

Roslindale, Massachusetts. Highland Congregational Church
Records, 1869 – 2006
___ linear feet, 13 boxes
RG4824

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Historical Note

Highland Congregational Church is affiliated with the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America and the Boston Area Council of Churches. Its days began as a Sunday school operated by Eliot Church in 1853. With the steady growth of the Sunday school, members of the community felt the need of a church in their locality. In 1868 the subject was discussed in many informal meetings. On February 23, 1869, at a meeting of those interested in the matter, it was voted 'that in their opinion the time had fully come for the organization of another church and society in this section of the city.' A council met in the chapel, March 3, 1869, and proceeded to organize the church, which numbered fifty-two members. At nearly the same time the Eliot City Missionary Society adopted a resolution that whenever a church is duly organized in connection with the Parker St. Chapel, the executive committee will recommend to the Society to transfer the property on that street to the new enterprise. Thus in 1869, the Highland Church was formed. In 1871, a new church was occupied on Parker St. In 1883, the Chapel school further down Parker St. was taken under their wing and in 1897 was merged with the Highland Congregational Sunday School. In 1978, the church on Parker Street caught on fire, damaging its steeple (and some of its records). In 1980, Highland left its Parker St. location to share the use of the church sanctuary and rooms of the Trinity Lutheran Church on Centre St. in Roslindale. Highland Congregational Church remained at the Centre St. location until it closed in 2006 due to lack of membership. It has had five pastors in its 136 years, with the Rev. W. Arthur Rice having served for almost 51 years.

Most of this material was taken from various newsletters in Series V, Box 13. Refer to those items for more complete information.

Ministers

Rev. Charles L. Mills, 1869 - 1870
Rev. A. E. Dunning, 1870 - 1880
Rev. William R. Campbell, 1881 - 1935
Rev. Ferdinand J. Loungway, 1930 - 1942
Rev. William Arthur Rice, 1943 - 1993
Rev. Deryck P. Mason, 1994 - 2006

Scope and Content

Series I: Church Records, 1869 – 1981

This series includes church manuals (with articles of faith, rules, bylaws, and early list of members), meeting minutes, annual reports, special meetings, correspondence, and church maintenance and organ records. Annual meeting minutes from 1869 to 1942 are extensive. Important correspondence was dutifully copied into the reports, such as the letter "To the Congregational of Church of Christ" from "The Committee of those proposing to become a Church" (1869), and the dedication of the Highland Church on September 28, 1871 [found in Box I, Folder 2]. The Annual reports only go to 1979, right before the move to Trinity Lutheran Church in 1980.

Sub-series – Financial Records

This series can be found in Box 3 and includes meeting minutes, annual reports, and correspondence from the treasurer, the Prudential Committee, and the Highland Society of Trustees. There are also documents pertaining to the 50th Anniversary Fund and members' will donations.

Series II: Members and Vital Statistics, 1869 – 1994

This Series includes the birth, marriage, and death records of members, as well as church and Sunday school attendance, list of communicants, bibles given, and sermons.

Of bound ledgers, book #3 is missing (1900-1910). Because of the large quantity of loose notes and correspondence pertaining to membership and vitals, the items in Box 6 have not been put in order. Folders in Box 6 have been given rough dates and labeled “General Membership and Vital Statistics.” The items in this box include the pastor’s quick notes to himself, letters of transfer and memoriam. Researchers should expect to spend extra time sorting through this box.

Three ledgers, including church records (1888 – 1899), Church meetings (1915 – 1932), and church meetings and membership (1932 – c. 1945), were quarantined and destroyed due to excessive mold from water damage (possibly from the fire in 1978).

Series III: Auxiliary and Social Groups – including Sunday school, 1909 - 2006

This series includes the minutes and treasury reports of the Women’s W.R.C. Club, Women’s Union, Women’s Missionary Fund, and Union Mother’s Club. It also contains records pertaining to the Sunday school, the Mount Holyoke Bible School, and Men’s clubs. One highlight in this series is the *Highland Booster* newsletter produced by the Highland Y.P.S.C.E. [Young People Society Christian Endeavor] Club (c.1910-1920) [found in Box 9, Folder 5], which illustrates the active participation of the youth at Highland.

Sub-series: History, Programs, Activities, and Memorabilia

This sub-series highlights the history of the Church, as well as its active life in the community. The Church’s history can be illuminated by the celebrations and correspondence marking the 50th, 75th, and 100th anniversaries of the Church and Sunday school. There are also programs advertising Church fairs, picnics, lectures, musicals and plays. Some of the memorabilia include a scrapbook (1870-1880), a birthday calendar from 1948, photographs, wooden printing plates of the church and its ministers, and a recipe book dating back to the late 19th-early 20th century. Sunday Service pamphlets dating from 1909 to the 1980s (with gaps) are included in this series, as well as books and publications. Books of interest include The Christian Life in Scripture Language (1910) written by Rev. Campbell, pastor of Highland Church from 1881 – 1935, and Charles I. Ziegler (trustee of Highland Society); A Story of Eliot Church by Walter E. Davis; and “New England Churches Decorated by H. W. Foote & Co” (c. 1950s), in which Highland Church is pictured.

Series IV: Ministers, 1881 - 1981

The records of Rev. William Arthur Rice, pastor of Highland Church from 1943 to 1993, make up the majority of this series. In addition to his sermons, there are items for auxiliary groups for which he was a member. Rev. Rice was very active in the Suffolk South Association, Boston Seaman Society, and Congregational Club of Boston. He was also Chaplain of the Massachusetts

Department of Youth Services while serving Highland. This series also contains records pertaining to Rev. Rice's school life before becoming ordained as a pastor.

Series V: Newsletters, 1891 - 2000

The Highland Light was the church's monthly newsletter. There is a copy for each month in chronological order from 1891 to 2000, with gaps.

Series VI: Bibles

There are two bibles included in this series. One of the bibles commemorates the founding of the church on September 28, 1871.

Folder List

Series I: Church Records, 1869 – 1981

Box 1

1	Manual of the Highland Congregational Church: Comprising its history, articles of faith and covenant, rules, and list of members. Printed by Rockwell and Churchill, Boston.	1870
	Manual of the Highland Congregational Church, Roxbury, Boston, Mass. Printed by Wallace Spooner, Boston. (4 copies).	1898
	Directory of Highland Congregational Church: together with an historical sketch, articles of faith, the covenant, and rules and by-laws. Beacon Press, Boston. (2 copies).	1886
2	Highland Congregational Church Records Vol. I: Annual Meetings.	1869 – 1883
3	Highland Congregational Church Records Vol. II: Annual Meetings.	1883 – 1946
4	Highland Congregational Church Records Vol. III: Annual Meetings.	1903 – 1916

Box 2

1	Church Meetings	1881 – 1942
2 – 8	Annual Meeting Reports	1948 – 1979
9	Special Meetings	1919, 1948, 1980?
10	Correspondence - includes letters of request (other letters of request will be found in Box 6).	1929 - 1982
11	Church Maintenance – directions on care of building.	n.d.
12	Pipe Organ – photograph (1961); <u>Old Organs in Present-Day Churches</u> , published by the Andover Organ Company, Inc. (1962); organ specification documents; Boston Organ Club Newsletter (1966); programs; and organ dedication at the Immaculate Conception Church in Newburyport, MA (1981).	1961 – 1981

Box 3 - Sub-Series: Financial

1	Treasurer Reports	1924 – 1978
2	Prudential Committee Reports	1927 – 1967
3	50 th Anniversary Fund	1948 – 1977

4	The Society/Trustees	1929 – 1971
5	Titles/Insurance	1970s
6	Fundraising Correspondence	1910, 1953
7	Bankbooks of the Highland Congregational Church, Highland Pilgrims, and Fiftieth Anniversary Fund.	1937 – 1986
8	Wills	1958 – 1976

Series II: Members and Statistics, 1869 – 1994

Box 4

1	Book #1, Sermons, Baptisms, Communicants, Marriages, Funerals, Register of Miscellaneous Addresses, Children given bibles at age of 7 years, Sunday School Attendance, Annual Summary, and Index of Texts.	1881 – 1891
2	Book #2, Sermons, Baptisms, Communicants, Marriages, Funerals, Prayer Meetings, Register of Addresses, Children given bibles at age of 7 years, Annual Summary, and Index of Texts.	1892 – 1900
3	Book #4, Sermons, Baptisms, Church Members Received, Marriages, Funerals, Register of Benevolences, Church Meetings, Register of Addresses, Bibles Children's Day, Annual Summary, and Index of Texts.	1910 – 1918
4	Book #5, Sermons, Baptisms, Church Members Received, Marriages, Funerals, Gathering Addresses, Register of Benevolences, Prayer Meetings, Bibles given on Children's Day, Annual Summary, and Index of Texts. [Correspondence stuck on back page].	1919 – 1926
5	Book #6, Sermons, Baptisms, Church Members Received, Marriages, Funerals, Removals from Register, Bible Children, and Index of Texts. [loose document: Children's Sunday Bible Awards]	1927 – 1935
6	Sermons, Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals	1936 – 1942
7	Communicants	1869 – 1943

Box 5

1	Baptisms	1870 – 1944
13	Bibles, Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals, Members Received	1936 – 1949; 1936 - 1943
21	Alphabetical Index of Members	[1940s?]
22	Texts, Readings, and Attendance	1942 – 1948
20	Record of Births and Baptisms under Rev. W. Arthur Rice	1944 – 1950
17	Funerals	1942 - 1949
18	Marriages	1942 – 1949
19	Index of Members and Number	1942 – 1950

15	Weddings 1939-1949, Funerals 1938-1950, Baptisms 1943-1945. (<i>also includes "Northeastern School Account – Priscilla School"</i>).	1938 – 1950
23	Certificate of Baptisms	1953 – 1996
24	Certificate of Church Membership	1953 – 1963, 1967 – 1994
25	Letters in Memoriam [others will be found in Box 6]	1961 – 1968
5	"Marriages from A. E. Dunning's Book"	1871 – 1922
2	"Deaths as per A. E. Dunning's Record"	1870 – 1883
3	"Deaths as per early Church Book"	1870 – 1878
8	"Deaths as per Church Book"	1886 – 1914
6	"Funerals – W. R. C. [Rev. Campbell] Book 1"	1881 – 1919
11	"Funerals – F. J. L. [Rev. Loungway]"	1936, 1939
4	Marriages "From Church Book" and "A. E. Dunning's Book"	1871 – 1922
7	Marriages – W. R. C. [Rev. Campbell], Book 1	1881 – 1918
14	Marriages – F. J. L. [Rev. Loungway]	1936 – 1941
10	Baptisms by F. J. Loungway	1935 – 1938
16	Funerals F. J. Loungway	1941
12	Member's Received – F. J. Loungway's Book	1936 – 1941
9	F. J. Loungway [Sunday collections?]	1930 – 1939

Box 6

1	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1929 – 1948
2	Church Letters – Dismission Request	1933 – 1954
3	General Membership and Vital Statistics – largely Baptismal	1945 – 1956
4	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1949 – 1950
5	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1949 – 1969
6	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1950 – 1954
7	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1951 – 1956
8	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1951 – 1977
9	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1957 – 1977
10	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1963 – 1966
11	Obituary news clippings	n.d.

Box 7

1	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1943 – 1949
2	Funerals	1945 – 1949
3	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1948 – 1973
4	Membership letters	1953 – 1959
5	General Membership and Vital Statistics	1955 – 1968

Series III: Auxiliary and Social Groups – including Sunday school, 1909 - 2006

Box 8

1	W.R.C. Club Treasurer's book, includes birthday reminders and "outings" list (1956-1981). [Women's Relief Corps]	1948 - 1982
2	Women's Union, Treasurer's book (1961-1982), Women's Missionary Fund (1961-1982), Somers Fund (1961-1978), Fair (1960-1973).	1960 - 1982
3	Union Mother's Club, Treasurer's book	1977 - 1982
4	Highland Church Mother's Club	1977 - 1996
5	Highland Women's Clubs and Fair, including fund for 30 th anniversary of Masonic Sunday, Somers Fund	1982 - 2004
6	Women's Union Secretary Reports	1988 - 2006

Box 9

1	Highland Sunday School	1910
2	Mount Holyoke Bible School	1911 – 1913
3	Auxiliary/Social Clubs - Columbian Lodge (1963), Girl's Club (1909)	1909, 1963
4	Highland Men's Club, Men's Class, Pathfinder Class	1910 – 1919
5	<i>The Highland Booster</i> , <i>The Highland Recruits</i>	1910 - 1920
6	Church Fairs, Picnics, and Lectures – flyers.	1909 – 1931
7	Church Musical and Theater Productions	1909 – 1920
8	Church Anniversaries	1942 – 1969
9	Sunday School 50 th /100 th Anniversary, includes photographs	1903, 1953
10	Newspaper Clippings	1910 – 1978
11-15	Sunday Service Programs [Gaps]	1910 – 1982
16	Campbell, Rev. W. R, and Mr. Charles L. Zeigler. <u>The Christian Life in Scripture and Language: a catechism with answers in bible language</u> . Fourth edition, Boston. (This was written by Highland's Rev. Campbell and Charles Zeigler who was a trustee of the Highland Society).	1910
17	The Boston Directory (reprint of 1789)	1904
18	A Story of Eliot Church by Walter E. Davis. Published by The Eliot Congregational Church of Roxbury, Boston, Mass.	1960?
	New England Churches Decorated by H.W. Foote & Co. (includes Highland Congregational Church)	1940's?
19	<u>Book of Congregational Worship</u> . Congregational Union of England and Wales. Printed in Great Britain by Turnbull & Spears, Edinburgh.	1920

	Heicher, Rev. M. K. W. <u>The Ministers Manual: A study and pulpit guide for the calendar year 1960</u> . Harper & Brothers Publishers, New York. 1959.	1958
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Box 10 – Photographs, Memorabilia, Art

1	[7] calendar art	n.d.
2	Photographs of Rev. Campbell	n.d.
3	“Highland Receipts,” Recipe Book	late 19 th century?
4	Highland Birthday Calendar	1948
5	Highland Postcards	n.d.
6	Painting “Congregational Church Stonington, Maine”	n.d.
7	Photograph of Highland Congregational Church	n.d.
8	Photograph of unidentified man [Rev. Loungway?]	n.d.
9	Photograph of Francis Read Hewett, “April 1850 – May 1930”	n.d.
10	Group Photograph, includes list of names	n.d.
11	Photograph in envelope, “... also Highland Group at Houghtons Pond, Oct. 12, [19?]” from Janet Wurtz to Anne Schaeper.	n.d.
12	Photograph of Highland Church 75 th anniversary cake?	1944?
13	Photograph of unidentified woman	n.d.
14	Photograph of unidentified man	n.d.
15	Group photograph	n.d.
16	Photograph of Highland Congregational Church	n.d.
17-19	Photographs of minstrel show	May, 1927
20	Photograph of unidentified man	n.d. [1920s]
21	Photograph of Reginald Jacobs	n.d. [40-50s]
22	Negative of Rev. Rice at altar	n.d.
23	Photograph of miss Page	n.d.
24	Photograph of Children’s choir	n.d. [40s-50s?]
25	Photograph of Highland Women	n.d. [1940s]
26	Photograph [of E.V. Gradell?]	n.d.
27	Photograph of 48 Allaghany St., Roxbury	n.d.
28	Photograph of “House. 72 Alleghany St., Boston. Residence began here March 24, 1882”	n.d.
29	Photograph of “Birthplace of Sunday School, now a dwelling, Hampshire St.”	n.d.
30	Photograph of “Parker St. Chapel occupied November 15, 1857”	n.d.
31	Scrapbook, “Highland Church Memorabilia”	1870 – 1880
32	Mylar recording tape [unknown contents]	n.d.
33	Wooden plates, including ones of Rev. Campbell, Rev. Rice, The Church, Rev. Dunning, Rev. Loungway, Rev. Mills	n.d.

Series IV: Ministers, 1881 - 1981

Box 11

1	Rev. Campbell	1881, 1932
2	Sermons/Services	1910 - ?
3	Rev. W. A. Rice Sermons	1937 - 1952
4	Rev. W. A. Rice Sermons	1937 - 1953
5	Rev. W. A. Rice Sermons	1937 - 1972
6	Rev. W. A. Rice Sermons	1943 - 1961
7	Sermon Fragments	1937 - 1950
8	Rev. W. A. Rice "Funeral Meditations, poems, etc"	- 1975
9	Rev. Rice - Correspondence	1940 - 1968
10	Rev. Rice - Ordination - Highland Congregational Church	1943
11	Rev. Rice - Newspaper Clippings	1941 - 1967
12	Rev. Rice - Religious beginnings	1911 - 1943
13	Rev. Rice - School papers	1937 - 1977
14	Rev. Rice - Thesis	1943
15	Rev. Rice - Biography	n.d.
16	Rev. Rice - Honorary Degree Piedmont College	1969

Box 12:

1	Rev. Rice - Photographs	n.d.
2	Rev. Rice - Stonington Church, ME	1939 - 1941
3	Rev. Rice - Boston Congregational Club (Rev. Rice was President)	1972-1981
4	Rev. Rice - Suffolk South Association of Congregational Churches (Rev. Rice was moderator)	1953-1968
5	Rev. Rice - Boston Seaman Society	1976 - 1980
6	Rev. Rice - Department of Youth Services (Rev. Rice was Chaplain)	1957-1977
7	Rev. Rice Memberships [various associations]	1953, 1959, 1974-75, 1981
8	Rev. Rice - Europe trip	1971

Series V: Newsletters - The Highland Light, 1891 - 2000

[Bound Volumes are not in a box]

1	The Highland Light, Highland Congregational Church	1891 - 1917
2	The Highland Light, vols. 26-51	1917 - 1942

Box 13

1-10	The Highland Light	1942 - 2000, [gaps]
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Series VI: Bibles, 1871 -

1	The Highland Congregational Church, September 28, 1871	1871
2	Holy Bible	n.d.