Finding Aid to the
First Presbyterian Church of Fargo Records

First Presbyterian Church of Fargo
First Presbyterian Church of Fargo Records, 1872-1998
1 Linear foot
Mss 2030

OVERVIEW

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HISTORY

The First Presbyterian Church of Fargo was initially part of The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN with whom they shared Rev. O.H. Elmer from December 1871-1877. The church was officially founded by Rev. C.B. Stevens on December 30, 1877. The first church building was constructed in 1880 with seating for 200 and was not replaced until the construction of a new church building in 1906. Social organizations such as the Ladies Aid Society were essential to the success of the church through their fundraising and social activities that promoted growth of both the building and the congregation. Another well established organization within the church was the Alpha Chapter of the Westminster Guild established in 1905. The guild’s purpose was to study two books per year, and raise funds for both foreign and domestic missions. The current church building located at 650 2nd Ave. N. in Fargo, ND was
erected in 1930. Throughout the church’s history anniversary celebrations have been major events particularly concerning the centennial celebration in 1977-78.

SCAPE AND CONTENT

Pastor information Series – Contains information on former pastors Dr. Boyd (1937-1951) and Mr. Strahl (1951-1956) and his immediate family. 1/2: newspaper article referencing Dr. Boyd’s resignation as pastor and acceptance of a new position in Kansas. 1/3: bulletins from his previous congregation concerning his departure; information relating to his time as pastor at First Presbyterian in Fargo, ND; information regarding his wife and daughters activities during their time at the church.

Church Anniversary Series – Contains information concerning the 50th (1927), 60th (1937), and 75th (1952) anniversary celebrations. 1/4: The Past Made Present, a church history from 1877-1927; programs with related information. 1/5: correspondence concerning the 60th anniversary; program from the event. 1/6: a published church history 1877-1952; newspaper articles related to the event; programs from related events.

Church Centennial Series – Contains Information regarding the events and preparation for the centennial celebration of the church in 1977. Large portion of this material came from the files of Ross Robson. 1/7: event plan revisions; logo proposal for the event; budget proposals. 1/8: Correspondence from Ross Robson to pastors inviting and informing them of the centennial celebrations. 1/9: event calendar; church-wide potluck picnic and sing; report on the centennial art show. 1/10: general information on featured speaker Charlie Shed; program from centennial seminar; correspondence with Ross Robson. 1/11: Correspondence with Ross Robson concerning his speaking engagement, program from the event. 1/12: General information on Joy Simpson; correspondence and contract for her performance in centennial celebrations. 1/13: General information on Lenus Carlson, singer featured in one of the centennial concerts. 1/14: General information on Susan Hegberg who performed organ concert for centennial celebrations. 1/15: General information on Jamestown choir, performed during centennial celebration


Correspondence Series – 1/29: Correspondence from missionary R.G. Coonradt in Tsingtao, China, June 19, 1927.


Other Publications Series – 1/33: Poster from ecumenical worship festival sponsored by Fargo churches, 1976; Program from the Original Black Hills Passion Play, circa 1950’s. Confessions of Faith, circa 1890’s

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Pastor information Series

| 1/2    | Pastor Dr. Boyd, 1937-1951 |
| 1/3    | Pastor Mr. Strahl and Family, 1951-1956 |

Church Anniversary Series

| 1/4    | 50th anniversary, 1927 |
| 1/5    | 60th anniversary, 1937 |
| 1/6    | 75th anniversary, 1952 |

Church Centennial Series

| 1/7    | Centennial Committee minutes and records, 1975-1978 |
| 1/8    | Centennial events correspondence, 1975-1977 |
| 1/9    | Centennial events info, 1977-1978 |
| 1/10   | Charlie Shed, 1977 |
| 1/11   | Erik Routley, 1977 |
| 1/12   | Joy Simpson, 1977 |
| 1/13   | Lenus Carlson, 1977 |
1/14  Susan Hegberg, 1977
1/15  Jamestown College Choir, 1977

Westminster Guild Series

1/16  Monthly Minutes, 1924-1943; 1950-1952
1/17  Annual Reports, 1943-1949
1/18  Treasurer’s Records, 1941-1950
1/20  Minutes, Correspondence, Clippings, and Cards, November 1958- November 1966

Church Member Organizations Series

1/21  Ladies Aid, 1915, 1952
1/22  Friendship Circle, 1961-1962
1/23  Outreach Committee reports, 1983-84

Church Publications Series

1/24  Membership list, 1970-71, 1973-78
1/26  Church Building Construction and Improvements, 1928, 1946
1/27  Bulletins and Leaflets, 1892-1971

Media Series

1/28  Photos, circa 1890’s-1970’s
1  Portrait of Reverend O.H. Elmer, 1872
1  Architect Drawing of proposed Church Building, 1928
1  Noah’s Flood (Cassette), 1978
1  The Spirit is Alive (VHS), circa 1990’s

Correspondence Series

1/29  Missionary Correspondence, 1927

Presbyterian Church North Dakota Series

1/30  North Dakota Presbyterian synod minutes, 1969-1972
1/31  North Dakota Presbyterian directories, 1972-74, 1976
Other Publications Series

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