

MS-132, Fairborn United Methodist Church Records

Collection Number: MS-132

Title: Fairborn United Methodist Church Records

Dates: 1903-1980, (bulk 1930-1980)

Creator: United Methodist Church (Fairborn, Ohio)

Quantity/ Physical Description: 5 linear feet

Language: English

Summary/Abstract:

Records consist of minutes of official church boards, reports, financial records, marriage, baptismal, and membership rolls, weekly church programs, publications, women's and youth organization materials, newspaper clippings, historical files, and photographs.

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937)775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box#, Folder #], MS-132, Fairborn United Methodist Church Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition:

The records of the Fairborn Methodist Church were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in June of 1981. They were donated by Mrs. Dorothy Ranville, the church's business manager.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at http://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collection_guides/guide_files/ms132.pdf. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Processed by:

This collection was processed by Dorothy Smith, Summer 1983. Finding aid updated according to DACS standards by Allie Edmonds in 2018.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into seven 7 series:

- Series I: IDEAL Church Records, 1903-1921
- Series II: Membership Records, 1940-1979
- Series III: Financial Records, 1914-1979
- Series IV: Minutes and Reports, 1910-1979
- Series V: Church Organizations, 1903-1980
- Series VI: Newsletters and Weekly Church Programs, 1950-1980
- Series VII: Historical Files, 1934-1979

Historical Note:

In the spring of 1831, members of a “Methodist Society” purchased ground in the Village of Fairfield, Ohio for a house of worship. The Society met in various members’ homes until a building was erected in 1846. The present location of the Fairborn United Methodist Church was acquired in 1871 and construction of a red brick church building was completed in 1872.

In nearby Osborn, Ohio a Methodist-Episcopal society was formed in 1853. By 1871, the Osborn Methodists had completed a frame church building where they held services.

When the railroad came to Bath Township in the 1850s, it bypassed Fairfield and ran through Osborn. As a consequence, by the end of the century Osborn was growing rapidly while Fairfield declined in population. In 1899, the Fairfield church closed its doors due to a lack of funds. However, it reopened in 1906 with a new minister, J.A. Huffman, who agreed to be paid only what could be raised in each week’s collection plate. Under Huffman’s leadership, the Fairfield church regained its equilibrium, paid its debts, and attracted new members. It did not suffer closure again.

In 1922, the flood prevention plans of the Miami Conservancy District called for the relocation of the Village of Osborn from its original site to one just east of Fairfield. At that time, the congregation of the two churches was consolidated into the Fairfield-Osborn Methodist Episcopal Church, with the Fairfield building as the home for the new congregation. With this consolidation and the building of Wright-Patterson Field nearby, the membership of the church steadily increased. Expansion and remodeling projects were undertaken in 1925, 1947, 1958, and 1963.

A longer, more detailed account of the development of the Fairborn church can be found in the publication, [A History of the Fairborn United Methodist Church](#) which is located in Box 10, File 1 of this collection.

Scope and Content:

The papers of the Fairborn United Methodist Church contain a variety of materials. These include minutes, reports, financial records, marriage, funeral, baptismal, and membership

records, weekly programs, publications, newspaper clippings, and women's and youth organization records.

The earliest records are the IDEAL Church Records in Series I which are a listing of members, marriages, baptisms, and funerals for the Brandt, Palmer, Mt. Pisgah, and Wayne Methodist-Episcopal churches. These records date from 1903-1921.

The membership records in Series II consist of scattered membership lists and directories for the Fairborn church as well as records of marriages, baptisms, and funerals from the 1940s and early 1950s.

The bulk of the remaining materials span the 1940s to 1970s. They consist mainly of minutes and reports of the Official Board, scattered financial records, and weekly church programs and newsletters. These records hold a wealth of information about the day to day concerns of the congregation.

Series V, Church Organizations, contains the records of various women's organizations including the Ladies Aid Society (1903-1924), and the Women's Society of Christian Service (1959-1980). These records show a shift in women's concerns from providing auxiliary services to the congregation to the social concerns of the 1960s and 1970s.

The historical materials in Series VII consist of a file of clippings about church activities, photographs, a file of materials pertaining to the church's 100th anniversary celebration in 1972, and a general historical file with papers and correspondence documenting the development of the church from 1934-1973. This series also contains a history of the Fairborn United Methodist Church published in 1972.

Materials within the file folders are arranged chronologically.

Subject Terms:

Organizations

United Methodist Church (Fairborn, Ohio) -- Archives

Places

Fairborn (Ohio) -- Church history

Fairborn (Ohio) -- History

Material Types

Minutes (administrative records)

Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)

Baptismal records

Marriage records -- Ohio

Collection Inventory:

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Series I: IDEAL Church Records	1903-1921
1	1	Methodist-Episcopal Churches	1903-1913
1	2	Palmer Methodist-Episcopal Church	1909-1916
1	3	Mt. Pisgah Methodist-Episcopal Church	1914-1919
1	4	Wayne Methodist-Episcopal Church	1904-1921
1	5	Quarterly Conference Records	1910-1911
		Series II: Membership Records	1940-1979
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	6	Commission on Evangelism and Membership	1960-1979
1	7	Membership List	1970-1973
1	8	Membership directories	1972-1973
1	9	Membership change lists	1972
1	10	Baptisms and weddings	1940-1952
1	11	Marriages and Funerals	1947
2	1	Journal of mailing and calling list, membership Transfers, baptisms, weddings, and funerals	1941-1950
		Series III: Financial Records	1914-1979
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	2	Treasurer's record of Fairborn Methodist Sun. School	1955-1964
2	3	Stewart's Book, Fairfield Methodist-Episcopal Church	1914-1923
2	4	Financial records	1930-1948
2	5	Miscellaneous financial papers and records	1950-1979
		Series IV: Minutes and Reports	1910-1979
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	6	Minutes-Brotherhood meetings; Osborn Methodist-Episcopal Official Board	Apr.-Oct. 1910 1912-1919
3	1	Minutes, Official Board	1934-1948
3	2	Minutes, Official Board	1949-1955
3	3	Minutes, Official Board	1956-1957
3	4	Minutes, Official Board	1958-1961
3	5	Minutes, Official Board	1962-1963
3	6	Minutes, Official Board	1964-1967

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	7	Minutes, Official Board	1968-1971
3	8	Minutes, Administrative Board	1972-1973
4	1	Minutes, Administrative Board	1974-1976
4	2	Minutes, Administrative Board	1977
4	3	Minutes, Administrative Board	1978-1979
4	4	Reports, Official Board	1954-1957
4	5	Minutes, Fourth Quarterly Conference	1960-1962
4	6	Minutes, Fourth Quarterly Conference	1963-1964
4	7	Minutes, Fourth Quarterly Conference	1965-1966
4	8	Minutes, Fourth Quarterly Conference	1967-1968
4	9	Reports, Fourth Quarterly Conference	1953-1955
5	1	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1969
5	2	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1970-1971
5	3	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1972-1973
5	4	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1974-1975
5	5	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1976-1977
5	6	Minutes and Reports, Charge Conference	1978-1979
6	1	Minutes, Board of Trustees	1961-1966
6	2	Minutes, Board of Trustees	1972-1979
		Series V: Church Organizations	1903-1980
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
6	3	Ladies Aid Society	1903-1904
6	4	Ladies Aid Society	1919-1924
6	5	King's Daughters Class	1929
6	6	King's Daughters Class	1931-1937
6	7	King's Daughters Class	1937-1940
6	8	Kum-Join-Us Sunday School Class	1945-1951
7	1	Women's Society of Christian Service United Methodist Women	1959-1965
7	2	Women's Society of Christian Service United Methodist women	1973-1978
7	3	Women's Society of Christian Service United Methodist women	1979-1980
7	4	Scrapbook	1975
7	5	Scrapbook	1976-1977
7	6	West Ohio Conference, Ohio Methodist Women	1973
7	7	United Methodist Men's club	1974-1979

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Series VI: Weekly Church Programs and Newsletters	1950-1980
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
8	1	Weekly Church Programs	1950-1951
8	2	Weekly Church Programs	1952-1953
8	3	Weekly Church Programs	1954-1955
8	4	Weekly Church Programs	1956-1957
8	5	Weekly Church Programs	1958-1961
8	6	Weekly Church Programs	1970-1972
8	7	Weekly Church Programs	1973-1974
9	1	Weekly Church Programs	1975-1976
9	2	Weekly Church Programs	1977-1978
9	3	Weekly Church Programs	1979
9	4	<u>The Messenger</u>	1959-1960
9	5	<u>The Messenger</u>	1961-1964
9	6	<u>The Messenger</u>	1971-1975
9	7	<u>The Messenger</u>	1976-1980
9	8	<u>Youth News</u>	1974-1979
		Series VII: Historical Files	1934-1979
<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
9	9	Newspaper Clippings	1960-1979
10	1	<u>A History of the Fairborn Methodist Church</u>	1972
10	2	100 th Anniversary Celebration	1972
10	3	History files – indebtedness	1935-1939
10	4	History files – general	1934-1973
10	5	Guest register	1972
10	6	Photographs	undated
10	7	Photographs	undated
10	8	Methodist Hymnal	1978