcusa.org | 215.627.1852



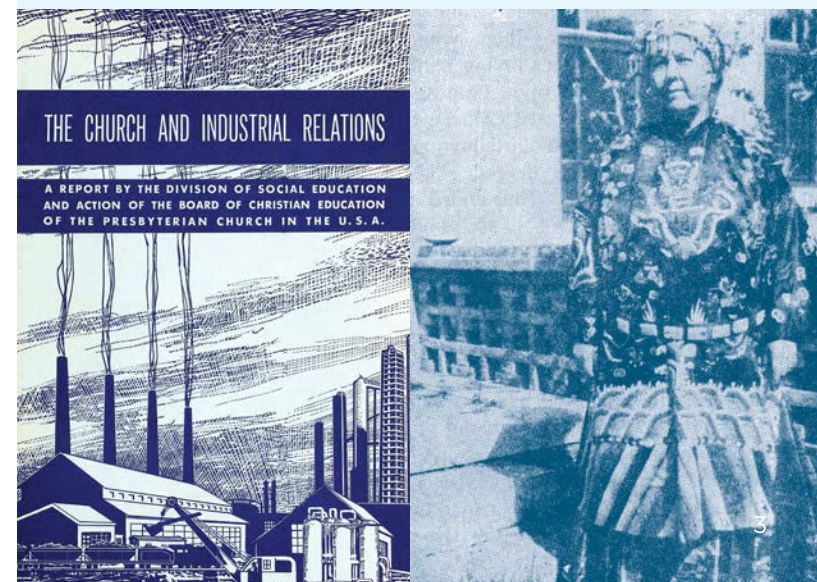
This Synod of Atlantic group photo and thousands of other images are available through Pearl.



Sharon and Jack Rogers, from the recently acquired Jack Rogers Papers.

JOURNAL PREVIEW

In the Spring/Summer 2018 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History*, John R. Stanley examines the career of China missionary Madge Mateer and her pioneering work to develop teacher training institutes for women in the early twentieth century. In the second featured article, Richard Poethig looks at urban-industrial ministry, from the first outreach to industrial workers and immigrants in New York through the global concern for a just and sustainable world that continues today. Call 215.928.3865 to receive *The Journal* or visit www.history.pcusa.org/journal



THE MARCH 1ST MOVEMENT

(continued from page 1)

Most of the students attending educational institutions started by Presbyterian missionaries participated in the marches, from Severance Union Medical College and Chosen Christian College to the primary and secondary mission schools. According to Pyongyang-based PCUSA missionary Sadie N. Welbon, “the Christians [were] treated very much more severely than the unbelievers” by Japanese authorities. Welbon and some missionary colleagues tried to bring heavier clothing to the imprisoned girls, women, and older men, but their efforts were rebuked.

As the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Movement approaches, there has been renewed interest in the Presbyterian Historical Society collections that document the Korean Independence Movement. Japanese authorities destroyed much of the written record that existed in Korea, so the history preserved at PHS is particularly treasured.

The PHS collections contain hundreds of pages of testimony from Presbyterian missionaries on the events in Korea in March 1919, some of it eye-witness accounts of

*PHS Reading Room
January 2018: (left to right) Hyon Chun Kim, Abe Ko, Luke Choi, Hye Kyung Ryu.*



the protests and subsequent arrests and beatings. Other reports include details passed along to missionaries by Korean Christians, including accounts of ransacked rural churches and the destruction of Bibles and other religious objects. While the current focus is on the March 1st Movement, the rich collections at PHS also place the movement in the larger context of Korean history from the beginning of Japanese occupation in 1910 through 1945, when the Japanese defeat in World War II ended colonial rule.

In 2017, leaders from the government of South Korea reached out to PHS to ask for an in depth survey of our “invaluable material” on the Korean Independence Movement. This year, a group of volunteers from the PC(USA) and Eastern Korean Presbytery has begun identifying key documents relating to the March 1st Movement for possible translation from English to Korean.

In January, Rev. Hyon Chun Kim, the Executive Presbyter of Eastern Korean Presbytery, Rev. Abe Ko, Rev. Luke Choi of the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly, and Mrs. Hye Kyung Ryu spent two days at PHS

reviewing Korea Mission records and the personal papers of Korean missionaries. The excitement and emotion those century-old documents generated in our visitors reminded PHS of the importance of preserving the raw materials of history and making them accessible to future generations.

Mrs. Hye Kyung Ryu has a personal connection to the documents. She is the grand-niece of Gwansun Ryu, one of the leaders of the March 1st Movement. Japanese authorities arrested Ryu in April 1919. While still in prison, she led a demonstration to mark the one-year anniversary of the initial protests. Beaten and tortured, she died in September 1920 at the age of 17. Gwansun Ryu is today remembered as Korea’s Joan of Arc.

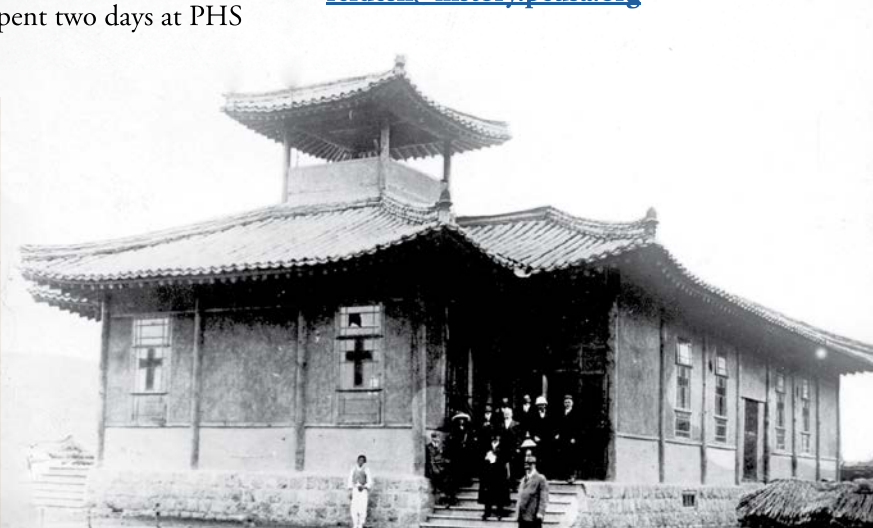
PHS has digitized missionary reports on the March 1st Movement, which are available at digital.history.pcusa.org/korean-independence

Anyone wishing to see the original reports at our building is encouraged to email our reference archivists at refdesk@history.pcusa.org

Left: Plan of Chosen Christian College, Seoul, 1919.



Right: Photo of Second Church, Syen Chun, 1921.



PHS ANNUAL REPORT 2017

DEAR FRIENDS,

We are pleased to share with you this special Presbyterian Heritage and 2017 Annual Report.

The following pages highlight the countless new and innovative ways the Presbyterian Historical Society shared the history of American and global Presbyterianism with a broader and ever-growing audience over the past year and the overwhelmingly positive responses we have received to these efforts.

Our mission is simple yet great: To “collect, preserve, and share” the vast records that document how American Presbyterians have engaged our local, national, and global communities for more than 300 years. In 2017, PHS eclipsed our previous levels of engagement with the numbers of patrons served—at our building, in our travels, through our website, and over social media. In addition, we brought in amazing new collections like the Jack Rogers papers and made thousands of digitized items accessible to remote researchers through our Pearl online archives.

In 2017, PHS strategically focused on strengthening communications, building new partnerships, and providing helpful resources for individuals, congregations, and researchers. These foci led to some notable firsts. We launched an exhibit on “Presbyterians and the American Revolution” that showcases items from our permanent collection and on-loan from congregations in the original thirteen colonies. We celebrated the return of six restored Alexander Stirling Calder statues with our first major fundraiser, collaborated with the Presbyterian Foundation to lead a Reformation 500 study tour, and initiated a partnership with faculty at the Community College of Philadelphia that now brings college students each semester to PHS to conduct primary source research. All of these efforts have brought renewed vigor to our work as entrusted to us by the General Assembly, our Stated Clerk the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, and the Committee on the Office of General Assembly.

We hope you enjoy this special dual publication, which shows what we have accomplished in 2017 and some of the things we are already proud of in 2018. We are grateful for your partnership with us through your financial support, engagement with our staff and services, encouraging words, and prayers.

Grace and peace,

Beth S. Hessel

The Reverend Dr. Beth Shalom Hessel

Executive Director

George Abdo

The Reverend Dr. George Abdo

Chair, Board of Directors

Yearly Impact

HELPING RESEARCHERS



PHS STAFF PROVIDED 3,492 DETAILED REFERENCE RESPONSES TO PATRONS IN OUR BUILDING, OVER THE PHONE, AND BY EMAIL



159 INQUIRIES RELATED TO THE CREATION OF A BOOK



RESPONSES TO PC(USA) CHURCHES, MID COUNCILS, NATIONAL AGENCIES 847



BUILDING VISITORS FROM 39 DIFFERENT STATES AND 14 COUNTRIES



TOP RESPONSE TYPE: GENEALOGY 658



COLLECTION ITEMS RETRIEVED FOR BUILDING VISITORS: 2,930

REACHING PATRONS ONLINE



UNIQUE VISITORS TO WEBSITE: 102,058
A 40% INCREASE FROM 2016

ADDING TO THE COLLECTIONS



678 CUBIC FOOT BOXES OF NEW RECORDS. STACKED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER THAT EQUALS A 60-STORY BUILDING. 288 BOXES WERE CONGREGATION RECORDS

PROVIDING DIGITIZED HISTORY



IMAGES AND PAGES DIGITIZED: 92,729
ITEMS ADDED TO PEARL ONLINE ARCHIVES: 4,722

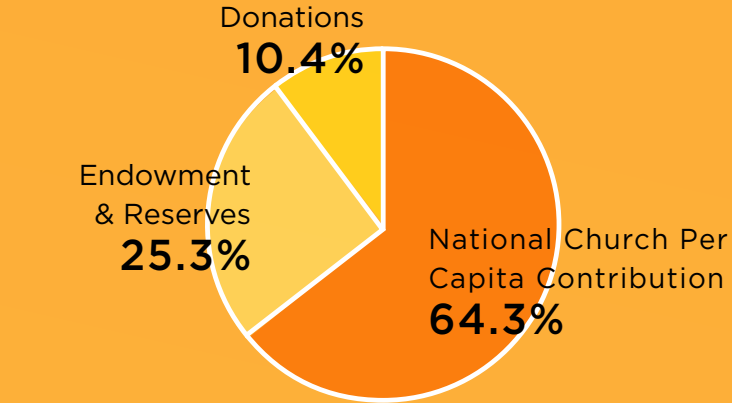
GROWING FINANCIAL SUPPORT



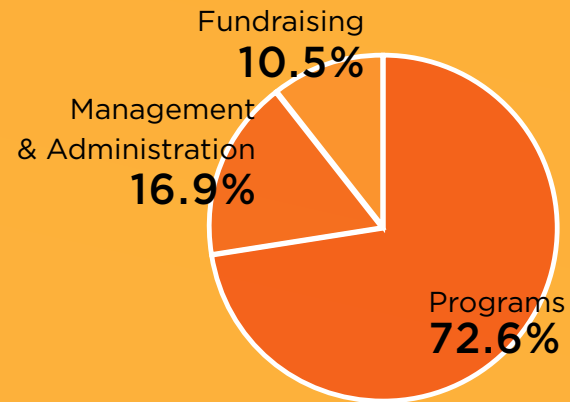
17% INCREASE IN DONORS FROM 2016
\$28,000 RAISED THROUGH TASTE OF HISTORY FUNDRAISER

PHS donors can feel good about the support they give to our historical ministry. Nearly three out of every four dollars spent in 2017 supported programmatic work at PHS—including public programming; reference assistance by archivists; and records collecting from churches, mid councils, national agencies, and Presbyterian leaders.

INCOME



EXPENSES



PHS assisted more researchers than ever in 2017, and in ways that continued our tradition of excellent service. **But don't take our word for it.** Here are some history enthusiasts thanking PHS for helping them tell their stories.

“Thank you PHS. You provide an amazing service to our churches and presbyteries while protecting our history.”

— Marsha Heimann, Stated Clerk, Lehigh Presbytery

“Thank you! It is wonderful to see actual documents that my ancestor Rev. Francis Makemie had a hand in.”

— Chris Pulver, Bluffton, IN

“Thank you for the assistance you have provided me in this quest to update our church history. My notebook overfloweth.”

— Stephen Patrick, Watauga Avenue Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, TN

In addition to installing a new in-house exhibit, holding our first outdoor fundraiser, and helping hundreds of churches and mid councils and thousands of individual researchers, PHS staff members were busy travelers in 2017—leading classes, collecting records, and making new friends.

- 1 George Abdo and Beth S. Hessel at ribbon cutting for conserved Calder statues, May. Photos 1, 3, and 6 by Rebecca Gudelunas.
- 2 Tour group from Woodstown Presbyterian Church, NJ, viewing "Presbyterians and the American Revolution," installed in April.
- 3 Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II, with Ruth Santana Grace and Wonjae Choi of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, May.
- 4 Presbyterian Foundation and PHS Reformation 500 Studies Tour, Wittenberg Cathedral, Germany, October.
- 5 PHS staff member Lorraine Brown and volunteer Sue Althouse, May.
- 6 Board member Joan Bergsteinsson with Taste of History raffle tickets, May.



- 7 PHS staff Miguel Vargas and Deana Stuart with Caitlin Martin of the Association for Public Art in front of new sign for Calder statues, August.
- 8 Researchers in PHS Reading Room, January.
- 9 PHS staff member David Staniunas leading workshop at Big Tent conference, St. Louis, MO, July. Photo by Randy Hobson.
- 10 Students in Presbyterian history class taught by Beth S. Hessel, Asian Leadership Studies Program, Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA, August.
- 11 PHS staff celebrating the 50th anniversary of 425 Lombard Street, September.
- 12 Community College of Philadelphia students with instructor Joel Tannenbaum and PHS staff member Nancy Taylor, September.
- 13 Beth S. Hessel at First Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX, November.



PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

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and follow us on social media.**



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MAY 20: HERITAGE SUNDAY

Mr. Rogers Before the Neighborhood

Learn about Presbyterian minister Fred Rogers' early work in television. PHS recently digitized a rare film reel of *The Children's Corner*, which Rogers helped write and act in alongside his long-time collaborator Josie Carey. Download the free Heritage Sunday bulletin insert from our website:

www.history.pcusa.org/hs