

CHURCH ARCHIVES

Annual Report 2011

Activities for the church archives in early 2011 consisted of completing the task of packing the collection into archival boxes for the eventual move to temporary storage prior to renovation of the upper floors of the Church House.

A visual survey of First Church history over the centuries was presented after service on Sunday, May 15 by the Church Archivist. The hour-long Power Point presentation included the topics of preservation issues, the proposed new archives space in the Mellin-Macnab building, and a range of items from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The presentation included archival material stored at the church as well as at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

The Church Archivist met on Tuesday, November 22 with Ms. Eve Kahn, antiques columnist for the New York Times. Ms. Kahn was working on a story about the disbursement of artifacts from the old Madison Square Presbyterian Church, which was demolished in 1918. Ms. Kahn was given a tour of all three church buildings, where she observed several items from the former Madison Square Church. Her column on the artifacts appeared on Friday, December 1 and included the following:

“Dozens of Madison Square’s components were transferred to its sister institution, First Presbyterian Church, on lower Fifth Avenue, including iron scrollwork light fixtures, leafy carved pews, a glass cross about five feet tall and a communion table with carved angels.”

Respectfully submitted,

David Pultz
Church Archivist