

CHAPTER 18

METHODIST ARCHIVES

Ms Meg Hartzenberg

During the period October 2009 to September 2010 the following requests were attended to by the

Archivist:	Marriage records	21
	Baptismal records	13
	Burial records	1
	Family tree information	5
	Historical research	17

Most of the marriage and baptismal records that are requested are needed for legal purposes where original certificates have been lost. Unfortunately there are many gaps in the Archives because lots of churches have not sent their marriage, baptism and burial registers to the Archives. These registers are an invaluable research tool and ideally all available registers should be kept in the Archives where they are accessible to everyone.

Most requests for information pertaining to family trees are addressed to the genealogist at the Albany Museum in Grahamstown. He frequently makes use of the material in the Archives to find information.

Requests for historical information often relate to churches celebrating anniversaries and wanting to produce brochures for the occasion. There is a scarcity of information available about individual churches and any such brochures should be sent to the Archives to be added to the stock. Requests are also received for information on specific topics for researchers who are writing a book or thesis. Back numbers of Dimension are sometimes a valuable source of information here.

Churches should be encouraged to send to the Archives

1. marriage, baptismal and burial registers
2. pamphlets, brochures and leaflets giving the history of a church
3. any documentation pertaining to the history of a church

Churches should encourage the writing down of their history by those who have been members for a long time, before such institutional memory is lost.

Requests for information come from all over South Africa as well as overseas. Many visitors from overseas visit the Archives themselves and make use of the material available there to do their own research into family histories. Thank you to the staff at the Cory Library for their friendly assistance in accessing material and finding information.

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