

First Baptist Church Collection (AC2)

Introduction

The First Baptist Church Collection provides insight into the activities of First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Kansas, through meeting minutes, anniversary programs, and other items.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: First Baptist Church [Kansas City, Kansas]

Title: First Baptist Church Collection

Dates: 1920-2014

Size: 0.8 linear feet, 2 boxes

Collection Number: AC2

Donor Information

Found in collection.

Citation Note

First Baptist Church Collection (AC2), Black Archives of Mid-America, Kansas City, Missouri.

Administrative Information

Reproduction Restrictions: Unrestricted.

Access Restrictions: Due to preservation concerns, researchers are asked to use the digital version of the panoramic group photograph.

Additional Forms Available: A digital version of the panoramic group photograph is available for viewing in the reading room.

Historical Sketch

First Baptist Church traces its origins to three Black families that escaped north to “free Kansas” and began worshipping together near the Kaw and Missouri Rivers in 1859. As the congregation grew, it split into two denominations that eventually became the First A.M.E. Church and the First Baptist Church, both of Kansas City, Kansas. The congregation of First Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Joseph Strater, worshipped in a storefront at 5th and Washington. The congregation moved to its present location at 500 Nebraska Avenue in 1879. The original building was demolished and rebuilt in 1913.

Scope and Content Note

The First Baptist Church Collection primarily consists of meeting minutes of the First Baptist Church Sewing Circle covering the period 1920-1955 and minutes from general

business meetings covering the period 1957-1996. There are gaps in the coverage. The collection also contains church directories, funeral programs, sheet music and song lyrics, anniversary programs, and miscellaneous documents, including a business card for Rev. Edward A. Freeman.

The collection also includes four photographs. An oversize photograph of an unidentified church group has been withdrawn to Oversize Box #1; a panoramic group photograph of attendees at the 32nd Annual Missionary Baptist Convention held at First Baptist Church in 1923 has been withdrawn to Map Drawer #1.

Collection Inventory

- f.1 Sewing Circle meeting minutes, 08/26/1920-06/30/1921
- f.2 Sewing Circle meeting minutes, 01/04/1940-03/25/1943
- f.3 Sewing Circle meeting minutes, 12/06/1945-11/01/1951
- f.4 Sewing Circle meeting minutes, 12/31/1951-03/17/1955
- f.5 Business meeting minutes, 11/27/1957-12/28/1986
- f.6 Business meeting minutes, 12/14/1986-08/24/1996
- f.7 Loose material removed from business meeting minutes, 12/14/1986-08/24/1996
- f.8 Church directory, ca. 1969
- f.9 Information directory, 1983
- f.10 Church bulletins, 1961-1962, 1987
- f.11 Funeral programs, 1966-1993
- f.12 Programs, 1946, 1994
- f.13 Sheet music and songs, 1939, 1955, 1957, n.d.
- f.14 History, 1972
- f.15 Anniversary souvenir book, 1959
- f.16 Anniversary program, 1993
- f.17 Anniversary program, 2000
- f.18 *Forty Gospel Hymn Stories*, 1945
- f.19 Miscellaneous documents, 1951, n.d.
- f.20 Photographs, 1923-1958, n.d. (oversize photograph withdrawn to Oversize Box #1; panoramic photograph withdrawn to Map Drawer #1)
- f.21 First Baptist Church "Rooted in Faith-Honoring Our Legacy Renewing Our Comittment", 1859-2014 [DVD]

Processed by Michael Sweeney, Collection Librarian, November 2013. Updated by Michael Sweeney, Collection Librarian, December 2014. Updated by Laura Darnell, Archivist, October 2023.