

Church Records

THE OLDIES AND THE HITS FROM TODAY

By Joanna Perkins

Have you thought lately about the old vinyl albums in your attic? Probably not. That's also the answer to this question: Have you thought about your church's records, and could you find them if you needed them?

The Missouri Baptist Historical Commission wants to help your church keep track of records, both the "oldies but goodies" and the "best hits from today." The oldies are the long-term records that hold the heritage of the church. Minutes, bulletins and programs, and church histories fall into this category. The best hits from today are the current records of the church, those that are necessary now for business operations, but may not be very useful in later years. These include member donation records, insurance policies, and bank deposit slips.

In popular music, there are those records that transcend time and become known as classics. They are the ones that we want to always have in our record collection. Churches have classic records as well. They are known as "vital records," and they are the ones that a church should always have in a safe place. These include deed and mortgage records, and blueprints of the church facility.

To assist churches in knowing which records are their oldies, their hits of today, and their classics, the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission will be offering a class at the Baptist Secretaries Association of Missouri on October 15-17 at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City. After this class is offered, the Historical Commission will be taking training on the road in areas throughout the state. If someone at your church is interested in receiving this training, contact Joanna Perkins, MBHB archivist, using the information at the bottom of the page.

The MBHC wants to assist associations with their records as well. Association reports are valuable historical resources in following churches and their

connections together. Many associations are accustomed to sending their annual minutes to the Partee Center for Baptist Studies at William Jewell College. Associations may not, however, be aware that the MBHC severed ties with the Partee Center in 2004 after the MBC voted to discontinue funding for William Jewell College. While the MBHC should be the official repository for records of associations within the MBC, if associations are sending their records to the Partee Center, they are not a part of the MBHC collections. In order to assure that the MBC has a complete record of association activities, the MBHC asks that associations send copies of their minutes to the Baptist Historical Center at the Baptist Building.

As your church thinks about records, remember that no matter whether they are hits of today, golden oldies, or classic hits, the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission mission is to assist in keeping them appropriately. Contact Joanna Perkins, 800-736-6227, ext. 205, jperkins@mobaptist.org, or see our webpage, www.baptistparchments.org for more information.

Joanna Perkins serves as archivist, Missouri Baptist Historical Commission.



HOT java COOL history

To celebrate the restoration of Old Bethel Church, the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission has created a commemorative coffee mug, available for a minimum donation of \$30.

The money received will pay for remaining construction expenses, road improvements to the site, and maintenance of the church and cemetery.

To get a mug, send your donation to the Missouri Baptist Historical Commission, 400 E High St, Jefferson City, MO 65101.



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For more information about Old Bethel Church or MBHC services, contact Joanna Perkins, Archivist at 800-736-6227, extension 205 or visit www.baptistparchments.org.

