

**HARRIS, PIERCE.**  
**Pierce Harris papers, 1908-1969**

Emory University  
Pitts Theology Library  
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-4166

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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Harris, Pierce.  
**Title:** Pierce Harris papers, 1908-1969  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 187  
**Extent:** 15 cubic ft. (26 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Contains typed sermons, scrapbooks, typescript rough drafts of Harris's book *With Blind Disregard*, correspondence, telegrams, church bulletins, and photographs.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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**Administrative Information**

**Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access. Due to preservation concerns, scrapbooks may not be photocopied.

**Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Pierce Harris Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Processed by Karen L. Esterl, 1999.

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**Collection Description**

**Biographical Note**

Pierce Harris was born September 21, 1895 in Georgia. He attended both Reinhardt College and Emory University and served as a Methodist minister at congregations throughout North Georgia and in Jacksonville, Florida. He is perhaps best remembered in his capacity as minister of First

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Methodist Church in Atlanta (now known as Atlanta First United Methodist Church). He served there from 1940 to 1964, when he retired from the ministry.

Harris was called to First Methodist Church by Bishop Arthur Moore who wanted him to revitalize the church. Harris's folksy preaching style, together with the energetic music of associate pastor Harry "Army" Armstrong, helped attract new members; and by the time of Harris's retirement, the church's membership had climbed to an all-time high of 2,400.

After his retirement, Harris traveled throughout the nation speaking to churches, conferences, and college groups. Other accomplishments include his being a columnist for the *Atlanta Journal* for 23 years and his writing the book *Spiritual Revolution* (published in 1952).

Harris died of an apparent heart attack on January 14, 1971 while en route to Macon, Georgia, where he was to have addressed the Macon District Conference of the United Methodist Church.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection of Pierce Harris's papers is comprised mainly of 45 typed sermons (1956-1957) delivered at First Methodist Church in Atlanta, First Methodist Church Bulletins, and several scrapbooks. The scrapbooks primarily contain clippings of Harris's column in the *Atlanta Journal*. The scrapbooks have been chronologically arranged, but there is some overlap among the volumes. The earliest scrapbooks contain items dating back to the time of World War II and contain material relevant to that episode in history.

Also in the collection are several of Harris's writings, including typescript rough drafts of his unpublished book *With Blind Disregard*, which was to be an expansion of a series of columns he wrote for the *Atlanta Journal* in February and March of 1951, the typescript rough drafts of which are also in the collection. The published columns are contained in Scrapbook 8.

In addition, the collection contains correspondence, telegrams, church bulletins, and photographs. Of note among the correspondence is a personal letter written by J. Edgar Hoover to Harris (1964 March 4). The collection also includes items that were removed from a scrapbook that appears to have been compiled by Madge Harris Henderson, Pierce Harris's daughter.

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## Container List

### A. Scrapbooks

Box	Folder	Content
1	1-4	Scrapbook 1, 1942 February 18-1945 January 23
1	5-8	Scrapbook 2, 1944 October 8-1946 January 31
2	1-4	Scrapbook 3, 1941 December 8-1947 March 2 (bulk 1946-1947)
22		Scrapbook 4, 1947 March 2-December 31
22		Scrapbook 5, 1948 January 1-September 28
23		Scrapbook 6, 1948 March 23-1949 December
2	5-6	Scrapbook 7, 1944 February 9-1950 October 31 (bulk 1949-1950)
3	1-2	Scrapbook 7 cont., 1944 February 9-1950 October 31 (bulk 1949-1950)
3	3-5	Scrapbook 8, 1950 November 2-1951 May 1
3	6	Scrapbook 9, 1951 May 2-August 21
4	1	Scrapbook 9 cont., 1951 May 2-August 21
24		Scrapbook 10, 1952 June 22-1958 September 4 (bulk 1952)
4	2-4	Scrapbook 11, 1952 December 1-1953 April 29
4	5-6	Scrapbook 12, 1953 April 30-October 25
5	1	Scrapbook 12 cont., 1953 April 30-October 25
5	2-4	Scrapbook 13, 1947 March 16-1967 December 15
5	5-6	Scrapbook 14, 1951 November 14-1964 December 21 (bulk 1954)
6	1	Scrapbook 14 cont., 1951 November 14-1964 December 21 (bulk 1954)
6	2-4	Scrapbook 15, 1955 January 1-October 3
6	5-6	Scrapbook 16, 1955 September 19-1956 April 29
7	1	Scrapbook 16 cont., 1955 September 19-1956 April 29
24		Scrapbook 17, 1955 September 30-1956 December 17
7	2-3	Scrapbook 18, 1956 April 30-November 16
7	4-6	Scrapbook 19, 1956 November 15-1963 October 3 (bulk 1956-1957)
25		Scrapbook 20, 1957 May 7-22
8	1-3	Scrapbook 21, 1957 March-1958 February 17
8	4-6	Scrapbook 22, 1958 February-1959 July 29
8	7	Scrapbook 23, 1959 April 24-1961 September 13
9	1-4	Scrapbook 23 cont., 1959 April 24-1961 September 13
9	5-8	Scrapbook 24, 1953 May 16, 1961 September 11-1963 May 1
10	1-5	Scrapbook 25, 1952, 1954, 1963 May 3-1965 May 7
26		Scrapbook 26, 1964 January 20-1971 January 16
10	6	Items removed from Scrapbook 1, 1942-1944
10	7	Items removed from Scrapbook 2, 1945
11	1	Items removed from Scrapbook 2, 1945-1946

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| 11 | 2  | Items removed from Scrapbook 3, 1941-1945                            |
| 11 | 3  | Items removed from Scrapbook 3, 1946                                 |
| 11 | 4  | Items removed from Scrapbook 3, 1946-1947                            |
| 11 | 5  | Items removed from Scrapbook 4, 1947                                 |
| 11 | 6  | Items removed from Scrapbook 5, 1948                                 |
| 11 | 7  | Items removed from Scrapbook 6, 1948-1949                            |
| 11 | 8  | Items removed from Scrapbook 6, 1948-1949                            |
| 12 | 1  | Items removed from Scrapbook 7, 1944-1950                            |
| 12 | 2  | Items removed from Scrapbook 7, 1950                                 |
| 12 | 3  | Items removed from Scrapbook 8, 1950-1951                            |
| 12 | 4  | Items removed from Scrapbook 9, 1951                                 |
| 12 | 5  | Items removed from Scrapbook 10, 1952-1958                           |
| 12 | 6  | Items removed from Scrapbook 11, 1952-1953                           |
| 12 | 7  | Items removed from Scrapbook 11, 1953                                |
| 12 | 8  | Items removed from Scrapbook 12, 1953                                |
| 12 | 9  | Items removed from Scrapbook 13, 1953-1954                           |
| 12 | 10 | Items removed from Scrapbook 14, 1951-1964                           |
| 13 | 1  | Items removed from Scrapbook 15, 1955                                |
| 13 | 2  | Items removed from Scrapbook 17, 1956                                |
| 13 | 3  | Items removed from Scrapbook 18, 1956                                |
| 13 | 4  | Items removed from Scrapbook 19, 1956-1963                           |
| 13 | 5  | Items removed from Scrapbook 21, 1957                                |
| 13 | 6  | Items removed from Scrapbook 22, 1958-1959                           |
| 13 | 7  | [Items removed from Scrapbook 22?], 1958-1959                        |
| 13 | 8  | Items removed from Scrapbook 23, 1959-1961                           |
| 13 | 9  | [Items removed from Scrapbook 23?], 1959                             |
| 13 | 10 | [Items removed from Scrapbook 23?], 1959, undated                    |
| 13 | 11 | Item removed from Scrapbook 24, 1953                                 |
| 13 | 12 | Items removed from Scrapbook 25, 1952, 1954, 1965                    |
| 13 | 13 | Items removed from Scrapbook 26, 1964-1971                           |
| 14 | 1  | Items removed from Madge Harris's [?] scrapbook, 1942-1963           |
| 14 | 2  | Photographs removed from Madge Harris's [?] scrapbook, 1959, undated |
| 14 | 3  | Loose clippings, 1941, [195-?]                                       |
| 14 | 4  | Loose clippings, 1956-1957, undated                                  |

### **Pierce Harris Writings**

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|----|-----|------------------------------|
| 14 | 5-9 | Sermons, 1944-1956           |
| 15 | 1-5 | Sermons, 1956-1965           |
| 15 | 6-7 | Sermons, undated             |
| 15 | 8   | Sermon notes nos. 2-20, 1941 |

- 15 9 Sermon notes nos. 21-35, [1941?]
- 15 10 Sermon notes nos. 36-52, 1938, 1941
- 16 1-6 *With Blind Disregard*, [typescript of book; two copies], undated
- 16 7 *With Blind Disregard*, [columns], undated
- 17 1-2 *With Blind Disregard*, [columns], undated
- 17 3 "All Golfers Are Goofy," undated
- 17 4 Articles for "The First Methodist Messenger," 1963-1964
- 17 5 Dedication of the Centennial Building, 1953
- 17 6 Eulogy for Rev. John F. Yarborough, 1952
- 17 7 Graduation address at Massey Business College, undated
- 17 8 Notes, undated
- 17 9 Radio Breakfast, Station WNPT [transcript], 1953
- 17 10 Writings, undated
- 17 11 Writings, 1965, undated

### Correspondence

- 18 1947-1965
- 19 1-2 1965-1966, undated

### Other

- 19 3-8 First Methodist Church Bulletins, 1908-1925 (bulk 1923-1925)
- 20 1-2 First Methodist Church Bulletins, 1925-1936 (bulk 1925)
- 20 3 "The First Methodist Messenger," 1937-1961 (bulk 1937-1938)
- 20 4 Various church bulletins, 1926-1965
- 20 5 "A Prayer for Professional Drivers," undated
- 20 6 Alcoholic Rehabilitation Program, 1964
- 20 7 Biographical sketch of Rev. Harry P. Armstrong, undated
- 20 8 Biographical sketch of Pierce Harris [incomplete], undated
- 20 9 Board of Stewards Meeting, 1958-1965
- 20 10 Collected newspapers and newsletters, 1941-1965
- 20 11 Collected pamphlets, 1923, 1960, undated
- 20 12 Collected poems, undated
- 20 13 First Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA, 1936-1953
- 21 1 First Methodist Church, Atlanta, GA, 1954-1965, undated
- 26 1 "In Memoriam: Mrs. Pierce Harris," 1957
- 21 2 Mary Harris Memorial Fund, 1957
- 21 3 Memorabilia, 1963, undated
- 21 4 Miscellaneous, 1963, undated
- 21 5 National Association of Handicaps, Inc., 1953

21	6	"Pastoral Assignments, North Georgia Conference, The Methodist Church," 1961-1962
26	2	Publicity flyer, undated
21	7	Publicity flyers, 1962, undated
21	8	Records of visitors received while in hospital, [1957]

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