

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

In April of 2020, Archives Manager Jacquie Nevins retired after many years of faithful service to the Diocese. The year before Jacquie's retirement, Annalise Wall began volunteering in the office, where Jacquie introduced her to the procedures, protocols, and peculiarities of archival work. Jacquie's planned retirement came in the midst of the COVID 19 lockdown and the planned transition for a new manager had to be reshaped to accommodate pandemic realities.

The Diocese had applied for, and received, a government grant for youth placement and in June 2020, Annalise was hired for the position of Archives Manager. Jacquie continued to offer support and detecting advice as Annalise scoured the vault and its protected documents for information relating to baptisms, marriages, deaths, burials, as well as zoning, building plans, and renovations. Once the school year started, Annalise's hours were reduced to eight hours per week and she completed these hours around her school schedule. In terms of responsibilities, the Archives manager answers requests from the Synod Office and the public, as well as from members of the Diocesan laity and clergy.

On average per month, the Archives consistently receives around 15-30 requests seeking historical information, as well as requests for copies of baptismal, marriage, and burial certificates. The search for the information is sometimes straightforward, and sometimes complicated by misremembered dates or even by the uneven handwriting skills found in the vestry, marriage and burial record books. Additionally, the Archives has accessioned vestry books and records from a variety of Diocesan parishes and the public.

Unfortunately, due to COVID safety protocols, the wonderful and dedicated Archival volunteers have been unable to come in to assist in the larger research projects. Thanks to Zena McCreary, Judith Coleman, and other members of the Synod Staff for stepping in when needed to help with more complicated requests. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Jacquie and the Synod staff in learning more about the history of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of British Columbia (Islands and Inlets).

Respectfully Submitted,
Annalise Wall