

Archives and Special Collections

University Libraries



MSS 124 / P 53 / OVA 35 / POVA 32

Avondale United Methodist Church Records, 1838, 1921-1991

4 boxes. 3.8 cu. Ft.

History

The Avondale United Methodist Church was established in Muncie in 1891, giving the south Muncie community a church. Churchgoers often found it difficult because of a lack of sidewalks, streetcars or buses to attend services at the mother church, High Street Methodist. Dr. C.U. Wade, pastor of the High Street Church helped the south side residents to form a society of Methodists. Canvassing the neighborhood, Dr. Wade located 20 persons who formed the church's original charter and he served as the church's first pastor.

During the summer of 1891, a church building was erected at the corner of Tenth St. and Samson Ave. Dedicated November 8, 1891, the church was a two-room frame structure; the larger north room was the auditorium, which was separated from the smaller room by a series of folding doors. The seven foot square entrance was equipped with two sets of double swinging doors, one set leading into each room. The belfry extended over the entrance and terminated in a tall four-sided pyramid to a point. Two large stoves heated the building. It had gaslights and a seating capacity for 200. In 1892, baptisms were conducted in White River near the High Street Bridge.

In April 1892, the Rev. J.A. Ruley became the second pastor and Rev. Thomas Sells followed a year later. A smallpox epidemic and the Panic of 1893 caused the Avondale Church to be unable to support a full time minister, so the Church became a mission of the High Street Church until 1895, when it again became an independent organization. Through the years the Avondale Church has continued to show steady growth. In 1904, a basement was dug at night and the dirt removed by the men and boys of the church after they came home from their office and factory work.

In 1920, the growing congregation realized that more space was needed. Under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. J. Walter Gibson, who had some building experience, the Church built a new two story brick structure with a seating capacity of 600 on the site of the old church. The first church building was turned halfway around and moved to the back of the lot and rebuilt into the north part of the present building. Most of the building material was retrieved from the old Tabor church southeast of Muncie, which was torn down. The cost of the new building was \$30,000. In the fall of 1929 a two-story brick parsonage was added.

The Avondale Church survived the economically hard 1930s and the war years of the 1940s. New Sunday School classrooms were added in the 1950s and adjacent property was purchased for parking. The Church continued to remodel its physical facilities with the congregation donating much of the material and the labor towards remodeling projects. In April 1991, the congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Scope and Content

The Collection contains the records of the Avondale United Methodist Church, including annual reports, attendance records, board minutes, budgets and financial reports, correspondence, directories, a history of the church, membership lists, officers, programs, publications and scrapbooks from various years ranging from 1891 to 1991.

P 53 includes photographs and two photograph albums ranging from the 1890s to 1990s.

Oversized materials can be found in OVA 32 and POVA 32.

Revised by M. Read, 7/17/2007

MSS 124
Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	1	Annual Report, 1951-1952
	2	Annual Report, 1957
	3	Attendance Record, 1968
	4	Attendance Records, 1966-1972
	5	Attendance Record-Progressive, 1951,1954, and 1975
	6	Board-Mailing Lists, 1968-1969
	7	Board Minutes, 1913-1914
	8	Board Minutes, 1924-1934
	9	Board Minutes, 1932-1938
	10	Board Minutes, 1940-1962
	11	Board Minutes and Related Material, 1948-1951
	12	Board Minutes and Related Material, 1962-1966
	13	Board Minutes and Related Material, 1966-1969
	14	Board Minutes and Related Material, 1972-1974
	15	Budget, 1919-1920
	16	Budget, 1944
	17	Budget, 1958-1959
	18	Budget, 1960s
	19	Budget, 1970s
	20	Budget, 1982, 1987
	21	Budget, 1992
	22	Bylaws-Avonaires, 1953
	23	Calendar, 1910
	24	Certificate-Epworth Forest Institute, 1934-1936
	25	Charge Conference, 1970
	26	Charge Conference, 1972
	27	Charge Conference, 1973
	28	Charge Conference, 1976
	29	Charge Conference, 1977
	30	Charge Conference, 1979
	31	Charge Conference, 1980
	32	Charge Conference, 1984
	33	Charge Conference, 1985
	34	Charter--Troop 6, 1948
	35	Charter Members and Officers--WSCS, 1960s
	36	Class Roll-"I Will", 1960s
	37	Committee--Finance, 1967, 1972
	38	Constitution and Bylaws, 1911
	39	Contract--Masonry for Educational Unit
	40	Cookbook, 1930s?

- 41 Correspondence, 1946, 1991
- 42 Directories, 1896, 1923, 1925, 1928
- 43 Directories, 1976, 1983
- 44 Directory, 1991
- 45 Finance Report, 1981, 1984, 1987
- 46 Guidelines--*Together Magazine*, 1960s
- 47 Guest Register, 1946-1947
- 48 History, 1984
- 49 History, 1891-1991
- 50 History, n.d.
- 51 History, Supplement, 1960s
- 52 Insurance Report, 1961
- 53 Membership--BBC Sunday School Class, 1950s
- 54 Membership--Cultivation List
- 55 Membership Lists, 1962-1968
- 56 Membership List, 1970, 1972
- 57 Minutes--Ethel Jackson Circle, 1955-1961
- 58 Minutes and Related Material--Council On Ministries, 1969, 1975
- 2 1 Minutes and Related Material--WSCS, 1940-1946
- 2 Minutes and Related Material--WSCS, 1947-1953
- 3 Minutes and Related Material--WSCS, 1953-1959
- 4 Minutes and Related Material--WSCS, 1959-1965
- 5 Minutes and Related Material--Commission on Education, 1950s, 1962-1968
- 6 News clippings, n.d.
- 7 Officers, Administrative Council, Committees, 1982
- 8 Officers and Committees, 1972
- 9 Officers, Commissions & Committees, 1965-1968
- 10 Order Form-Dossal Curtains, 1972
- 11 Program, 1904
- 12 Program--Groundbreaking for Educational Unit, 1968
- 13 Program--*No Account David*, 1950s
- 14 Program--75th Anniversary Celebration, Nov. 13, 1966
- 15 Programs, 1896, 1921-1959
- 16 Programs, 1960s
- 17 Programs, 1970s
- 18 Programs, 1980s
- 19 Publication--*The Avondale United Methodist Church News*, 1984
- 20 Publication--*The Avondale Fall Exposition*, 1938?
- 21 Publication--*The Avondale Sentinel*, 1920
- 22 Publication--*Avondale Voice*, 1950
- 23 Publication--*The Avondale Youth Reporter*, 1945
- 24 Publication--Epworth Forest, *The Institute Megaphone*, 1928
- 25 Publication--*Lincoln School*, 1976
- 26 Publication--*The Silent Evangel*, 1914
- 27 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1914-1916

- 28 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1921
- 29 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1926-1927
- 30 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1927-1928
- 31 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1928-1932
- 32 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1932-1936
- 33 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1937-1940
- 34 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1940-1944
- 35 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1944-1948
- 36 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1948-1060
- 3 1 Record Book--Church School Secretary, 1960-1964
- 2 Record Book--Church School Secretary-Treasurer, 1968-1984
- 3 Report--Financial Secretary, 1952
- 4 Report--Quarterly Conference Roll & Attendance Record, 1957-1962
- 5 Report--Treasurer's, 1960s
- 6 Report--Treasurer's, Building Fund, 1960s
- 7 Report--Treasurer's, WSCS, 1940-1949
- 8 Report--Treasurer's, WSCS, 1949-1955
- 9 Report--Treasurer's, WSCS, 1955-1960
- 10 Report--Treasurer's, WSCS, 1960-1965
- 11 Roster--Administrative Council, n.d.
- 12 State of the Church, 1991
- 4 Membership Cards, 1838-1922
- Membership Book, 1923-1925
- Membership Book, 1933-1964
- Scrapbook, 1957-1962

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