

**High Street Christian Church Collection**  
**Special Collection – Akron-Summit County Public Library**

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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## **SERIES 1: CHURCH CONSTITUTION AND STANDING RULES**

### **Box 1**

**Folder 1:** 1949-1969

**Folder 2:** 1973-1982

**Folder 3:** 1983-1988

**Folder 4:** 1991

**Folder 5:** 1992-1996

**Folder 6:** undated and miscellaneous

## **SERIES 2: CHURCH HISTORY**

### **Box 1**

#### **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:** 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1918

**Folder 2:** 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1924

**Folder 3:** 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1929

**Folders 4-6:** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1939 (3 folders)

**Folder 7:** 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1949

**Folder 8:** 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1954

**Folder 9:** 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1959

**Folder 10:** 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1964

**Folder 11:** 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1974

**Folder 12:** 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1979

**Folder 13-15:** 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1989 (3 folders)

**Folder 16:** Other Church Anniversaries

**Folder 17:** Bible School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 1914

#### **Subseries 3: Buildings**

**Folder 18:** Buildings

**Folders 19-20:** Cornerstone (two folders – one contains 1 reel of microfilm)

**Folder 21:** Dedications

**Folder 22:** Educational Building

**Folder 23:** Fire (also scrapbook on fire) *See also SERIES 7 and SERIES 8*

**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

**Folder 11:** Timothies – Rubright, Vera Adamson

**Folder 12:** Timothies – Correspondence

**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**

1886-1897, 1911-1919, 1919-1924, 1925-1927, 1928-1935

### **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**

New Member Books: 1952-1966 1967-1969

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**

1894-1895, 1902-1906, 1914-1915, 1920-1928, 1931-2002/2003

**Boxes 7-16**

**Subseries 4: Church Newsletter**

*High Street Disciple*: Oct 6, 1900 – Nov 24, 2009 *Incomplete. Missing all of 1974.*

**Subseries 5: Book Collection** (unboxed on shelf)

Abbott, B. A. *The Disciples: An Interpretation* (1924) [note: signed by the author]

Campbell, Alexander. *Christian Baptism: With Its Antecedents and Consequences* (1887)

Campbell, Alexander and N. L. Rice. *Campbell-Rice Debate on the Holy Spirit, Being the Fifth Proposition in the Great Debate on "Baptism," "Holy Spirit" and "Creeds," Held in Lexington, Kentucky, Beginning November 15, 1843...* (1901)

*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)

Garrison, Winfred Ernest and Alfred T. DeGroot. *The Disciples of Christ: A History* (1948)

Gates, Egret. *The Story of the Churches: The Disciples of Christ* (1905)

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)

Moore, William Thomas. *A Comprehensive History of the Disciples of Christ: Being an Account of a Century's Effort to Restore Primitive Christianity in Its Faith, Doctrine, and Life* (1909)

*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)

Richardson, Robert. *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell, Embracing a View of the Origin, Progress and Principles of the Religious Reformation Which He Advocated* [2 vols]. (1868)

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)

Shaw, Henry King. *Buckeye Disciples: A History of the Disciples of Christ in Ohio* (1952)

Shaw, Henry King. *Saga of a Village Church: The Story of Religion in Medina and the Founding and Accomplishments of the Church of Christ, Medina, Ohio, 1877-1937* (1937)

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**

**Subseries 4: Events**, 1982-1990, 1970s-1980s, 1980s

**Box 10****Subseries 5: Buildings**

1972-1978  
Fire, 1975  
Education Building Construction (1958) and New Sanctuary Constructions (1976)  
Dedication, 1978

**Box 11**

Library: 1977-2000, 1979-1980, 1981, 1998-2000, Holidays c.1970s-1990s

**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****Box 1****Subseries 1: Church Officials, Staff****Folder 1****Subseries 2: Portraits****Folder 2****Subseries 3: Group Photos/Clubs ca.1890-1950****Folder 3****Subseries 4: Sunday School and Other Classes**

**Folders 4** Bethany

**Folder 5** Class Anna

**Folder 6** Men

**Folder 7** New Century

**Folder 8** Various

**Folder 9** Women

**Folder 10** Youth

**Subseries 5: Youth**

**Folder 11** 1900-1950

**Folder 12** 1970-1990

**Subseries 6: Missions and Missionaries****Folder 13****Subseries 7: Buildings**

**Folder 14** Educational

**Folder 15** External

**Folder 16** Internal

**Folder 17** 1975 Fire

**Folder 18** 1976 Groundbreaking and Reconstruction

**Subseries 8: Special Days and Events**  
**Folder 19**

**Subseries 9: Oversized (\*located in Oversized Drawer C11)**  
**Folder 20** c.1900-1944 (11 with duplicates)

**Subseries 10: Negatives**  
**Folder 21**

**SERIES 9: MEETING MINUTES AND RELATED RECORDS**

**Box 1**

**Subseries 1: Official Board of the High Street Christian Church of Christ**  
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

1984-1989, Stewardship & Finance Dept.

1988-1991 (1 of 2)

1988-1991 (2 of 2)

1989-1994 (loose)

**Box 11** Trustee Records

1991 Long Range Planning (loose), 1991-1993, 1992-1995, 1993-1994 (loose), 1994 (loose),

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:

1970-1972, 1981-1990, 1970-1989 (loose)

Christian Women's Board of Missions:

1893-1909, 1875-1888 (loose)

Church Facility Study Committee:

1975 (prior to 1975 fire)

Deacons and Deaconesses:

Apr 1904 – Jan 3, 1914, 1914 – Jan 3, 1926

Dorcas Society:

Oct 22, 1902 – Mar 12, 1908

Summit County Disciples Union:

1924-1926 (loose), 1927-1938 (loose), 1943-1947, 1948-1952

## **SERIES 10: CHURCH FINANCIAL AND LEGAL RECORDS**

### **Box 1**

Contribution Records (8 volumes)

1884-1887 (includes record of expenses), 1892-1898

Misc. Financial Records  
1928-1934, 1957-1991, 2005-2006

**Box 2**

Legal Documents (Early Deed Abstracts and Related Documents)

**SERIES 11: NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS** (include a few photos and other items)

**Box 1**

**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**

**Box 1**

**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 122-132** Store Christmas Windows, 1962

**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