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0757: First Presbyterian Church [Huntington, WV] Records, 1839-1990

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**REGISTER
OF THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [Huntington, W.
Va.] RECORDS**

**Accession Number
2007/02.0757**



Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2008

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLECTION

Table of Contents

Accession Information	Page 3
Abstract	Page 3
History of the First Presbyterian Church	Page 4
Scope and Content	Page 5
Collection Inventory	
Series I: Histories	Page 6
Series II: Church Registers	Page 6
Series III: Minutes of Session	Page 7
Series IV: Bulletins	Page 10
Series V: Church Groups	
Subseries 1: Church Group Directories/Yearbooks	Page 10
i. Men-of-the-Church	
ii. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Women's Auxiliary First Presbyterian Church	
iii. "Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church Huntington, WV—March 19, 1942"	
iv. Mothers' Class Yearbooks	
v. Women's Auxiliary/Yearbook of the Women of the Church/Presbyterian Women	
Subseries 2: Church Group Minutes	Page 11
i. Women's Groups	
ii. The Gleaners	
iii. Board of Deacons	

Marshall University

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH COLLECTION

Accession Number: 2007/02.0757

Processed By: Matt Gibson, Catherine Porter, and Lori Thompson; History 651, Spring 2008

Date Completed: April 2008

Location: Morrow Library, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV 25705.

Corporate Name: The First Presbyterian Church of Huntington

Date: 1839-1990, Bulk of Content: 1880-1990

Extent of Content: 9 Linear Feet

System of Arrangement: Box arrangement is the original order imposed by the creator of the collection, the First Presbyterian Church.

Restriction on Access: None

Related Material: There are, in addition to this collection, 8 boxes of unprocessed records from the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington. Microfilm of much of the processed collection, including "Register 1839-1985 & Session Minutes 1880-1926," "Session Minutes 1928-1962," "Session Minutes 1982-1986," and "Various Church Women's Society Minutes 1895-1986, is also available at Morrow Library (Labeled MF-WV-0001, -0002, -0003, and -0004, respectively).

This collection was a gift from the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington.

Abstract of Collection

This collection contains records of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington from 1839 to 1990, with the bulk of the content falling between 1880 and 1990. Within the collection are records of Church finance, meetings, government, and social groups, along with histories of the First Presbyterian Church and marriage/baptism registers.

History of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington, West Virginia

(This history was taken entirely from First Presbyterian Church of Huntington Manuscript Collection held at the Marshall University Special Collections Department, Morrow Library Accession 2007/02.0757 Box One: Series 1: Histories Bound Volume 2)

When pioneers settled in Cabell County, West Virginia there was no church on their side of the Ohio River. They did however find a church on the Ohio side in Burlington, Ohio that was established in 1786. On Sundays, the Cabell County churchgoers would load their families into boats and row and push themselves to Burlington to worship, an all day affair. Sometimes the preacher at the Burlington church would travel to the West Virginia side and conduct services in a barn, home or woodland. The Cabell County worshippers continued this arrangement for thirty years after the first permanent settling of Cabell County.

In 1837 the West Virginia Presbyterian farmers began to consider establishing a church of their own to avoid the long river trip. It was also at that time that a movement was launched in

Guyandotte, West Virginia to form an academy. The Presbyterians indicated they would support this endeavor if they were to be permitted the use of the academy's Chapel for their religious services. The leaders of the movement to build the academy agreed to the arrangement and in 1838 the building of the academy was underway. On June 30, 1838 James Holderby and his wife Lucy deeded to the board of trustees of the new academy a site consisting of 1.25 acres for \$40.00. The academy was named Marshall after John Marshall, then Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and a personal friend of John Laidley, one of the supporters of the academy project. Before the building was complete, the anxious Presbyterians held their first service in it.

The newly found Presbyterian Church that was founded on Saturday, July 28, 1838 in the newly constructed chapel of Marshall College was called, "The Western Church of the Greenbrier Presbytery." The church continued to be a part of the Greenbrier jurisdiction until 1894 when a second Presbytery was organized in West Virginia as a result of a movement sponsored by the church in Huntington. At a meeting on May 3, 1894 a resolution was adopted to divide the Greenbrier Presbytery into two Presbyteries.

At some point prior to 1870 the academy had been bought by the Southern Methodist Church and both denominations shared the chapel, alternating their weekly services. As the United States Civil War, ended the Southern Methodists lost the school and it was passed into the hands of private owners and then under state control as part of the Normal system. The Presbyterians had become accustomed to worshipping with the Southern Methodists and vice versa, so in 1870 the two denominations decided to unite and erect a church of their own. They acquired a half an acre on the old Holderby grove, which is now situated between what is now Fourteenth and Sixteenth Street and the Ohio River and the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. Holderby Chapel a small modest building was built largely by the money generated by "ice cream socials" held by the women of the church.

The Presbyterians and the Southern Methodists only worshipped in that building for a short while when Professor James E. Morrow, then head of the Marshall College invited the Presbyterians to worship again at Marshall College. On October 14, 1881 the Presbyterians and Southern Methodists sold their property in Holderby Grove. The Presbyterians remained at Marshall College for only a short time until they began considering a downtown site. Shortly before they erected their new chapel, they changed their name from "Western Church" to "Huntington Presbyterian Church." They settled on the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and the intersection of Tenth Street and in 1872 erected a chapel at the rear of the lot. In 1873 after they moved they changed their name again to the "First Presbyterian Church of Huntington."

On February 28, 1887 a clear title to the church was granted for the lot acquired by contract in 1872 and the Presbyterians also acquired the westerly half of the lot adjoining on the east for a parsonage site. On December 27, 1894 a committee was appointed to consider the advisability and feasibility of erecting a new church on the lot. In April of 1895 the church unanimously decided to build a new church. While under construction the congregation worshipped in the Hebrew Temple across the street. On August 18, 1895 at 7:00 P.M. the cornerstone of the new building was laid. The building was completed the following year and in October 1896 it was dedicated to the worship of God. The First Presbyterian Church of Huntington continues to worship in that same building.

Scope and Content

The First Presbyterian Church of Huntington Collection contains material dating back to the early nineteenth century, with the bulk of the items dating from between the 1880s and the 1990s. The collection consists mostly of 'Minutes of Session,' which relate to official church business; 'Bulletins,' which give information about church sermons, calendars, and events; and 'Church Groups,' which provide information on the social structure and individuals within the Church. There are extensive financial records pertaining to the church, as well as membership rosters for many Church groups, and some marriage/baptism registers. Also included are a few "histories" written by Church members and documents concerning Church government.

Within the 'Church Groups' section, there are several points to note. First, this section contains the records of a women's group that is variously called the Women's Auxiliary, Woman's Auxiliary, Women of the Church, the Ladies' Missionary Society, the Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society, the Ladies' Aid Society, and the Ladies' Guild. They are, however, all the same Church group. Secondly, there are records for other Church groups not related to the above (for example, the Mother's Group), as well as Directories and Yearbooks for these groups.

This collection will be interesting to anyone researching American Religious history, especially Mid-Atlantic, Appalachian, and/or Southern Church History. In addition, genealogists and local historians will find many of the group rosters, marriage certificates, and baptism registers mentioned above very helpful. A large part of the collection, curiously enough, relates to women in the Church, and will thus be beneficial to researchers interested in the history of American women, feminism, and gender-related topics.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Histories

0.25 Linear Feet

Box One

Bound Volume 1: Ring-bound notebook with the name Mrs. Charles V. Lallance handwritten on top. Contains handwritten notes on the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Huntington, possibly a first draft of Bound Volume 2. Also includes handwritten notes to self.

Bound Volume 2: Typed manuscript—"Several Histories of First Presbyterian Church Huntington, West Virginia" and "History of Womens (*sic*) Auxillary." Contains article cutouts and photographs, along with hand-drawn designs. Included are copies of a handwritten manuscript, appears to be the "Burlington Presbyterian Church Record," including baptisms and minutes of session dated from first half of 19th Century.

"The kodak (*sic*) picture of the old Burlington, Ohio Presbyterian Church was taken in 1905, by Charles V. Lallance, and though not clear, is believed to be the only picture of this church in existence (*sic*)." (*Taken from a page within the manuscript; the photograph is also included.*)

There is also a "History of Women's Work in the First Presbyterian Church in Huntington."

Folder 3: Original Index of Collection provided by the First Presbyterian Church.

Series II: Church Registers

0.25 Linear Feet

Box One

Bound Volume 4: Record Book No. 1 (1839-1894). A handwritten list of ministers that have served as church pastors. The leather-bound book is divided into six parts; the registers of Elders, Deacons, Communicants, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths. The Communicant Register is organized alphabetically. A "retired list" dated April 4, 1889. Only two pages are devoted to the Death Register.

Bound Volume 5: Record Book No. 2 (1894-1908). The book is divided into six parts; the registers of Elders, Deacons, Communicants, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths. Newspaper clippings are glued to the inside cover entitled "Another Church Free from a Heavy Debt" and "Synod of Virginia" (dated October 26, 1906).

Series III: Minutes of Session

4 Linear Feet

Box Two

The following five Bound Volumes of pre-1920 "Sessional Records" are handwritten Minutes books containing detailed transcripts of meetings, proceedings, some financial records, statistical reports, and all entries are concluded with personal signatures.

Bound Volume 1: April 5, 1880—April 8, 1895 (Labeled Volume 1)

Folder 1A: Contains letters of recommendation and certificates for transfers of parishioners from other congregations—(9 items taken from inside the back cover of Bound Volume 1, Box Two)

Bound Volume 2: 1895—1903 (Labeled Volume 2) Contains some typewritten

manuscripts and handwritten inserts. Also contains some correspondence.

Bound Volume 3: January 21, 1903—February 9, 1908 (Labeled Volume 3)

Bound Volume 4: February 9, 1908—September 29, 1912 (Labeled Volume 4)

Bound Volume 5: December 10, 1912—April 14, 1920 (Labeled Volume 5) Last primarily handwritten minute book.

Bound Volume 6: May, 1920—March, 1922 (Labeled Volume 6) This volume is primarily typewritten, but does contain some handwritten notes and some correspondence.

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Three

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: April 22, 1922—March 28, 1926 (Labeled Volume 7) Contains handwritten, loose leaf stationary notes between the front cover and first page.

Bound Volume 2: March 28, 1926—March 25, 1928 (Labeled Volume 8) Contains at least one handwritten note.

Bound Volume 3: April 1, 1928—March 4, 1929 (Labeled Volume 9)

Bound Volume 4: March 10, 1929—April 3, 1933 (Labeled Volume 10)

Bound Volume 5: April 5, 1933—April 8, 1935 (Labeled Volume 11)

Bound Volume 6: April 14, 1935—March 31, 1940 (Labeled Volume 12)

Bound Volume 7: April 3, 1940—November 15, 1943 (Labeled Volume 13)

Bound Volume 8: December 13, 1943—December 9, 1945 (Labeled Volume 14)

Bound Volume 9: December 14, 1945—December 28, 1947 (Labeled Volume 15)

Bound Volume 10: January 4, 1948—December 18, 1949 (Labeled Volume 16)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Four

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: January 1, 1950—December 31, 1951 (Labeled Volume 17)

Bound Volume 2: January 2, 1955—December 30, 1956 (Labeled Volume 19)

Bound Volume 3: January 6, 1957—December 28, 1958 (Labeled Volume 20)

Bound Volume 4: January 2, 1959—December 25, 1960 (Labeled Volume 21) (Includes some loose-leaf pages)

Bound Volume 5: January 1, 1961—December 30, 1962 (Labeled Volume 22)

Bound Volume 6: January 4, 1963—December 31, 1964 (Labeled Volume 23)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Five

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: January 3, 1965—December 26, 1965 (Labeled Volume 24)

Bound Volume 2: January 2, 1966—March 26, 1967 (Labeled Volume 25)

Bound Volume 3: April 2, 1967—March 24, 1968 (Labeled Volume 26)

Bound Volume 4: March 31, 1968—December 29, 1968 (Labeled Volume 27)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Six

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: January 3, 1969—December 28, 1969 (Labeled Volume 28)

Bound Volume 2: January 4, 1970—May 30, 1971 (Labeled Volume 29)

Bound Volume 3: June 6, 1971—January 14, 1973 (Labeled Volume 30)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Seven

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: February 2, 1973—August 29, 1976 (Labeled Volume 31)

Bound Volume 2: September 5, 1976—December 31, 1978 (Labeled Volume 32)

Bound Volume 3: January 3, 1979—January 3, 1982 (Labeled Volume 33)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Eight

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: January 20, 1982—December 20, 1983 (Labeled Volume 34)

Bound Volume 2: January 5, 1984—September 17, 1985 (Labeled Volume 35) (Includes some loose-leaf pages)

Bound Volume 3: September 1985—December 31, 1986 (Labeled Volume 36) (Includes some loose-leaf pages, envelopes, and cards.)

Series III: Minutes of Session

Box Nine

Bound Volumes of detailed minutes, budget analyses, correspondence regarding finance, annual statements of the general treasurer, and some handwritten notes.

Bound Volume 1: 1987—1988 (Labeled Volume 37) (Includes some loose-leaf pages, bookmarks)

Bound Volume 2: January 6, 1989—December 19, 1989 (Labeled Volume 38)

Bound Volume 3: January, 1990—December, 1990 (Labeled Volume 39) (Includes some loose-leaf pages)

Series IV: Bulletins

2.5 Linear Feet

Box Ten (1929-1945)

Bound Volumes of Church Bulletins—Includes morning and evening worship itinerary, notes, calendars for the week, programs of events, and lists of new members received.

Bound Volume 1: April 1, 1929—March 31, 1930

Bound Volume 2: April 6, 1930—March 22, 1931

Bound Volume 3: April 5, 1931—March 27, 1932

Bound Volume 4: April 3, 1932—November 5, 1933

Bound Volume 5: November 19, 1933—April 21, 1935

- Bound Volume 6:** April 28, 1935—June 28, 1936
- Bound Volume 7:** April 28, 1935—June 28, 1936 (Duplicate Copy)
- Bound Volume 8:** September 6, 1936—June 26, 1938
- Bound Volume 9:** September 18, 1938—September 1, 1940
- Bound Volume 10:** September 8, 1940—December 26, 1943
- Bound Volume 11:** January 2, 1944—December 30, 1945

Series IV: Bulletins

Box Eleven (1946-1960)

Bound Volumes of Church Bulletins—Includes morning and evening worship itinerary, notes, calendars for the week, programs of events, lists of new members received, and some photographs.

- Bound Volume 1:** January 6, 1946—December 26, 1948
- Bound Volume 2:** January 2, 1949—December 31, 1950
- Bound Volume 3:** January 1951—December 1952
- Bound Volume 4:** January 1953—December 1954 (Includes pamphlet entitled “A Primer on Gambling”)
- Bound Volume 5:** January 1955—December 1956 (Includes ads placed by The Gideons)
- Bound Volume 6:** January 1957—December 1958
- Bound Volume 7:** January 1959—December 1960 (Includes ads placed by the YWCA)

Series IV: Bulletins

Box Twelve (1961-1970)

Bound Volumes of Church Bulletins—Includes morning and evening worship itinerary, notes, calendars for the week, programs of events, lists of new members received, and some photographs.

- Bound Volume 1:** January 1961—December 1962 (Includes bookmarks on certain pages)
- Bound Volume 2:** January 1963—December 1964
- Bound Volume 3:** January 1965—December 1966
- Bound Volume 4:** January 1967—December 1968 (Includes bookmark)
- Bound Volume 5:** January 1969—December 1970

Series IV: Bulletins

Box Thirteen (1971-1978)

Bound Volumes of Church Bulletins—Includes morning and evening worship itinerary, notes, calendars for the week, programs of events, lists of new members received, and some photographs.

- Bound Volume 1:** January 1971—December 1972
- Bound Volume 2:** January 1973—December 1974
- Bound Volume 3:** January 1975—December 1976
- Bound Volume 4:** January 1977—December 1978

Series IV: Bulletins

Box Fourteen (1979-1985)

Bound Volumes of Church Bulletins—Includes morning and evening worship itinerary,

notes, calendars for the week, programs of events, lists of new members received, and some photographs.

Bound Volume 1: January 1979—December 1980

Bound Volume 2: January 1981—December 1981

Bound Volume 3: January 1982—December 1982

Bound Volume 4: January 1983—December 1983

Bound Volume 5: January 1984—December 1984

Bound Volume 6: January 1985—December 1985

Series V: Church Groups

2 Linear Feet

Box Fifteen

Subseries 1: Church Group Directories/Yearbooks

iii. Men-of-the-Church (1959-1962) Two pamphlets. The first pamphlet is marked "Office Copy," with the name Howard Haeberle.

iv. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Women's Auxiliary First Presbyterian Church (1945-1946)

v. Program of the "Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church Huntington, WV—March 19, 1942

vi. Mothers' Class Yearbooks (1941-1981) This run is missing years 1950, 1961-1964, 1967, 1969, 1971, and 1979.

vii. Women's Auxiliary/Yearbook of the Women of the Church/Presbyterian Women (1920-2004)

Pack One contains the complete run of directories from 1920-1973. The names Lallance, Andrews, and Curtis are handwritten on the title page of many of these directories. The 1926 edition contains a typed poem/prayer and typed note cards about a "budget." After 1949 and 1950, the name of the Women's Auxiliary changes to the Yearbook of the Women of the Church. Note the Centennial Year directory of 1938-1939.

Pack Two contains the remaining directories beginning with 1974 and ending in 2004. In the 1988-1989 booklet, the name changes again from the Yearbook of the Women of the Church to Presbyterian Women. 1984-1985 contains a postcard from a Mrs. Richard Darmon, President of "Women of the Church." 2003-2004 includes a pamphlet on Presbyterian Women Purpose and Coordinating Teams list.

Series V: Church Groups

Box Sixteen

Subseries 1: Church Group Directories/Yearbooks (continued)

Pack Three contains duplicates of Pack One. The names Lallance,

Williams, Neal, Dawson, Van Dyke, Woodward, and Leist are written on the title page of many of these items. The 1935-1936 booklet contains list of "Circle Number 13" members' names, handwritten inside the back cover. The 1944-1945 booklet contains handwritten sermon notes "Seven Rules for Christians in Wartime." This set is missing 1925, 1954, and 1956-1957.

Pack Four contains duplicates of Packs One and Three. The names Pollard, Lallance, Wilde, Franklin, Neal, and Czompo are written on many of the title pages. There are handwritten notes in the 1929-1930, 1942-1945, 1948-1950, 1952-1955, and 1967-1968 editions. 1961 booklet contains notes and obituaries. 1970-1971 contains some notes and phone numbers.

Series V: Church Groups

Box Seventeen

Subseries 2: Church Group Minutes

- i. Ladies' Missionary Society/Ladies' Home and Foreign Missionary Society/Ladies' Aid Society/Ladies' Guild/Woman's Auxiliary/Women's Auxiliary

Bound Volume 1: Ladies' Missionary Society; March 6, 1895-March 18, 1898 [also labeled Ladies' Home and Missionary Society; February 8, 1898] (Labeled Volume 1). Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, attendance records, and the Constitution of the Ladies' Missionary Society.

Bound Volume 2: Ladies' Aid Society; September 16, 1897-December 1899 (Labeled Volume 2). Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, membership list, and dues collected.

Bound Volume 3: First Presbyterian Church Women of the Church; April 1899-1906 [labeled inside as the Ladies Home and Foreign Missionary Society] (Labeled Volume 3). Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, membership list, and dues collected.

Bound Volume 4: Women of the Church; January 1900-March 1903 [labeled inside as the Ladies' Aid Society of the First Presbyterian Church] (labeled Volume 4). Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, membership list, and dues collected.

Bound Volume 5: Ladies Society; April 23, 1903-April 1904. (Labeled Volume 5) Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, membership list, dues collected, and an "In Memoriam."

Bound Volume 6: Women of the Church; September 21, 1905-March 26, 1906. (Labeled Volume 6) Contains handwritten minutes, financial records, membership list, dues collected, and several loose leaf pages.

Bound Volume 7: Women of the Church; May 11, 1906-November 19, 1912. (Labeled Volume 7) Contains a handwritten "Revised Constitution" dated 1909, some financial records, rolls calls, membership rosters, and some personal commentaries.

Bound Volume 8: Women of the Church; January 7, 1913-March 3, 1915. (Labeled Volume 8) Contains a handwritten copy of the "Revised Constitution" from the previous volume with some "amendments." Also contains some financial records, minutes, membership rosters, and some loose leaf pages.

Series V: Church Groups

Box Eighteen

Subseries 2: Church Group Minutes

Bound Volume 1: Women of the Church; April 1915-March 1918. (Labeled Volume 9) Contains handwritten minutes, some financial records, membership rosters, and several loose leaf pages written on stationery from “Camp Greenbrier” and “Standard Printing & Publishing Co.” Also contains a typed *in memoriam* for a Mrs. Mary Love.

Bound Volume 2: Women of the Church; April 1918-March 1920. (Labeled Volume 10) Contains handwritten minutes, some financial records, loose leaf pages, letters, and a labeled newspaper photograph.

Bound Volume 3: The Ladies’ Guild of the First Presbyterian Church “Auxiliary Minutes;” January 1920-April 1923. (Labeled Volume 11) Typed manuscripts of minutes with some handwritten notes and corrections, and some financial records.

Bound Volume 4: “Auxiliary Minutes;” April 1923-March 1928. (Labeled Volume 12) Typed manuscripts of minutes financial records. Contains some handwritten notes and corrections, and a handwritten letter.

Bound Volume 5: “Woman’s Auxiliary” Minutes; April 1928- February 1933. (Labeled Volume 13) Typed manuscripts of minutes, financial records, and some handwritten notes and corrections.

ii. The Gleaners

Bound Volume 6: “Recording Secretary’s Book—The Gleaners;” February 12, 1906-June 7, 1909. Handwritten minutes, loose leaf notes and letters, and a brief history.

iii. Board of Deacons

Bound Volume 7: “Diaconate Minutes—Minutes of the Board of Deacons;” May 5, 1953-September 1962. Contains minutes, some loose leaf pages, minutes of “Joint Meetings of Elders and Deacons,” and some financial records.