

**McLean County Museum of History**

**University Christian Church  
Collection**

Processed by  
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**Collection Information**

Volume of Collection:	One Box
Collection Dates:	1885-2008
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.
Other Finding Aids:	None
Location:	Archives
Notes:	See also Photograph Collection—Subjects Churches & Temples—University Christian Church Normal

## **Brief History**

The First Christian Church of Normal was established in 1872 at the corner of Ash and Broadway Streets. The congregation of this church grew and the church added more organizations and societies including a Women's Missionary Society and the Christian Women's Board of Missions. The church site was remodeled in 1887 to meet the needs of a larger membership. During this time, the church was the site of revivals and a heavily attended Sunday school.

In 1913, a new church was erected at North and Fell Streets in downtown Normal. Most of the construction costs were pledged by members of the church. The new building was needed because of additional organizations and a larger congregation. The Thimble Society, Christian Endeavor, Chi Rho, and CYF groups were popular among the congregation.

The First Christian Church of Normal became the University Christian Church in July of 1946. At this time, the Church started a missionary program sending members to Africa, a boys' basketball team, and the Disciples Student Fellowship. A fire caused much water and smoke damage to the church on February 5, 1962. The Church voted to remodel and add an extension to the building in order to repair the damage. The addition was dedicated in November 1963.

In the 1990s the church started sharing its space with community groups and other churches: Lincoln Community College, North Street Nursery School, Korean Church, and the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The University Christian Church performed services for MARC Center and SPICE program offering assistance to educate and train entire families of children with disabilities. The Church again remodeled the building at North and Fell and celebrated the 125th anniversary of the church.

In 1996, Bloomington's Second Christian Church disbanded and twenty members transferred to University Christian in Normal.

The University Church closed its doors in 2008. The building was demolished in March 2009 and will be replaced by a multi-story commercial and residential building.

## **Scope Note**

The collection contains booklets produced by the University Christian Church, directories, outreach materials, Prayer and Social Meeting topic calendars, budget materials, and Church histories.

**Folder 1: History and Recollections**

- 1.1 "A Century of Preparation, 1872-73 1972-73," University Christian Church, Normal, Illinois
- 1.2 "Memories and Recollections 125 Years of Praising God, 1873-1998," includes memories of members
- 1.3 "History of University Christian Church: Our Continuing Journey, 1973-1998"

**Folder 2: History-Dillon Manuscript**

- 2.1 "First Christian Church of Normal," handwritten manuscript
- 2.2 "First Christian Church of Normal (Some Facts Concerning Its History Given at the Sixtieth Anniversary, June 11, 1933)," Jessie M. Dillon, 7 pages

**Folder 3: Directories**

- 3.1 First Christian Church 1913
- 3.2 University Christian Church 1980
- 3.3 University Christian Church 1996
- 3.4 University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 2001
- 3.5 University Christian Church Membership Directory 2004-2005
- 3.6 University Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Membership Directory, 2007-2008

**Folder 4: Overview and Budget**

- 4.1 "Fulfill Your Ministry—1970-1971," University Christian Church, includes information about church services and committees and provides projected budget for 1970-1971

**Folder 5: Gilliland Address and Memorial**

- 5.1 *Twenty-five Years of Religious Life in Bloomington*, An Address by rev. James H. Gilliland, 1912, memorial and account of funeral

**Folder 6: Newspaper Articles and Bulletins**

- 6.1 "Normal Christian Church Completed," *Pantagraph*, February 1, 1913, p.12
- 6.2 Dedication First Christian Church, February 9, 1913
- 6.3 Easter, 1938 (2 copies)

**Folder 7: Cards: Prayer Meeting Topics, Young People's Meeting Topics, Lesson Questions**

- 7.1 Service Card (folded, but now in two parts)— invitation to services and auxiliary group meetings, undated. Pastor A.P. Cobb.
- 7.2 Lesson cards for February 22, March 1, and March 8, 1885. Published by American Baptist Publication Society.
- 7.3 Young People's Meeting Social Meeting Themes, Dec 1888-Mar 1889.
- 7.4 Young People's Meeting Social Meeting Themes, Apr-Jun 1889. 2 copies.
- 7.5 Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor calendar of Prayer Meeting Topics, Feb 1890-Jan 1891.
- 7.6 Y.P.S.C.E., list of Officers and Topics for October-December, year unknown.
- 7.6 Prayer-Meeting Themes, July-December 1886

- 7.7 Prayer-Meeting Themes, January-June 1888
- 7.8 Prayer-Meeting Themes, July-December 1888. 2 copies.
- 7.9 Prayer-Meeting Themes, January-June 1889.
- 7.10 Prayer Meeting Topics for Society of Christian Endeavor, October 1889-January 1890.
- 7.11 Prayer Meeting Themes, July-December 1889. Handwritten notes on back.
- 7.12 Prayer-Meeting Themes, January-June 1890.
- 7.13 Prayer Meeting Topics, July-December 1892.
  
- 7.13 Prayer Meeting Topics, January- June 1892.
- 7.14 Prayer-Meeting Topics, January-June 1893. 2 copies.
- 7.15 Prayer-Meeting Topics, September -December 1893 (erroneously labeled Sep to Jan 1894)
  
- 7.16 Welcome card for all services, undated. Chas D. Hougham, Supply Minister.

### **Folder 8: Outreach**

- 8.1 Card, First Christian Church, outreach for services, Bible School, YPSCE, and societies, no date
- 8.2 Booklet, University Christian Church Disciples of Christ, outreach to community, no date
- 8.3 Card, University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), no date
- 8.4 Magnet, University Christian Church Normal, ILL 1873-1998
- 8.5 Reprint from *Normalite* issue September 15, 1939. "Our Hymnic Hour" on WJBC

### **Folder 9: B.N.S. Class**

- 9.1 B.N.S. Class, 1926 First Christian Bible School includes motto, flower, and meeting times with lists of names
- 9.2 B.N.S. Class, First Christian Bible School, 1928, includes motto, flower, and meeting times with lists of names (Mrs. D.E. Denman in pencil on front)
- 9.3 B.N.S. Class, First Christian Bible School, 1929, includes motto, flower, and meeting times with lists of names (2 copies)
- 9.4 B.N.S. Class of First Christian Church, 1940, includes list of names

### **Folder 10: Building Program**

- 10.1 "University Christian Church presents a plan of necessity," building plan and photographs included, no date

### **Folder 11: Thimble Society**

- 11.1 Card, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1922, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.2 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1925, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.3 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1927, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.4 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1928, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.5 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1935, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses

- 11.6 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1936, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.7 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1938, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.8 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1939, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.9 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1940, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.10 Booklet, First Christian Church Thimble Society, 1941, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.11 Booklet, Normal Christian Church Thimble Society, 1942, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.12 Booklet, Thimble Society 1943, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses
- 11.13 Booklet, Thimble Society '44, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)
- 11.14 Booklet, Thimble Society 1945, includes list of officers and monthly hostesses (2 copies)

**Folder 12: Town of Normal Centennial**

- 12.1 Blank Certificate, Town of Normal Centennial, May 1965

**Folder 13: Second Christian Church**

- 13.1 "History of Second Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): History of Second Christian Church Disciples of Christ Mulberry and Evans," written by May Jackson and Helen Garner (2 copies) *Note: According to this text, in 1996, this church disbanded, with twenty members transferring into University Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Normal.*