

McLean County Museum of History

Second Presbyterian Church Collection

Processed
Spring 2017
Megan Dunker
Updated Winter 2023
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1891-2015
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives

Brief History

The Second Presbyterian Church was founded in 1855 as The New School Presbyterian Church, and was renamed Second Presbyterian Church a year later. It was founded by Presbyterians in Bloomington who thought slavery was a sin, and so banded together to form a church with this belief. The original meetinghouse for the new chartered church was in Major’s Hall and church was held there until the church building was completed. Lincoln made his famous “Lost Speech” at this location, and became nationally famous from then on. In 1900, the building was badly damaged in a fire and was forced to rebuild. In 1938, the building was remodeled, and was remodeled again in 1969. The Second Presbyterian Church building was torn down and a new building’s construction began in 2004. Since then, this church has grown and enhanced its programs, such as its choral program that has toured locally for over twenty years.

Scope

This collection features various documents such as annual reports, directories, founding anniversary booklets, remodeling reports, sermons, bulletins, and information about the choral program spanning from 1891-present.

Folder Inventory

Annual Reports/Meetings

Folder 1: Annual Reports/Meetings 1916-1951

- 1.1 1916, 1919, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928 (2), 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1947 (A), 1947 (B), 1950.

Folder 2: Annual Reports/Meetings 1951-1969

- 2.1 1951, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969.

Folder 3: Annual Meetings/Reports 1970-1976

- 3.1 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976.

Folder 4: Annual Meetings/Reports 1986-2007

- 4.1 1986, 1989, 1991, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

Folder 5: Directories

- 5.1 No Date (Color), No Date, (B/W), 1990, 1995, 2005.

Folder 6: History of Second Presbyterian Church

- 6.1. Bill of sale, C.W. Holder & Company, 1863
- 6.2. Historical Sketch of the Second Presbyterian Church 1891.
- 6.3. Fiftieth Anniversary Second Presbyterian Church 1905.
- 6.4. Seventieth Anniversary Second Presbyterian Church 1925. 2 copies.
- 6.5. Missionary Societies, 1926-1927
- 6.6. Historical Outline Men's Club 1943. 3 copies.
- 6.7. An Historical Outline, February 11, 1943, 2 copies
- 6.8. The Alpha and Omega 1945.
- 6.9. Centennial Observance Second Presbyterian Church 1955.
- 6.10. Membership letter, Harold R. Martin to Earl E. and Connie Meyer, July 7, 1959
- 6.11. Presbyterian Life October 1961 issue covering Second Presbyterian History 1930 – 1961
- 6.12. New member directory, 1963
- 6.13. Let the Stones Live 1991.
- 6.14. Susie Shew in regards to her father's ministry No Date.
- 6.15. Second Presbyterian Church History No Date.
- 6.16. There is Joy. 2 copies. No Date.

Folder 7: Church Remodeling/Building

- 7.1 We His Servants Arise and Build 1955
- 7.2 Investigation and Report on Building 1965
- 7.3 Specifications of Materials and Labor for Rehabilitation of Existing Building 1966
- 7.4 Proposed Remodeling Program No Date.

7.5 Building Improvements No Date

Folder 8: General Sermons/Dedications/Etc.

- 8.1 My Parishioners New Year's Letter 1891.
- 8.2 Reverend John W. Dinsmore D.D. A Souvenir 1891.
- 8.3 Dedication Second Presbyterian Church 1896.
- 8.4 Manual Second Presbyterian Church 1908.
- 8.5 Church Rededication 1940. 2 copies.
- 8.6 Let's Look and See What's Happening 1950
- 8.7 It Can Happen Here 1951.
- 8.8 This is Second Presbyterian Church 1952. 2 copies.
- 8.9 Your Church Does it Again 1953.
- 8.10 Presbyterian Life at Second Press November 1960, October 1961.
- 8.11 "The Laws of Prayer," 24 Mar 1963
- 8.12 "The Meaning of Intercessory Prayer," 31 Mar 1963.
- 8.13 "Why Pray in the Name of Jesus?" Harold R. Martin, 21 April 1963.
- 8.14 "The Mystic Power of the Holy Spirit," Harold R. Martin, 2 Jun 1963.
- 8.15 "Union with God, A Key to the Kingdom," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.16 "A Key that Releases," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.17 "The Master Key," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.18 "The First Key to the Kingdom," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.19 "Why Pray?" Harold R. Martin, interim minister, undated.
- 8.20 "Your Vision Made Clear," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.21 "The Key that is Hard to Turn," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.22 "The Key to the Kingdom in time of Crisis," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.23 "A Key to a Small Room in the Kingdom," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.24 "New Life – A Key to the Kingdom," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.25 "the Key to the Secret Chamber," Harold R. Martin, undated.
- 8.26 Committee on Pastor Unanimously Recommends Rev. Robert W. Youngs D.D. No Date.
- 8.27 Installation of Reverend Robert Wells Youngs as Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church 1969.
- 8.28 All Saints Day Memorial Rededication 1970.
- 8.29 Weekend of Dedication 1982
- 8.30 Gifts that Keep on Giving 2003.
- 8.31 Commissioning Class 2010.
- 8.32 50th Anniversary Celebration (Members) May 3, 2015.
- 8.33 Second Presbyterian Church Invites You. 2 copies.
- 8.34 On Raising Hell By Dr. Robert W. Youngs Sermon Preached at Second Presbyterian Church No Date.
- 8.35 Questions and Answers about Our Church No Date.
- 8.36 Welcome to Second Presbyterian Church No Date.
- 8.37 Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ in the Heart of the Community No Date.
- 8.38 "The Autumnal Bush," Dr. Robert W. Youngs
- 8.39 "How are things in Jericho?" Dr. Robert W. Youngs
- 8.40 "What about Vietnam," Dr. Robert W. Youngs
- 8.41 "The Valley of Baca," Dr. Robert W. Youngs

Folder 9: Choir Programs and Pipe Organ Dedication

- 9.1 Thirtieth Anniversary of Choirs 1967.
- 9.2 Fiftieth Anniversary of the Choir Program 1987.
- 9.3 Pipe Organ Dedication 1982.
- 9.4 Chancel Choir Mission Tours 1979, 1981 (2), 1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992 (2), 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999 (2), 2003 (2), 2004 (2), 2005 (2), 2006 (2), 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 (2), 2012.
- 9.5 Chancel Choir Program June 21 1998
- 9.6 Mission Tour Directories 1992, 1994 (2), 1995
- 9.7 Second Presbyterian Concert Series Program No Date.
- 9.8 Advent Concert Series Program No Date.

Folder 10: General Bulletins

- 10.1 January 21, 1900
- 10.2 Community Thanksgiving Service, November 25, 1943
- 10.3 June 20, 1948
- 10.4 September 23, 1951
- 10.5 Concert of Sacred Music, March 6, 1955
- 10.6 April 10, 1955
- 10.7 April 27, 1957
- 10.8 Dedication of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ, October 14, 1959
- 10.9 May 15, 1960
- 10.10 An American Bicentennial Observance, July 4, 1976, 2 copies
- 10.11 Annual Christmas Vespers, December 13, 1987
- 10.12 Christmas Vespers, December 17, 1989
- 10.13 The Second Press News Bulletin February 6, 1984. 2 copies.
- 10.14 The Second Press Magazine August 2005, September 2005, December 2005, January 2006, February 2006, March 2006, April 2006, May 2006, January 2009, April 2009, July 2009, January 2010
- 10.15 "Lincoln's Last Ride through Bloomington" Luncheon Bulletin May 15, 2015
- 10.16 Second Presbyterian Church "Sharing the Heart of Christ in the Heart of the Community" No Date.

Folder 11: Newspaper Articles

- 11.1 "Laying the stone," Daily Pantagraph, October 16. 1895
- 11.2 "Church will be raised," Pantagraph, October 30, 2003
- 11.3 "Salvaging the sanctuary," Pantagraph, June 19, 2004
- 11.4 "Roots branch from downtown," Pantagraph, May 22, 2005
- 11.5 "Through the past, into the future," Decatur Herald & Review, June 17, 2006

Folder 12: Building Committee Correspondence

- 12.1 May 17, 1951

- 12.2 To Steering Committee, from Lyle Straight, undated
- 12.3 May 22, 1951
- 12.4 June 7, 1951
- 12.5 June 28, 1951
- 12.6 July 5, 1951
- 12.7 July 5, 1951
- 12.8 July 7, 1951
- 12.9 August 6, 1951, original plus 2 copies
- 12.10 October 4, 1951
- 12.11 October 26, 1951
- 12.12 February 8, 1952
- 12.13 May 28, 1952
- 12.14 May 19, 1954
- 12.15 May 25, 1954
- 12.16 June 3, 1954
- 12.17 August 2, 1954
- 12.18 September 8, 1954
- 12.19 September 28, 1954
- 12.20 November 12, 1954
- 12.21 December 2, 1954
- 12.22 December 16, 1954
- 12.23 May 18, 1955
- 12.24 May 23, 1955
- 12.25 June 20, 1955
- 12.26 June 28, 1955
- 12.27 December 20, 1955

Folder 13: Building Committee Notes and Paperwork

- 13.1 Committee Notes, October 1, 1953
- 13.2 Committee Notes, October 18, 1951
- 13.3 Committee Notes, November 5, 1951
- 13.4 Committee Notes, November 15, 1951
- 13.5 Committee Notes, November 21, 1951
- 13.6 Committee Notes, January 14, 1952
- 13.7 Committee Notes, March 7, 1952
- 13.8 Committee Notes, April – June, 1954
- 13.9 Committee Notes, June 17, 1952
- 13.10 Committee Notes, July 14, 1954
- 13.11 Committee Notes, July 1954
- 13.12 Miscellaneous notes, handwritten and typed
- 13.13 Committee paperwork

Folder 14: Session And Congregational Meetings

- 14.1 December 6, 1999

Folder 15: Building Committee – Architectural Renderings

- 15.1 Block layout showing property of church, August 14, 1951
- 15.2 Elevation on Monroe Street, June 3, 1952, 2 copies

Folder 16: Structural Report, 2003

- 16.1 Condition assessment and feasibility study, Main Church structure, April 9, 2003

Folder 17: Brochures

- 17.1 “This is Second Presbyterian Church,” 1950
- 17.2 “Second Presbyterian Church Invites You!” undated, c. 1950s
- 17.3 “2nd Presbyterian Church,” undated
- 17.4 “Second Presbyterian Church,” undated, c. 1990s

Folder 18: Youth Programs

- 18.1 “Sunday School Conference,” December 18-19, 1884
- 18.2 “Ninth Annual Spring Repertoire Recital,” Youth Choir, May 19, 1946
- 18.3 “The Thirtieth Year of Choirs,” undated
- 18.4 “Youth Opportunities for your Age Group,” undated
- 18.5 “Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor,” card, undated
- 18.6 “Sabbath School,” Fourth Quarter, undated
- 18.7 “2pc Amazing Chancel Choir tour,” June 9-17, 2001

Folder 16: Miscellaneous History

- 16.1 Missionary Societies, 1926-1927
- 16.2 An Historical Outline, February 11, 1943, 2 copies
- 16.3 New member directory, 1963
- 16.4 Bill of sale, C.W. Holder & Company, 1863
- 16.5 Membership letter, Harold R. Martin to Earl E. and Connie Meyer, July 7, 1959
- 16.6 Presbyterian Life October 1961 issue covering Second Presbyterian History 1930 – 1961
- 16.7 Flier for Earth Sunday Care 4/30/23 Fair” 2023

Folder 19: Anniversary Programs

- 19.1 Twentieth Anniversary, July 7, 1890
- 19.2 Seventieth Anniversary, April 12-15, 1925
- 19.3 Program of Rededication, January 7-14, 1940
- 19.4 Centennial Pageant, “Our Heritage of Growth,” October 23, 1955
- 19.5 Fiftieth Anniversary of the Choir Program, 1987

Folder 20: World War II Living History Project

- 20.1 “A Living History: World War II,” pamphlet
- 20.2 Veteran's Breakfast program, 2010

See Also:

“A Church a Man and a Song,” article in McCall’s magazine, February 1950, pp 24, – 91, 92, featuring Rev. Harold Martin, Minister of Second Presbyterian Church and founder of Children’s Choir Program. Drawer FD-5-126.