

Central Baptist Church
Oregon District

MS – 257

Wright State University
Department of Special Collections and Archives

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Introduction

Records of the Central Baptist Church, Oregon District, were accessioned into the Wright State University Department of Archives and Special Collections in May 1994. They were donated by the Central Baptist Church.

The records in this collection date from 1882 to 1964 and are contained in 2 Hollinger boxes and 20 file folders. The collection is arranged chronologically within each series as follows.

- Series 1: Church Histories
- Series 2: Book – A Real Missionary
- Series 3: Constitution and By-Laws
- Series 4: Quarterly Statements and Receipts
- Series 5: Pledge Ledger
- Series 6: Financial Account Ledgers
- Series 7: Attendance Books

There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

Brief Historical Sketch

The Central Baptist Church, Oregon District was founded in the mid-1840s. Initially, the congregation met in the Old Dunkard Church, then moved temporarily to the upstairs of the rented engine house on the corner of Sixth and Tecumseh Streets. They worshiped here until the basement of a new church was completed. The first minister was Brother Gorman, a student in the Lane Seminary, Walnut Hills, Cincinnati. He preached his first sermon in the Old Dunkard Church and his pastorate lasted until 1852 when he resigned to go to New Mexico to work for the Home Mission Society.

In the spring of 1849, twenty-eight baptized members and twenty-five members of the First Church formed the Wayne Street Baptist Church and plans were immediately made for a new building. Land was given by E. Thresher on the northeast corner of Wayne Avenue and Fifth Street and construction began. During the first twenty-five years of this church, the members dealt with a great deal of turmoil which finally ended in disbandment. Not long after that the church was destroyed by fire.

On November 12, 1878, the Central Baptist Church at the corner of Clay and Van Buren Streets was organized as a mission. In 1879 the Baptist Union invited Reverend H.H. Bawden to be the minister of the Central Baptist Mission, a position he held for seven years. Under his pastorate, construction of the existing structure began in 1881 and was completed at a cost of \$14,000. The building was dedicated on May 4, 1882.

Reverend Bawden was replaced by Reverend J.P. Ogenbroad, who was replaced on April 1, 1886 by Reverend J.W. Icenbarger. Under Rev. Icenbarger the Central Baptist Mission was formally recognized as the Central Baptist Church on August 28, 1889.

In 1979 a plan to convert the church into seven condominiums was proposed to Dayton's Historic Architecture Committee. In August of 1982, another proposal to turn the church into condos was made by the Endeco Corporation. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Scope and Content

Covering the years 1882 to 1964, the records of the Central Baptist Church provide information about the history of the Church, attendance, membership, and the church's finances.

Series I, Church Histories, contains Xerox copies of various articles that have been written on the history of the Central Baptist church.

Series II, Book, A Real Missionary, is a book describing the adventures of the missionary.

Series III, Constitution and By-Laws, contains two small booklets outlining the Central Baptist Church's Constitution and By-Laws.

Series IV, Quarterly Statements and Receipts, contains 12 pages of statements and receipts.

Series V, Pledge Ledger, contains a bound book in which pledges to the church were recorded.

Series VI, Financial Account Ledgers, contains 3 bound books in which the church's finances were recorded.

Series VII, Attendance Books, contains 1 book in which Sunday School attendance was recorded and 11 books in which the Church School Secretary recorded attendance and other church membership information.

Container Listing

Series I: Church Histories

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Church Histories (Xeroxed)	

Series II: Book, A Real Missionary

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	2	Book, <u>A Real Missionary</u>	

Series III: Constitution and By-Laws

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	3	Central Baptist Church Constitution and By-Laws	

Series IV: Quarterly Statements and Receipts

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	4	Quarterly Statements and Receipts	1930-1931

Series V: Pledge Ledger

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	5	Pledge ledger	n.d.

Series VI: Financial Account Ledgers

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	6	Financial Account Ledger	1952-1955
	7	Financial Account Ledger	1952-1957
	8	Financial Account Ledger	1956-1958

Series VII: Attendance Books

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	9	Sunday School Record Book – Mrs. Brookshire, Secretary	1964
	10	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1934
2	1	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1938
	2	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1940
	3	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1944
	4	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1946
	5	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1947
	6	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1957

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	7	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1959
	8	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1961
	9	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1962
	10	Church School Secretary's Record Book	1963