ACCESSION #: 2010-80

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Judith Mills of the High Street Christian Church, 131 South High Street, Akron, Ohio on April 20, 2010.

ACCESS: Restricted access; materials fragile; access by request at Akron-Summit County Public Library’s Main Library Special Collections Division only.

VOLUME: 59 boxes, 4 oversized envelopes; unboxed books, approx. 40 linear feet.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: The High Street Christian Church (originally called the High Street Church of Christ) was founded in Akron, Ohio in 1839. The church based its doctrine on the Restoration Movement started in 1809 by Thomas Campbell of Pennsylvania, which advocated the return to the teachings of the Apostolic Church. Early followers were later known as the Disciples of Christ.

Thirty-two members first met in homes and later in Stephens Hall, the Old Stone School building and other locations. The congregation purchased a small building at High and Quarry Streets and worshipped at that location for twelve years before selling the property. In 1845, the church incorporated under the name “First Congregation of Disciples in Akron in Summit County.” Services were held at Tappan Hall on East Market Street for a time. In 1863, a gift of land on High Street was presented by Charles Brown, owner of the Empire House, and a new, single story church was erected.

Fires damaged the building and destroyed church records. With a growing Sunday School, a second story was later added to the building. More space was still needed for the congregation. The cornerstone for a new church was placed in 1892, and the new building was dedicated on December 3, 1893. Additions followed as membership swelled. During the 1950s, the congregation had grown to more than 2,000 members. By 1978, the church averaged 500 weekly worshippers. A fire destroyed the 82-year old building on August 14, 1975. A new sanctuary was rebuilt and dedicated in 1978.

SCOPE: The collection contains membership records, photographs and photo albums, newspaper clippings, church histories, programs, financial and legal records, correspondence, slides, and a book collection. The items cover the 1860s through 2009.

ARRANGEMENT: The collection is arranged in 13 series. A table of contents follows.
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Folder 5: 1992-1996
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SERIES 2: CHURCH HISTORY
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Subseries 1: Written Histories
- Annual Histories Authored by the Official Board Historian
- Published Books
- Harold Taylor Notes for 1974 History Book (3 folders)
- Short Histories by Authors of High Street Church
- Notebooks
- Miscellaneous Histories

Box 2
Subseries 2: Church Anniversaries
Folders 1: 25th Anniversary, 1918
Folder 2: 85th Anniversary, 1924
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Folder 9: 120th Anniversary, 1959
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Folder 16: Other Church Anniversaries
Folder 17: Bible School 50th Anniversary, 1914

Subseries 3: Buildings
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Folders 19-20: Cornerstone (two folders – one contains 1 reel of microfilm)
Folder 21: Dedications
Folder 22: Educational Building
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Folder 24: Fire Correspondence
Folder 25: Windows

SERIES 3: MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS
Box 1
Subseries 1: Pastors
Folder 1: Prior to 1913 (not including Wells)
Folder 2: Wells, L. N. D., 1912-1922
Folder 3: Knepper, George W., 1923-1941
Folders 4-5: Minck, Franklin H., 1941-1969 (2)
Folder 6: Smith, Harry E., 1969-1989
Folder 7: Shifflet, Tom, 1990-2000 (photo only)

Subseries 2: Other Ministers and Officials
Folders 8: Associate Pastors (photos)
Folder 9: Timothies – Biographical Info
Folder 10: Timothies – Baird, Robert Paul
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Folder 13: Timothies – Misc. items
Folder 14: Ministers of Music and misc. (photos)
Folder 15: Sunday School Superintendents (photos)

SERIES 4: MEMBERSHIP RECORDS
Box 1
Subseries 1: Church Registers and Record
1871-1880 (also includes minutes and copy of certificate of incorporation of 1845)
1908-1909
c.1900, undated book (looks like an index)

Box 2
Subseries 2: Clerk’s Membership Books

Box 3
1936-1960 (includes earlier dates)
Book M-Z, 198 –c. 1998 (Cover has 1-01-81 but dates of births, marriages, baptisms, transfers, etc. on
member cards range from c.1930-1998)

Box 4
Letters of Transfer, c.1900
Deceased & Transfers, c. 1981-c.2004

Box 5
Subseries 3: Weddings and Funerals
Memorial Book
Weddings and Funerals: 1925-1935
1936-1942
1942-1948
1949-1965
1966-1980 weddings
1942-1969 (Minck)
1969-1983 (funerals by Dr. Harry Smith)
1971-1983 (marriages, members only, Dr. Harry Smith)

Marriage licenses and certificates for: Clarence B. Jones and E. Pauline Wilkes, 1926, Llewellyn W. Griffiths and Vinnie Chambers, 1896

SERIES 5: BIBLE AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS
Box 1
Bible Class & Sunday School Register, 1864
Bible School histories
Correspondence, 1911-1957
Sunday School Record Book 1873-1877
Superintendent’s Records, 1893
Teachers Training Course
Vacation Bible School notebook (with photos), 1949
Various Bible School items

Box 2
Bethany Class
Brotherhood class (journal 1923-1927, and folder)
Christian Endeavor Society
Co-Wed Class
Mr. and Mrs. Class
New Century Class (notebook and folder)
Young Peoples Service Class record, 1912-1925
Boy Scout charters

Folder 1 Oversized Bible School certificates

SERIES 6: PUBLICATIONS
Box 1
Subseries 1: Directories, 1887-2005 (incomplete)

Box 2
Subseries 2: Church Programs and Misc. Items (Includes Discipliana newsletter, 1978-1990)
Folders 1-2: Programs
Folder 3: Prayer Meeting Topic Cards
Folder 4: Old Offering Envelopes
Folder 5: Misc.

Boxes 3-6
Subseries 3: Annual Reports

Boxes 7-16
Subseries 4: Church Newsletter

Subseries 5: Book Collection (unboxed on shelf)
Abbott, B. A. *The Disciples: An Interpretation* (1924) [note: signed by the author]


*Cane Ridge Meetinghouse: A Temple of Christian Unity* (1957?)

*The Christian Baptist* (1861). Edited by Alexander Campbell [fragile]

*Christian Worship: A Hymnal* [Pulpit copy used by Dr. George Knepper from 1923 to 1942; with note written by Dr. Knepper]

Cochran, Louis and Bess White Cochran. *Captives of the Word: A Narrative History of the Christian (Disciples of Christ), the Christian Churches (Independent), and the Churches of Christ* (1969)


Hayden, A. S. *Early History of the Disciples in the Western Reserve, Ohio with Biographical Sketches of The Principle Agents in their Religious Movement* (1876)

*Holy Bible*

Lane, Samuel. *Fifty Years and Over of Akron and Summit County* (1892)

*New Testament* [note: given to Joseph Dornan with note from Geo. W. Knepper]

*Program of the International Centennial Celebration and Conventions of the Disciples of Christ* (1909)


Rowe, John F. *History of Reformatory Movements, Resulting in a Restoration of the Apostolic Church* (1884) [note: signed by John F. Rowe as a gift to Emily Rowe]

*Sacred Biography and History, or, Illustration of the Holy Scriptures Containing Descriptions of Palestine, Ancient and Modern; Lives of the Patriarchs, Kings and Prophets, and of Christ and the Apostles…* (1868)


Stevenson, Dwight E. *Walter Scott: The Voice of the Golden Oracle* (1946?)

Wilcox, Alanson. *A History of the Disciples of Christ in Ohio* (1918)

**SERIES 7: PHOTO ALBUMS**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: Church Members**

- c.1900-1950s
- c.1950-1960s
- and Staff, c.1980-1990s
- and Staff, Events, c.1990-2003

**Box 2**

- New Members, Infant Dedications, 1979-1983
  - “ 1984-1988
  - “ 1984-1986
- Long-Time Members Reception, 1984
Box 3
Youth, 1950-1987
Camp Christian, 1954
Youth Sunday, 1981

Box 4
Subseries 2: Classes
Emily G. W. Rowe Class, 1940s-1970s
  "  1970s

Box 5
Forum Class, 1940s-1970s
Advent Class, 1970s-1980s
Mr. & Mrs. Class, 1950s-1960s
  "  1960s
  "  1970s

Box 6
New Century Class, 1939-1945
  "  1960s
Genesis Class, 1970s-1990s

Box 7
Subseries 3: Groups
AARP Chapter 682, 1960s-1979
  "  1972 (2 albums)
  "  1980s-1990s
  "  1983-1988
  "  1990-1994

Box 8
Choirs, Musicians, 1939-1980s
Choir, c. 1990s (includes “South Pacific” items)
Christian Women’s Fellowship/Alpha Circle, 1992-1996

Box 9

Box 10
Subseries 5: Buildings
1972-1978
Fire, 1975
Education Building Construction (1958) and New Sanctuary Constructions (1976)
Dedication, 1978
Box 11

Box 12
Subseries 6: Miscellaneous Albums
Missionary Work, Congo, 1920
Missionary Work, India, no date
Various Church Certificates
Pearl Lau Shell Scrapbook
Tintype & Daguerreotype Portrait Album, c.1860 [appears to be relatives of Orrin Baker. Surnames include: Baker, Bennett, Belding, Weans, and others]

SERIES 8: PHOTOGRAPHS
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Folder 1

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Folder 8 Various
Folder 9 Women
Folder 10 Youth

Subseries 5: Youth
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Subseries 7: Buildings
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Folder 15 External
Folder 16 Internal
Folder 17 1975 Fire
Folder 18 1976 Groundbreaking and Reconstruction
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Subseries 9: Oversized (*located in Oversized Drawer C11)
Folder 20 c.1900-1944 (11 with duplicates)

Subseries 10: Negatives
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1879-1891, 1896-1898, 1906-1922 (Also includes Trustee Minutes, 1891-1906)

Book 1 1922-1930?

Box 2 1923-1933
Box 3 1936, 1938-1949
Box 4 1950-1960
Box 5 1961-1979

Box 6
Subseries 2: Board of Trustees (folders of loose minutes overlapped years)
For 1891-1906 Trustee Meeting Minutes, see Series 1 Box 1 Meeting Minutes, 1906-1919, 1921-1957
See also Series 1 Box 12
Box 7 Meeting Minutes, 1977-1988, 2001-2006
Box 8 Meeting Minutes, 1986-1993 (loose)
Box 9 Meeting Minutes, 1988-1996 (loose)
See also Series 1 Box 10 for 1990-1992 Trustee Meeting Minutes
See also Series 1 Box 11 for 1994 Trustee Meeting Minutes

Box 10 Trustee Records:
1982-1992, Budget Data and History
1988-1991 (1 of 2)
1988-1991 (2 of 2)
1989-1994 (loose)

Box 11 Trustee Records
2001-2005, 2005 (loose)

Box 12
Subseries 3: Mixed Meeting Minutes - Cabinet, Congregation, and General Board
NOTE: Not all years available for each group of meeting minutes

Congregation, 1920-1921, 1923-1928
Trustee and Congregation, 1954-1974
Cabinet, 1973-1979
General Board, 1980
General Board, 1981-1982
General Board and Cabinet, 1981-1989
General Board and Congregation, 1982

Box 13
General Board, Cabinet, and Congregation, 1987
General Board and Cabinet, 1990-1994
  “ 1995-1999
  “ 2000-2004

Box 14
General Board, Cabinet, and Congregation, 2001-2004
  “ 2005-2008
General Board and Congregation, 2005-2008 (loose)

Box 15
Subseries 4: Records and Minutes of Other Church Groups
AARP Chapter #682:

Christian Women's Board of Missions:
  1893-1909, 1875-1888 (loose)

Church Facility Study Committee:
  1975 (prior to 1975 fire)

Deacons and Deaconesses:

Dorcas Society:
  Oct 22, 1902 – Mar 12, 1908

Summit County Disciples Union:

SERIES 10: CHURCH FINANCIAL AND LEGAL RECORDS
Box 1
Contribution Records (8 volumes)
  1884-1887 (includes record of expenses), 1892-1898
Misc. Financial Records

Box 2
Legal Documents (Early Deed Abstracts and Related Documents)

SERIES 11: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS (include a few photos and other items)
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Folder 1 Church Members A – C
Folder 2 “ “ D – H
Folder 3 “ “ J – M
Folder 4 “ “ N – R
Folder 5 “ “ S
Folder 6 “ “ T – Z
Folder 7 Various, –1960
Folder 8 “ 1961-80
Folder 9 “ 1981–
Folder 10 Music Department
Folder 11 1975 Fire
Scrapbook 1975 Fire

SERIES 12: SLIDES
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Slides 1-19 Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus, Akron, ca.1960
Slides 20-26 Downtown Akron, 1959
Slides 27-40 Downtown Akron, 1965
Slides 41-62 Downtown Akron, 1966
Slides 63-71 Downtown Akron, 1967
Slides 72-82 Downtown Akron, 1968
Slides 83-89 Downtown Akron, 1969 and undated
Slides 90-102 Store Christmas Windows, 1959
Slides 103-121 Store Christmas Windows, 1961
Slides 133-149 Construction of Church Educational Building, ca.1957-1959
Slides 150-152 Misc., 1970

SERIES 13: MISCELLANEOUS
Folder 1 Oversized Church Drawings/Plans (oversized drawer C15)
Folder 2 Church Library Award/ photos (oversized drawer C15) see also Folder 4
Folder 3 Church Organ Plans (oversized draw C15) see also Folder 6

Box 1 Church Cornerstone Contents (oversized shelf A3)

Box 2
Folder 4 Church Library & Archives
Folder 5 Postcards
Folder 6 Church Organ Documents
Folder 7 Correspondence
Folder 8 Various Old Documents
Folder 9 Millenial Harbinger (3 issues) 1834, 1841
Folder 10 Various Items
   - Tel-Buch Yearbooks, 1915, 1916
   - Cookbook