

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, I have started working with Canon Roberts and Diocesan office staff to codify my mission and finish the task of organizing, cleaning, and prioritizing the archival collections in both the Historiographer's Office and the Archives' storage area. More work is needed, but there are the beginnings of order to the chaos caused by moving the collections twice in a short span of time for repairs to the building. Much thanks to Jimi Paderick for her help in accomplishing many of my tasks!

The historiographer's work is that of service to the diocese and to parishes in preserving and sharing our collective records and histories. As such, I receive inquiries for assistance in locating documents, research, or in answering preservation questions. Throughout the last year, I have provided assistance for at least 30 information requests of various types. Additionally, I spoke with Tom Warren's Racial Healing discussion group from St. Mary's in Kinston about my book, *A Day of Blood*, which documented the racial violence in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1898.

Others who have served the Diocese as Historiographer in the past have done great things in documenting our history, it's now my task to preserve that history in the original documents, photographs, artifacts, and church records that have come to Kinston. With Jimi's help, I've recently purchased archival boxes and supplies to ensure the long-term preservation of our archives. My next steps in this coming year will be the transfer of documents and collections to these new boxes.

My activity over the last couple of years has been to organize the records in both the office and archival storage room to know just what we have and then to develop a database to track these items. The database is growing to include records of our parishes, diocese, and bishops that are found in other repositories such as East Carolina University, the Southern Historical Collection at Chapel Hill, and the North Carolina State Archives. There is also a treasure trove of digitized resources that I'm collecting for a small library of online resources. This groundwork has enabled me to provide research assistance from a distance, even if I can't get to the office in Kinston.

As I have become more familiar with the collections of parish histories in the Archives, I have realized that we need to update these files. If you have a parish history that you would like to share with the Archives, please contact me at history@diocese-eastcarolina.org. **I'm particularly interested in updated histories that contain information on activities across the last quarter of the 20th century and into the 2000s.**

Respectfully submitted with peace and blessings,
LeRae Sikes Umfleet, Historiographer