

Inventory of the

First United Methodist Church
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 24

INTRODUCTION

First United Methodist Church deposited some of its inactive records with the University Archives in the late 1960's. J. Joseph Bauxar, University Archivist, transferred the collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in May 1978. Subsequent to this date, materials were added to the original deposit to form the present collection.

Property rights in the collection belong to the First United Methodist Church, DeKalb; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 5.50
Number of containers: 6 boxes + 3 volumes
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 24

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The history of the First United Methodist Church, DeKalb (1855-1978), is partially documented in this collection. Although the annual reports (1942-1958), quarterly reports (1892-1961), official board minutes (1883-1957), and financial records (1864-1920) provide the most comprehensive information on the development and policies of the organization, they are incomplete. Some of the historical gaps are filled by the general correspondence (1883-1961) and the correspondence of Pastors Allan Billman and Paul Benedict (1931-1951). Of special note is the correspondence dealing with the organization's efforts to remove socialistic trends from the church and Methodist literature (1950's). Historical information also is available in church newsletters (1943-1978) and service programs (1898-1975). These materials indicate the variety of church projects, business transactions, and religious practices of the congregation.

The church's service groups are well documented in the collection and the records are of exceptional quality for research in church/community relations. The records, including minutes, programs, annual reports, yearbooks, and treasurer's records, indicate the breadth and scope of each society's activities. In contrast, the Sunday School is not completely documented. Although there are minutes and secretary's reports for the school (1899-1965), the major subseries of this record series consists of class books and rosters (1868-1958).

Researchers should note that the collection contains a wealth of information on the Rock River Conference. Programs and minutes of the annual meetings (1862-1960) provide an overall view of this organization's history. In addition, minutes of the Centennial Camp-Meeting Association (1876-1903) and Epworth Grove Camp Grounds' treasurer's reports (1910) are helpful for documenting the recreational facet of the conference.

Historical information on DeKalb and life in general in 1908 can be found among the Cornerstone Material located in Box 3. Postcards, photographs and newspapers are included in the cornerstone material. Additional information on the First United Methodist Church is contained in the J. F. Glidden Papers (RC 6). For other collections of church records, researchers should consult the Regional History Center's guide.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The First United Methodist Church, originally the First Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized in 1855. Calvin Brookings, David Pierce, Elisha Foster, Silas Tappan, and George Harrison comprised the first board of trustees. Elijah Stone officiated over the first two years of services held in a school house located just south of the railroad tracks on First Street. In 1858 the congregation erected its own church building on Fourth and Grove Streets. First Methodist moved again in 1909 to the present structure on Fourth and Oak Streets and purchased the house on the southwest corner of First and Locust Streets as a parsonage.

Over the years, members of the First United Methodist Church participated in several community service church groups. The Ladies' Aid Society, instrumental in raising funds for church improvements and charities, began in 1855. Sub-groups or Circles of the Society worked towards accomplishing specific goals. The women congregants also formed three missionary societies; the Foreign Missionary Society organized in 1884, the Young Women's Missionary in 1886, and finally, the Home Missionary Society started in 1897. In addition, young people's organizations, particularly the Epworth League (org. 1890) and Harmony Circle (org. 1907), provided a social and educational atmosphere for teen-age members. Lastly, church members helped form a local Girl Scout Troop, Boy Scout Troop #4, and Cub Pack #104. All of these organizations insure the continued development and involvement of the First United Methodist Church in the DeKalb community.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Epworth Grove Campground
First United Methodist Church, DeKalb
Methodists
Religion--DeKalb (Ill.)
Rock River Conference

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Historical Information, 1854-1977	
	2	Centennial Celebration Materials, 1954	
	3	By-Laws, n.d.	
	4	Land and Building Agreements (copies), (1879-1908)	
	5	Legal Agreements, (1854-1906)	
	6	Organizational Charts, n.d.	
	7	Annual Reports, (1942-1958)	
	8-9	Quarterly Conference Records, (1892-1908)	
	10	Quarterly Conference Rolls and Reports, (1883-1948)	
	11	Quarterly Reports, (1951-1961)	
	12	Associate Minister's Report, n.d.	
	13-14	Official Board Minutes, (1883-1957)	
	15	Meeting Minutes, 1907-1912	
	16	Church Correspondence, (1883-1961)	
	17	Church Correspondence, n.d.	
	18-21	Rev. Alan Billman's Correspondence, (1931-1946)	
	22	Rev. Paul Benedict's Correspondence, 1949-1951	
	23	Rev. Paul Benedict's Informational File, 1949-1951	
	2	1	Church Financial Record, 1864-1867 and Minutes, DeKalb Building Association, (1855)
		2-4	Treasurer's Account Books, 1916-1920
		5	Building Improvement Fund Journal, 1946-1947
		6	Committee Lists, 1952
		7	Building Committee Minutes and Reports, 1955-1957
8		Records Committee Reports and Correspondence, (1946-1959)	
9		Nominating Committee Reports, (1946-1960)	
10		Minutes, Pastoral Relations Committee, (1942)	
11		Minutes, Methodist Foundation, (1957)	
12		Church Director, 1971	
13		<u>Contact</u> , Church Newsletter, (1943-1945)	
14		<u>First Methodist Church News</u> , (1946-1949)	
15		<u>The DeKalb Methodist</u> , (1956-1961)	
16-18		<u>The Messenger</u> , (1965-1978)	
19-25		Worship Service Programs, 1898 , (1924-1950)	
26		Membership List and Rolls (1892-1921)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4	
3	1-2	Worship Service Programs, (1951-1975)		
	3	Special Service Programs, (1898-1964)		
	4	Pledge Consecration Sunday Programs, 1953-1957		
	5	Dedication and Consecration Programs, (1908-1961)		
	6-7	Cornerstone Material-Dedication, November 9, 1908		
	8	Programs and Informational Brochures, (1901-1977)		
	9	Minutes, Board of Education, September, 1947		
	10	Minutes, Commission on Education, 1964-1965		
	11	Minutes, Officers and Teachers of Sunday School, 1929-1940		
	12	Secretary's Record, Sunday School, 1930-1932		
	13	Sunday School Reports, (1899-1907)		
	14	Sunday School Reports and Programs, (1921-1955)		
	15	Teacher's "Class" Book, 1868-1874		
	16-18	Sunday School Records, 1906-1917		
	19	Sunday School Class Book, 1921		
	20	Sunday School Class Lists, 1924, 1933		
	21	Permanent Register of Church School Members, 1946		
	22	Teacher's Roll Book, 1951-1956		
	23	Sunday School Directories, 1954-1956		
	24	Sunday School Class Outlines, 1957-1958		
	25	Methodist Sunday School of the Air, 1940		
	26	Directories and Programs for the Women's Organizations, (1911-1961)		
	27-29	Women's Organizations Membership Lists, (1916-1939)		
	30	Constitution, Ladies' Aid Society, 1932		
	31	Annual Reports, Ladies' Aid Society, (1926-1932)		
	32-34	Minutes, Ladies' Aid Society, (1902-1933)		
	35-36	Treasurer's Records, Ladies' Aid Society, (1893-1919)		
	4	1-2	Treasurer's Records, Ladies' Aid Society, (1928-1939)	
		3-4	Minutes, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, (1905-1931)	
		5	Speeches and Historical Information, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, (1928-1940)	
		6-7	Minutes, Dorcas Class, (1928-1941)	
		8	Treasurer's Report, Woman's Home Missionary Society, 1933-1934	
9		Annual Reports, Woman's Society of Christian Service, (1941-1961)		
10-11		Report and Record Book, Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1943-1946		

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
4	12	Financial Records, Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1946	
	13	Yearbooks, Woman's Society of Christian Service, 1940-1967	
	14	Minutes, Circle No. 7, 1943-1945	
	15	Minutes, Circle No. 9, 1932-1939	
	16	Treasurer's Record Book, Circle No. 1, 1936-1947	
	17	Women's Society Information, (1942-1959)	
	18-19	Epworth League Materials, (1894-1910, 1938)	
	20	Church Gifts and Memorials, (1948-1960)	
	21	Pipe Organ Specifications, n.d.	
	22	A Study on Family Problems, 1946	
	23	Crusade for Progress, 1973	
	24	<u>A Child is Born</u> by Stephen Benet, n. d.	
	25-26	Photographs, , 1955-1956, n.d. (20, 34 negs.)	
	27	Organization Meeting for "Circuit Rider," 1951	
	28	Rock River Conference Programs, (1904-1956)	
	29-31	Minutes, Annual Rock River Conference, (1862-1872)	
5	1-10	Minutes, Annual Rock River Conference, (1910-1960)	
	11-12	Minutes, Centennial Camp-Meeting Association, Rockford District, Rock River Conference, 1876-1903	
6	1	Minutes, Centennial Camp-Meeting Association, 1903-1921	
	2	Correspondence, Articles of Agreement, Camp Epworth, 1940-1944	
	3-4	Treasurer's Book, Epworth Camp Grounds, (1910, 1930-1932)	
	5	Annual Reports, Methodist Woman's Assoc. Rock River Conference, 1926-1929	
	6-7	<u>The United Methodist</u> , (1961-1974)	
	8	Rock River Seminary Catalogue, 1874	
	9	Boy Scouts of America Records and Certificates 1916-1918	
	10	Methodist Federation for Social Action, 1950-1952	
Oversize	3 volumes	Scrapbooks, (1941-1950)	