BETHANY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (FOXBORO, MASS.)

6 linear ft. (6 boxes).
No access restrictions.
Deposit, ca. 1964.
RG 78

Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-523-0470

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3/13/97
Foxboro, Massachusetts
Bethany Congregational Church

Microfilm inventory:
Filmed: ? pre-1980

Reel 1: 1. Church Records I. Minutes 1779-1799
2. Church Records IV. Minutes 1821-1855
3. Church Records III. Minutes 1800-1823
4. Church Records V. Minutes 1855-1878
5. Society Minutes, Warrants 1855-1897
6. Church Records VI. Minutes 1878-1910
7. Church Records VII. Minutes 1910-1915

Reel 2: 1. Register. Minutes & Members 1915-1932
2. Register. Minutes & Members 1932-1953
3. Pew Assignments (Deed Book) 1856-1858
4. Society Treasurer's Book 1856-1920
5. Members & Baptisms 1779-1799
6. Members & Baptisms 1794-1855
7. Members
   Catalogue of pastors & deacons 1786-1914

not located
(Did not film front
of volume to 1860)
An Overview of the Early History of the Foxboro Congregational Church

In 1778 the people of a portion of Dorchester successfully petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts for incorporation as the town of Foxborough. A year later twenty-nine people formed the Congregational Society and in 1779 gathered the first church, the Church of Christ in Foxborough. Church services were conducted in the meetinghouse on the Common. The proximity of the Common to their homesteads resolved the inconvenience of traveling to neighboring Stoughtonham and Wrentham for Sunday services.

Rev. Brett was chosen as the first temporary minister of the Church of Christ in Foxborough, 1778-1779, and Rev. Thomas Kendall was called to be the first permanent minister, 1779-1800. A schism in the congregation occurred during second minister Rev. Daniel Loring's pastorate. An indeterminate number of church members gathered in Seth Robinson's house and worshipped apart. In regard to the congregation's split see CR I and CR II 1804-1806. The congregation was reunited in 1806 and worshipped together in the meetinghouse with Rev. Thomas Williams. During these years disciplinary action was taken against a large number of members, ca. 1800-1879. These are documented primarily as letters: see CR Letters of Discipline. In 1820 the congregation adopted a body of articles of faith, "The Covenant, Doctrinal Articles and Articles of Discipline . . ." Rev. Thomas served until 1821. He was well-liked and only poor health forced him to resign in 1821. The congregation was then without a minister until 1824.

During the years 1821-1824 the congregation's movement for financial independence was sufficiently strong to expand its diaconate to a board of five. To the traditional duties were added the funding of the minister's salary and raising of money by subscription for a new brick church building. The building was constructed in 1823. Rev. Williams was recalled to deliver the dedication sermon. The construction of the new church building necessitated the organization of a Board of Trustees for purposes of bonding.
The Bethany Congregational Church was founded in 1779 and was incorporated in 1915. The church records prior to that date which were prudential in nature are part of the subgroups Parish Records (PR) or Society Records (SR). The majority of the records in the Bethany Congregational Church collection pertain to non-prudential or ecclesiastical activities. These ecclesiastical records comprise the subgroups Church Records (R) and Church Vital Statistics (CVS). All subgroups in this finding aid are arranged and inventoried at the folder and hollinger box levels.

The records of the ministers are continuous and related, and constitute a single subgroup. The minister’s correspondence is arranged chronologically. Where Church and Society Records merge and overlap chronologically they are noted as Church Records / Society Records (CR/SR).

A small subgroup of the records of the activities documenting church development is listed immediately at the beginning of the Bethany collection. Note that three items in the subgroup are originals; the other items are copies. The originals are: the Covenant, the Committee Report for the Separation of Church and Parish, and the Certificate of Incorporation. This is noted in the inventory.
This marked the beginning of autonomy for the church, the interdependence of the church and town in Foxboro ending just ten years before statewide disestablishment in Massachusetts. Church membership grew steadily during the 1800's and so did the number of church organizations to meet the expanding services called for. A Sunday school was established in 1830 and soon thereafter men's and women's social organizations. The various women's groups consolidated into the Women's Union during the early 1920's. Of course these functions required the expansion of the church's physical space and several major construction efforts were made: see CR for documentation.

A brief table of organization "Administrative outline" of the Bethany Congregation Church ca. 1965 is located in the Miscellaneous section of this inventory.
Records Storage Boxes were inventoried at the folder and Hollinger box level. The following items were not located, but might possibly be located within the contents of other files.

Box 5  (p. 4)  Constitution  1954 copy
Box 2  (p. 5)  Ministers Correspondence
  Raymond Worster  1940-1950
  W.E. Gilroy, interim  1949
Box 1  (p. 7)  Letters of Discipline
  ca. 1862-1889
  1877-1879
Box 4  (p. 10)  Clerk's Records. Annual Reports  1899-1919
  Yearbook Schedules  1928
Box 6  (p. 11)  Women's Union Misc.  1954
<table>
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Revised February 1990
Ministers Correspondence

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<td>Weaver, Stephen</td>
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Ministers Correspondence | 1779-1970 | Records Storage Box 2


Metropolitan Boston Association,
Committee on the Church. Weaver,
Stephen, executive chairman,
correspondence, committee reports,
membership lists

Burlingame, Roger F. | associate | 1960-1961

Symonds, Jerry D. | 1965-1967


Metropolitan Boston Association,
Committee on the Church. Benbow,
John M. chairman, committee reports,
misc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CR</th>
<th>1942-1963</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Reports</td>
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Records Storage Box 2

Revised Jan. 18, 1989
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Revised February, 1990
2.5 Members, Baptisms fragmentary
2.6 Members, Baptisms fragmentary
2.7 Members
   Membership Directories

Library Catalogue
Baptisms
Horace Carpenter's notebook members
Horace Carpenter's notebook members

SEE ALSO
CR
2.1 Church Register I, B.V.
2.2 Church Register II, B.V.

Records Storage Box 3
1794-1860 B.V.
1786-1913 B.V.
1867
1868
1875
1898
1903
1972
1973
1865
1879-1914 B.V. Hollinger Box 2
1915 B.V. Hollinger Box 2
1915 B.V. Hollinger Box 2
1915-1931 Records Storage Box 1
1932-1953 Records Storage Box 1

Revised Jan. 18, 1989
SR

Records Storage Box 3

Pew Assessments minutes, appointment of deacon to provide ministers salary and subscription for brick meetinghouse

1.5 Minutes copies of warrants 1855-1897

2.4 Society Treasurer's Account Book 1856-1920
   " " 1895-1908
   Horace Carpenter ST/CT correspondence 1900-1919

Pew Assessments receipt stubs 1830 b.v.
Pew Assessments receipt stubs 1830-1856

Tax Assessments 1885-1889 b.v. Hollinger Box 2
Pew Assessments 1887 b.v. Hollinger Box 2
Pew Assessments 1896 b.v. Hollinger Box 2
Pew Assignments 1819-30

2.3 Pew Assignments 1856-1858 b.v.
Pew plan n.d.

SR/CR

Records Storage Box 3

Receipt book 1891-1892
Receipt book 1929-1930 Hollinger Box 2
Receipt book 1929-1935 Hollinger Box 2

Revised February 1990
Parish Records

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<td>Parish calls to vote</td>
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<td>Parish Treasurer's records</td>
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Revised February 1990
Annual Reports of Clerk, Treasurer, Sunday School

Clerk's Records. Annual Reports
Yearbook schedules
Clerk's Records. Horace Carpenter
Includes some baptismal and membership statistics
Clerk's records. Horace Carpenter
Reports of the Clerk and Treasurer
Report of the Clerk
Clerk's Records. Elsie Pease 3 items
Treasurer's Annual Reports

Treasurer's Account Book
Treasurer's Notebook

Executive Council. Minutes
Executive Council. Correspondence
Executive Council. Correspondence
Executive Council. Correspondence
Board of Trustees. Records
Board of Trustees. Correspondence
Board of Trustees. Correspondence
Board of Trustees. Correspondence
Board of Trustees. Correspondence
Trustees Account Book
Board of Deacons
Board of Deacons
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Finance Committee
Clerk's Records
Building Committee
Building Committee
Building Committee
Building Committee
Building Committee
Building Committee
Building Committee

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CR

Building Fund Committee
Architects, Steinhardt and Thomas
Correspondence and contract
Parsonage Building Committee
Correspondence, newsletters
Barton Memorial Chapel
Correspondence with Korslund
World Service Committee
World Service Committee
World Service Committee, misc.

Records Storage Box 4

1947-1949
1960
1963-1964
1953
1956-1962
1956-1962
1952, 1953, 1956

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CR -11- Records Storage Box 6
Frances Thompson correspondence 1951-56
Bethany Men's Class 1939
Foxboro Men's Corporate Communion 1956-59
Laymen's Sunday 1950-63
Anniversary & Homecoming Plans 1954, 1959
Foxboro Planning Board Master Plan 1958
Realty Investment Analysis Report 1967
Bicentennial Plans 1978-1979
Christian Endeavor Society
minutes, constitution 1851
membership list 1900-28 b.v.
minutes, correspondence, Kings 1908
Daughters Circle, Helpful Circle
Ladies Charitable Society
minutes, constitution, members 1844-69 b.v.
Ladies Benevolent Circle minutes 1872-99 b.v.
" 1913-15 b.v.
Woman's Union minutes 1915-21 b.v.
" 1921-23, 25 b.v.
" 1929-38 b.v.
" 1939-52 b.v.
" 1952-59 b.v.
" 1959-62 b.v.
" 1962-68 b.v.
Brief History ca.1950 b.v.
Misc. 1954
Members, constitution 1940s 1 folder
Annual Reports 1943-57 1 folder
Women's Board for Foreign Missions 1891-19-9
" 1890-92 b.v. Hollinger Box 3
Ladies' Missionary Society 1893-1907 " "
Women's Missionary Society 1908-1916 " "
Y.P.S.C.E Treasurer's Book 1887-1894 b.v.

Revised February 1990
Sunday School correspondence, reports 1840-1927
Sunday School Day Book ca.1860 B.V.
Sunday School Attendance Books 1945-1946 B.V.
Sunday School Attendance Books 1947-1948 B.V.
Sunday School Attendance Books 1948-1949 B.V.
Bethany Day Nursery and Kindergarten 1953
Couple's Club 1966-1967
misc. correspondence, roster, minutes
announcements

Miscellaneous

"Bethany Bell" bulletins (regular) and anniversary issues 1954-
Horne House 1950
Anniversary black and white photos 1954, 1959
committee minutes
Architectural Plans of Dirlam and Korslund 1951-1953
Architectural Plans of Steinhardt and Thomas 1960-1961
blueprints, elevations
Eliza Leonard's Deed 1898
Peter Munson question of title of house 1928
Daniel Carpenter's donation of clock 1920
Administrative Outline ca.1965
Susan E. Curtis' donation ca.1920-1940
Architectural Plan of Rolland D. Thompson 1961
Baroque organ box
Receipts. A Sampling from donations to various 1890s
religious and mission organizations
Photo album of the Bethany Garden Chapel & magazine
Poem "A Dream" (supposedly written by ca.1804
Otis Paine at Foxboro). copy
Church Guest Book 1952-1961
 Scrapbook, Bethany Pilgrim Fellowship 1953-1956

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