

Guide to the

First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection 1913-1998 (bulk 1934-1962)

1.25 linear feet

Accession Numbers: 0506-207; 0809-173; 0809-186; 0910-007; 0910-012; and 1415-054

Collection Number: 94

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Citation: The First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection, Collection 94, Box Number, Folder Number, Irving Archives.

Historical Sketch

The First Presbyterian Church of Irving was founded in December 1934 by Herbert S. Springall of the Dallas Presbytery's Home Missions organization and several Presbyterian families living in the Irving area. The 67 charter members held meetings first in their homes, and then in the auditorium at Irving's City Hall until their first building was completed in June of 1935. Springall served as the church's pastor until James E. Moore assumed that role at the first worship service in the new building.

The Irving church practiced the Presbyterian tradition of governance by "session," or council of church officials known as elders and deacons. Roy B. Wadsworth was an active member of the church's session from its founding until his death in 1962. Many of the records in the First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection appear to have been compiled by Wadsworth.

The church added many new members over the decades and expanded its building in 1950 and again in 1967. Members of First Presbyterian also accommodated the growth of Irving's Presbyterian community by helping to establish new churches such as St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church which was founded in 1958.

This period of growth did not last, and due to a dramatic decline in membership, First Presbyterian was forced to sell its building to an independent church in 2009. The remaining congregation met for its final worship service and 75th anniversary celebration on November 8, 2009.

Source:

- The First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection, Collection 94, Irving Archives.

Scope and Content

The First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection consists of correspondence, membership certificates, bulletins, minutes, financial records, printed material, plaques, and wall art. The bulk of the collection is housed in three manuscript boxes and one flat box. The remaining odd-size items include a hymnal, two plaques, and three framed pictures. The collection is separated into five series.

Series I is titled “Church History” and contains a single file folder. The file consists of the text of speeches on the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Irving from its beginnings in 1934 to the date of the latest speech in 1955. The file also contains source material used to write the speeches.

Series II is titled “Church Bulletins and Orders of Service” and contains 1.5 linear inches of orders of service with bulletins from the years 1944 and 1941-1955.

Series III is titled “Administrative Records” and contains 12.5 linear inches of records kept by the session of the church. This series is further divided by subject into five subseries.

Subseries 1 is titled “Membership” and contains four linear inches of certificates of church membership; correspondence regarding the transfer of membership from one church to another; lists of church members; and church directories.

Subseries 2 is titled “Session” and contains five linear inches of records of the session’s activity from 1934-1962. The records consist of minutes; correspondence; resolutions; budgets; and reports.

Subseries 3 is titled “Music” and contains two folders of correspondence regarding the church’s choir and organ.

Subseries 4 is titled “Buildings” and contains two linear inches of records related to the remodeling and expansion of the church building during 1950, 1966-1967, and 1983. The records include budgets; invoices; contracts; and sketches.

Subseries 5 is titled “Finances” and contains 1.5 linear inches of financial records.

Series IV is titled “Printed Material” and contains one linear inch of material produced by Presbyterian institutions other than the First Presbyterian Church of Irving including: bulletins; promotional literature; minutes; and a 1990 hymnal.

Series V is titled “Oversize Objects” and contains a table cloth, two plaques, and three framed wall hangings from the church building.

Provenance Statement

The First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection was donated by the church to the Irving Archives in six accessions. Accession 0506-207 was donated on July 5, 2006; 0809-173 on August 10, 2009; 0809-186 on September 3, 2009; 0910-007 on October 29, 2009; 0910-012 on October 25, 2009; and accession 1415-054 on February 19, 2015.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish from the First Presbyterian Church of Irving Collection must be obtained from the Irving Archives.

Container List

Series I. Church History, 1934-1955

Box 1

Folder

1 Church History, 1934-1955

Contains the text of speeches on the history of the First Presbyterian Church of Irving from its beginnings in 1934 to the date of the latest speech in 1955; and source material used to write the speeches including: newspaper clippings; a list of charter members; minutes of congregational and sessional meetings from December 1934; and correspondence.

Series II. Church Bulletins and Orders of Service, 1944, 1951-1955

2-4 Church Programs, 1944, 1951-1955

Contains orders of service with weekly announcements about church activities.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 1: Membership, 1928-1962 (bulk 1934-1962)

5 Member Records - Multiple Names, 1941-1962

Contains letters from other churches either: dismissing members from their congregations to join the First Presbyterian Church of Irving; or requesting that FPCI dismiss members to join their congregations. Each letter contains more than one surname

and could not be filed alphabetically with the rest of the collection without causing some difficulty locating a particular name.

6-19 Member Records A-V, 1928-1962

Contains certificates and letters from other churches either: dismissing members from their congregations to join the First Presbyterian Church of Irving, or requesting that FPCI dismiss members to join their congregations; and obituaries. The records are ordered alphabetically by surname. Also contains one 1928 letter dismissing a church member to a Presbyterian church in Dallas.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 1: Membership, 1928-1962 (bulk 1934-1962)

Box 2

Folder

1-2 Member Records W-Z, 1938-1962

Contains certificates and letters from other churches either: dismissing members from their congregations to join the First Presbyterian Church of Irving, or requesting that FPCI dismiss members to join their congregations; and obituaries. The records are ordered alphabetically by surname.

3 Dismissal Stubs, 1938-1958

Contains 3 books of certificates of dismissal given to church members who have left to join other churches. The certificates have been removed, leaving behind stubs with the former member's name, their new church, and the date the certificate was issued. Attached to many of the stubs are certificates of reception from the former members' new church.

4 Infant Baptisms, 1945-1959

Contains information on infants baptized in the church including: names; parents' names; dates of birth; and dates of baptism.

5 Member List, c. 1945

Contains a list of church members written inside a notebook. The list consists of the members' names only.

6 Church Directory, 1952-1953

Contains a 1952 church membership directory with a packet of updates and corrections from 1953.

- 7 Church Directory, 1957
Contains a 1957 church membership directory.

Subseries 2: Session, 1934-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

- 8 Springall File, 1934-1937
Contains material collected by Herbert S. Springall during his time with the First Presbyterian Church of Irving including: correspondence; lists of church members; church bulletins; minutes of congregational meetings; and notes on the church's budget.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 2: Session, 1934-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Box 2

Folder

- 9 Session Records, 1935-1937
Contains minutes of session meetings; minutes of a congregational meeting; and a budget for the year 1937-1938.
- 10 Correspondence, 1935-1944
Contains correspondence between Roy B. Wadsworth and James E. Moore.
- 11 Session Records, 1936-1945
Contains resolutions; correspondence; budget material; rosters; minutes; and pamphlets.
- 12 Session Records, 1937-1952
Contains correspondence; notes on meetings; budgets; rosters; and architectural sketches.
- 13 Session Records, 1945-1955
Contains notes on meetings; resolutions; correspondence; a financial report; lists of prospects for church membership; and a constitution of the church's senior youth fellowship.
- 14 Statistics, 1946-1956
Contains reports on church membership and finances; and proposed budgets.
- 15 Church Improvement, 1948-1954

Contains material related to improving the structure and functioning of the church including: correspondence; notes on meetings; and a brochure for a conference on church leadership.

16 Church Extension Committee, 1950-1952

Contains material related to the Presbytery of Dallas' Committee on Church Extension including: correspondence; minutes; constitution and bylaws; and a copy of the standing rules of the Presbytery of Dallas.

17 Dallas Presbytery Meeting, 1952

Contains an agenda; newsletters; and a financial report.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 2: Session, 1934-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Box 2

Folder

18 Session Records, 1952-1954

Contains minutes; correspondence; proposed budgets; church bulletins; a chart showing the number of members in the church each year from 1941 to 1952; and a report on the Dallas Presbytery's activities.

19 Minutes, 1953-1954

Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.

20 Minutes – January-June, 1954

Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.

21 Minutes – June-December, 1954

Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.

22 Session Records, 1956

Contains minutes; correspondence; and resolutions.

23 Session Records, 1956-1962

Contains correspondence; notes from a meeting; a meeting agenda; a financial report; and a session roster.

24 Girl Scouts, 1957, undated

Contains thank you letters to the church from Girl Scouts.

- 25 Minutes, 1957
Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.

Box 3

- 1 Minutes, 1957-1959
Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.
- 2 Minutes, 1959
Contains a packet of minutes of session and congregational meetings.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 2: Session, 1934-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Box 3

Folder

- 3 "A Vision for the Future," 1997
Contains a booklet consisting of statements of purpose and budget forecasts for 1998.

Subseries 3: Music, 1938-1962

- 4 Correspondence, 1938-1962
Contains correspondence regarding the church's music program.
- 5 Organ Drive, 1947
Contains material related to a campaign to raise funds to acquire an organ including: several individually addressed copies of a form letter sent to church members and other correspondence; and two ledger pages with names of church members.

Subseries 4: Buildings, 1950-1983

- 6 Building Expansion (1 of 2), 1950
Contains a file of material related to the financing and construction of additions to the church building including: invoices; budgets; resolutions; loan contracts; and newsletters.
- 7 Building Expansion (2 of 2), 1950

Contains a second file of material related to the financing and construction of additions to the church building including: resolutions; canceled checks; invoices; budgets; and construction contracts.

8 Design, 1966-1967, 1983

Contains a list of changes to a construction contract; a detailed list of locks on the church's doors; a list of materials and color selections for a remodeling job in 1967; and sketches for handrails that were installed on the stairway at the church's entrance in 1983.

Series III. Administrative Records, 1928-1997 (bulk 1934-1962)

Subseries 5: Finances, 1934-1959

Box 3

Folder

9 Ledger, 1934-1939

Contains a notebook consisting of financial reports; budgets; invoices; and lists of pledges.

10 Debts, 1935-1944

Contains material related to the church's debts including: resolutions; and correspondence.

11 Financial Reports, 1946-1948

Contains records of pledges and payments to the building fund; and a quarterly report.

12 Educational Fund (1 of 2), 1946-1949

Contains a file of material related to the Presbyterian Educational Fund campaign including: pamphlets; and correspondence. Also contains a fundraising letter from a campaign to build an addition to the First Presbyterian Church of Irving's classroom space.

13 Educational Fund (2 of 2), 1946-1949

Contains a second file of material related to the Presbyterian Educational Fund campaign including: fundraising letters and other correspondence; a list of pledges; and an informational booklet.

14 Fundraising, 1954-1955

Contains brochures and correspondence related to an intensive, month-long pledge drive by the First Presbyterian Church of Irving to raise money for its building fund and general budget.

15 Street Paving Improvements, 1959

Contains material related to improvements to the streets adjacent to the church property by the City of Irving including: assessment; tax bills; correspondence; and a right-of-way sale agreement.

Series IV. Printed Material, 1913-1990 (bulk 1942-1956)

Box 3

Folder

16 Statement of Belief, 1913

Contains a pamphlet titled "A Brief Statement of Belief" published by the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

17 Knoxville Meeting, 1942

Contains material related to the Presbyterian Church in the United States' General Assembly Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1942 including: two letters; a photocopy of a page from the Knoxville *News Sentinel* with a special feature on the Presbyterian Church; and a postcard from Knoxville.

18 Presbyterian Educational Institutions, 1945-1954

Contains material related to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas, and Austin College in Sherman, Texas, including: a 1945 report on the institutions by the Synod of Texas; bulletins; and fundraising letters.

19 Richardson Trust Fund, 1947

Contains letters and informational booklets distributed to Presbyterian churches regarding a lawsuit over a bequest by Lunsford Richardson.

20 Insurance, 1952, 1954

Contains information about life and medical insurance plans offered to employees of Presbyterian churches.

21 Church Union Material, 1953-1956

Contains publications related to a proposed union of the Northern and Southern Presbyterian Churches in the United States.

22 Synod of Texas Minutes, 1954

Contains the published minutes of the 1954 meeting of the Synod of Texas.

In Bookcase

The Presbyterian Hymnal, 1990

Series V. Oversize Objects, 1940-1998, undated

Leaning on East Wall in Annex

Dedication plaque from new sanctuary, 1967 (Labeled as accession 1415-054).

Plaque containing the names of the church's charter members, undated
(accession 0809-173).

In the Stacks on top of Row 5, Section 4

Sketch of original church building, c. 1940 (accession 0910-012).

Photo portrait of Reverend Robert McKee and wife, undated (accession 0809-186).

Framed collection of items related to a piece of needlework depicting the Presbyterian
"Triple Cross" sewn by church member Thelma Coleman. The needlework was taken by
another church member, astronaut Jim Pawelczyk, for a 16-day flight on the Space Shuttle
Columbia in 1998 (accession 0506-207).

Box 4

Christmas tablecloth, undated.