

Archives and History Commission Annual Report
2008 activities and plans for 2009 last updated Jan 20, 2009

Check out new and updated History and Archives Commission webpages at <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/HistoryArchives.html> We have worked in close collaboration with the **Web Commission** enabling our content to reach a much wider audience.

Pilgrim's Progress window

Re-installation of this historic window in January was one of the highlights of 2008. **Gertrude Gigi Wilmers**, great-granddaughter of stained glass artist **Frederic Crowninshield** came from New York, and helped us realize that **Mrs. Howard Payson Arnold** [1820-1897] had been **Caroline Marie Walsh Crowninshield**, mother of Frederic, left a widow with three young boys in 1859. Read more about our signature window at <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/window.html>

New and updated webpages in 2008

Emmanuel Church Timeline <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/timeline.html>

Emmanuel clergy <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/clergy.html>. We are working on adding images to both pages, and more timeline entries for recent years.

Emmanuel's 150th Sesquicentennial

We will be celebrating this starting in 2010. Emmanuel was founded in 1860 and the church consecrated in 1862. The 150th history is, and will be a work in progress on the web. Our **Centennial History** 1860-1960 is now on the web [with a few glitches still] at <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/assets/pdfs/IntroandAppendix>

Photographs and other images

Matt Griffing and **Kenny Roraback** worked on inventorying our earliest images, and scanned a number of 19th and early 20th century photographs, just in time to incorporate some into the summer Chapel Camp brochure. Both historical and current photographs can be seen in their new Video/slideshow <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/slideshow.html>

Contemporary photographs

Photographs of people, events and 15 Newbury St enliven the website, engage and draw visitors, and capture our history as it is happening. **Matt Griffing's** and **Julian Bullitt's** photographs of, and adventurous exploration of the furthest reaches of 15 Newbury St have been, and are an essential and valued part of our ongoing investigation of our space and activities. 15 Newbury Street is truly a building that has grown and changed over time, with limited documentation, leaving us to try to discover and surmise the succession of changes. See some of their photos at <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/index.html>

Taking content from print to web

Mike Shea's Lindsey Chapel brochure is now at <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/LindseyChapel/LChistory.html>. We hope to have his booklet on first rector **Frederic Dan Huntington** up soon.

Articles from **Voices**, **Emmanuel News** and earlier parish newsletters are also candidates for web republication. Many thanks to **Margo Risk**, **Jaylyn Olivo**, **Ann Carlson**, **Pat Jackson**, **Gretchen McBride**, **Nelina Backman**, **Don Kreider** and **others** for creating and preserving past history articles, and recording today's news that is in the process of becoming tomorrow's history.

Emmanuel Library

Nancy Peabody and **Nancy Mueller** inventoried Emmanuel Church library books, providing a fascinating social history of Emmanuelites' diverse interests over the years, and now in a web catalog at <http://www.librarything.com/catalog/emmanuelchurchboston> Some of our archives inventory is now in this catalog, as well as in Excel spreadsheets.

Archival material: print, pictorial and manuscripts

The archives contain printed sermons of a number of rectors. Reading fourth rector **Dr. Elwood Worcester's** sermons on the Lusitania, and "America and War" from 1915, or "What do people think about it Church?" from 1928, or **Bishop William Lawrence's** account of third rector **Leighton Parks** giving raspberries to **Robert E Lee** as a small child can make surprisingly compelling reading. We'd like to add some of these sermons to our Sermons archive <http://www.emmanuel-boston.org/sermonsarchive.html>

Many thanks to **Emmanuel Music** for helping us collect, review and communicate our shared histories. We put together material for displays at the October and December Open Houses. This really helped us organize our thoughts on both virtual/web and actual displays. Seeing the ways in which this material engages people has made us eager to create more ways for people to connect with Emmanuel's past.

Emmanuel Musicians have helped us identify some of the people in several pre 1974 photographs. We will have them up on the web before long, and also reach out to musicians who may be able to identify more. In January we went through the archives looking for Emmanuel Music related articles, pictures and programs for **Craig Smith's** Memorial service, and found an original ledger book of musicians.

Treasurer **Scott Corey-Dunbar** spent many hours in 2008 going through papers, some stored in the same room as archival material, and provided welcome company and advice as we sifted through cartons, file folders and piles.

So did **Jimmy Tirrell**, who is a fund of information on memorials and helped us track down some objects we found mentioned in Memorial books, including **Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes'** coffee urn. The Autocrat of the Breakfast Club went to King's Chapel, but his nephew **Edward Jackson Holmes** gave the coffee urn to Emmanuel, and Jimmy knew exactly where it was.

In 1967 18,000 postcards of the Newbury St exterior and the Lindsey Chapel interior were ordered, of which a shoebox full now remains. The cars were a good clue to date, but we actually found the receipt. **Nancy Mueller** creatively used some of these for a Welcome Back Sunday mailing in September. We hope this will be one of many creative [re]uses of historical material.

We recently received material -- printed sermons, some family photos and personal papers of **Elwood Worcester** [rector from 1904-1929] from the Hobart and William Smith College Archives. Worcester's grandson Carroll Worcester Brewster had been President of the College.

Field trips and volunteer opportunities

Mt. Auburn Cemetery is where a number of Emmanuelites ended up -- including Mrs. Howard Payson Arnold, both of her husbands and 2 of her 3 Crowninshield sons. First rector Frederic Dan Huntington spent summers at Forty Acres in Hadley MA, now a house museum open May 15-Oct 15. <http://www.pphmuseum.org/index.html>

Do you have Emmanuel Church papers, photographs and/or memories to share with us? We are still inventorying all the cartons of papers accumulated over the years. Duplicate copies can be very useful for increasing access to content, without compromising preservation or necessitating labor intensive photocopying. You may be able to fill in some gaps, or provide alternative lenses through which to see events.

Weddings Coordinator **Janice Randall** has been a terrific help with a number of history projects, having developed an illustrated Church tour and volunteered her help with research in outside archives. Both Janice and Parish Administrator **Barbara Kroft** serve as invaluable point persons for people visiting Emmanuel on weekdays.

Thanks to one of Janice Randall's church tours in 2007 Mary Chitty was invited this year to join the Board of the Parish Historians Society for a 3-year term. Plans are now in process for the Annual Meeting to be held April 25, 2009 in Quincy. Many parishes have no parish historian. We are fortunate in having many people contributing to the work – and fun - of this Commission.

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