

# Archives and Special Collections

University Libraries



**MSS 6 / PSC 2**

## **Church Records Collection, 1838-1995**

2 boxes; .5 cu. ft.

### History

According to Frank D. Haimbaugh, local newspaperman, writing on early Muncie history, the first church services in the county were usually held in peoples' homes. The traditional belief is that the first services were held in Perry Township, in the 1820s, in the homes of the Vanarsdal, Lee, Blunt, and Richardson families, who were among the very first settlers. Cornelius Vanarsdal is given credit for holding the first service and later became a leading figure in the founding of the Christian Church at New Burlington.

Haimbaugh also records that the first church service in the old Muncietown was held in 1829, when Rev. Charles Downey held church services in the newly constructed courtroom in the county building, just north of Main Street on the west side of High Street. Served through the 1830s by intermittent circuit riders, the Muncie circuit was established in 1836 and in 1839, the Methodists erected a small frame building at the northwest corner of Washington and Elm.

### Scope and Content

This collection seems to be the result of the efforts of Ross Johnson, curator of the Delaware County Archives, at the time of the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Mr. Johnson sent letters to various Delaware County churches if they would be willing to deposit their historical records in the archives. The collection contains the records of thirty-one local churches.

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**Church Records Collection**

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Directory, Delaware County and Muncie Churches, January 1964
	2	Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, Muncie – 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1905-1975
	3	Avondale Methodist Church, Muncie – Membership Rolls, no date
	4	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1966
	5	Souvenir Directory, 1896
	6	Bethel AME Church, Muncie – 88 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program, 1888-1956 and news clipping
	7	Christ Temple Church, Muncie – 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Program, 1977, and Synopsis of Church History
	8	Christian Chapel, South Macedonia Pike – Membership Lists and Minutes, 1862-1923, and other miscellany
	9	Church of God in Christ, Maynard Temple, Muncie – Notes on History, no date
	10	Corinth Central Christian Church, Harrison Township – Newspaper clipping, November 8, 1975
	11	Eden Congregational-Christian Church – Newspaper clipping, no date
	12	First Baptist Church, Muncie – Centennial Anniversary, 1859-1959
	13	First Christian Church, Muncie – Photocopy of Scrapbook, no date
	14	First Presbyterian Church, Muncie – Bulletins, 1922, 1928, 1935
	15	Church History, 1838-1898
	16	<u>The First Hundred Years</u> , by Belle Thomas, 1938
	17	List of Members and baptisms, Photocopies, ca. 1838-1868
	18	Programs, 1913, 1920, 1925, 1941
	19	Records from the Session Records, ca. 1838-1867, a typed transcript by Mary Young, 1963
	20	Session Records, Photocopies, 1838-1867
	21	First United Church of Christ, Muncie – History, 1891-1974
	22	First United Presbyterian Church, Muncie – Annual Report and Church Directory, 1976-77
	23	First Universalist Church, Muncie – History, 1855-1954
	24	History, 1954-1968
	25	Index and Register, 1859-1911
	26	List of Ministers, 1859-1974
2	1	Fountain Square United Methodist Church, Muncie – Bulletin, Bicentennial Sunday, June 27, 1976
	2	Friends Memorial Church, Muncie – Centennial Celebration Program, 1976; Newspaper Clipping 1976
	3	Gaston United Methodist Church – History, April 1976
	4	Gethsemane United Methodist Church, Muncie – Centennial, <u>Muncie Star</u> Supplement, April 28, 1995
	5	Program, Gay Nineties Dinner, May 4, 1995

- 6 Grace Episcopal Church, Muncie – Membership List, 1893
- 7 Greater Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Muncie – Bulletins, 1978
- 8 Hazelwood Christian Church, Muncie – 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin, 1993
- 9 High Street United Methodist Church – Directories, 1968-1974
- 10       History, ca. 1975
- 11       Miscellany, 1922 and no date
- 12 Jackson Street Christian Church, Muncie – A Brief Historical Treatise, 1933
- 13 Morningside United Methodist Church, Muncie – Bulletins, History, Lists and  
      Records, 1963-1976
- 14 Mt. Zion Methodist Church – Newspaper clipping, 1963; History, Undated
- 15 Pike’s Peak Christian Church, Salem Township – History, 1970, 1989; News  
      clippings, 1972, undated
- 16 Shaffer Chapel AME Church, Muncie – Program and History, 1973
- 17 Shawnee Heights Baptist Church (formerly Walnut Street Baptist Church),  
      Muncie – Bulletins, Directories, and Programs, 1966 – 1974
- 18 Trinity United Methodist Church, Muncie – Centennial, Muncie Star Supplement,  
      April 28, 1995
- 19 Union Grove Church of the Brethren – History, 1972