

ALLEN, CHARLES LIVINGSTONE, 1913-2005.
Charles Allen papers, 1934-1998

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560
Atlanta, GA 30322
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Allen, Charles Livingstone, 1913-2005.
Title: Charles Allen papers, 1934-1998
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 439
Extent: 6.78 cubic feet (13 boxes)
Abstract: Contains typescript and handwritten sermons, audio-cassettes of live sermons, scrapbooks containing clippings of Charles Allen's column in the Atlanta Journal Constitution, scrapbooks containing photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen during his time at Atlanta Grace United Methodist Church, and several copies of letters from former Presidents to Charles Allen.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

The handwritten sermons are restricted until 2037 per the deed of gift.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Charles Allen papers, MSS 439, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Emily Corbin, March 2018.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Charles L. Allen was born in 1913 in Newborn, Georgia. He served as a minister within the state of Georgia, including at Grace United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Ga. from 1948 to 1960. While serving at Grace, it grew to have the largest congregation in Georgia. In 1960 Allen moved to Houston, Texas where he served as the minister at First United Methodist Church until 1983. While there the church grew to have the largest Methodist congregation in the world. Allen focused on "pastoral preaching" in a transparent and understandable style. Allen was also a columnist for the Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution and later for the Houston Chronicle. Allen died in Houston on August 30, 2005.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains Charles Allen's typescript and handwritten sermons organized by title. It also contains audio-cassettes of recordings of Allen's sermons in various locations from 1978 - 1998. In addition the collection contains scrapbooks which include clippings of Charles Allen's column in the Atlanta Journal Constitution from 1949-1962 and scrapbooks containing photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen during his time at Atlanta Grace United Methodist Church. There are also copies of letters from Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and Jimmy Carter to Charles Allen.

Arrangement Note

Materials organized alphabetically and by content.

Container List

Handwritten Sermons (Restricted until 2037)

| Box | Folder | Content |
|-----|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Numerical titles, unsorted, undated |
| 1 | 2 | "A", unsorted, undated |
| 1 | 3 | "B", unsorted, undated |
| 1 | 4 | "C", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 1 | 5 | "C", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 1 | 6 | "D", unsorted, undated |
| 1 | 7 | "E", unsorted, undated |
| 2 | 1 | "F", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 2 | 2 | "F", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 2 | 3 | "G", unsorted, undated |
| 2 | 4 | "H", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 2 | 5 | "H", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 3 | 1 | "I", unsorted, undated |
| 3 | 2 | "J", unsorted, undated |
| 3 | 3 | "K", unsorted, undated |
| 3 | 4 | "L", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 3 | 5 | "L", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 3 | 6 | "M", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 3 | 7 | "M", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 3 | 8 | "N", unsorted, undated |
| 3 | 9 | "O", unsorted, undated |
| 4 | 1 | "P", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 4 | 2 | "P", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 4 | 3 | "R", unsorted, undated |
| 4 | 4 | "S", unsorted, undated |
| 4 | 5 | "T", unsorted, folder 1 of 2, undated |
| 4 | 6 | "T", unsorted, folder 2 of 2, undated |
| 4 | 7 | "U", unsorted, undated |
| 4 | 8 | "V", unsorted, undated |
| 5 | 1 | "W", unsorted, folder 1 of 3, undated |
| 5 | 2 | "W", unsorted, folder 2 of 3, undated |
| 5 | 3 | "W", unsorted, folder 3 of 3, undated |
| 5 | 4 | "Y", unsorted, undated |
| 5 | 5 | Beatitudes, unsorted, undated |
| 5 | 6 | Christmas, unsorted, undated |

- 5 7 Memory, unsorted, undated
- 6 1 Miracles, unsorted, undated
- 6 2 Mother's day, unsorted, undated
- 6 3 New Year's, unsorted, undated
- 6 4 Ten Commandments, unsorted, undated
- 6 5 Untitled, unsorted, folder 1 of 3, undated
- 6 6 Untitled, unsorted, folder 2 of 3, undated
- 6 7 Untitled, unsorted, folder 3 of 3, undated
- 7 1 Preparation, unsorted, undated
- 7 2 Notes, unsorted, folder 1 of 3, undated
- 7 3 Notes, unsorted, folder 2 of 3, undated
- 7 4 Notes, unsorted, folder 3 of 3, undated
- 7 5 USB drives containing recordings of church services, 1982-1993

Letters from Presidents

- 7 6 Copies of letters from United States Presidents (Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan), 1935, 1983, 1992

Audiocassettes

- 8 Preaching and sermon preparation, undated
- 8 The lost sheep, 1982 August 22
- 8 Evening service #1, 1984 January 31
- 8 Mexico reunion, 1982
- 8 Dr. Allen at First United Methodist Church, 1982 January 17
- 8 Love is the greatest, 1 Corinthians 13:13, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, 1998 July 19
- 8 Tuesday Night, Dr. Allen, 1979 August 07
- 8 Five Ways to Pray - Luke 11:1-13, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, sermon of the month tape club, Tuesday, 1988 September 20
- 8 The Christian experience, 1980 January 21
- 8 What the Bible says about heaven, Matthew 6:9, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, 1998 July 26
- 8 Foundations of faith, 1982 July 23
- 8 Methodist home radio program, for broadcast March 1, 81 over KPRC Radio Sundays 8:15 AM, 1981 March 1
- 8 Five Favorite sermons, how your faith can move your mountain, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas,
- 8 Faith gives us strength, 1 Corinthians 13:13, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, 1998 July 05
- 8 Three ways to pray, undated

- 8 Court yard in July, 1991 July 14
8 Sunday P.M., 1979 May 06
8 Judgment and grace, 1980 May 22
8 Bible study, Montreat, NC, 1984
8 Evening service, tape #2, undated
8 I believe, undated
8 65th annual convention, joyful living in the fourth dimension,
8 Kiwanis international convention, Dallas, Texas, S77-2, 1977 June 26-29
8 The most important sermon, undated
8 Monday, 1988 January 04
8 Hope keeps us going, 1 Corinthians 13:13, First United Methodist Church,
Houston, Texas, 1998 July 12
8 5 ways to pray, First United Methodist Church, 1980 January 20
8 Evangelistic preaching, undated
8 Edmonton, 1980 September 12
8 Thursday, 1988 September 22
8 Speak all the words of this life, undated
8 Dr. Allen at First United Methodist Church, 7:30 P.M, 1982 January 18
8 Keynote address, undated
8 Monday night, LJ79-100, 1979 August 06
8 Spot announcements, radio kine, message to congregation, undated
8 NCBC74-2, undated
8 Tuesday morning, LJ79-102, 1979 August 07
8 North American Christian convention, if I could preach a hundred sermons,
Christian audio tapes, 1978
8 The Christian experience, Monday and Tuesday, noon, 1979 May 08
8 Thursday evening major address and final proceedings, undated
8 North American Christian convention, five ways to pray, Christian audio tapes,
1978
8 Eternal life, the 23rd Psalm, undated
8 How to be born again, sermon #3, 1982 September 20
8 The greatest sermon, 1 Corinthians 15, First United Methodist Church, Houston,
Texas, undated
8 What I believe, Tuesday, P.M., 1979 May 08
8 Farewell banquets, Hawaii reunion, 1983
8 Festival of faith, five principles of prayer, First Baptist church, Combes, Texas,
1980 February 04
8 Five Laws of faith, undated
8 All the words of life, undated
8 The greatest sermon, 1980 May 22

- 8 Five ways to pray, sermon #1, 1982 September 19
- 8 I believe, Huntington, West Virginia, 1985 March 25
- 8 Five favorite sermons, he leads me - how does he do it, first united Methodist church, Houston, Texas, undated
- 8 First United Methodist Church, Gueydan, Louisiana, 1989 May 28
- 8 I believe, part 3, 1980 May 20
- 8 Dr. Allen at First United Methodist Church, 7:30 P.M, 1982 January 19
- 8 Decherd FUMC, 1988 April 10
- 9 The Christian experience, undated
- 9 Second greatest woman, Russell Memorial United Methodist Church, 1984 May 1
- 9 Sunday 10:50 A.M., 1988 January 03
- 9 Five favorite sermons, three ways to experience Christ, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, undated
- 9 I believe, part 2, 1980 May 19
- 9 Lord teach us to pray, sharing the way, undated
- 9 Festival of faith, the gospel of Jesus Christ, First Baptist Church, Combes, Texas, 1980 February 03
- 9 What I believe, P.M., 1980 January 23
- 9 Five favorite sermons, through our losses may come your richest gains, tape 3, First United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas, undated
- 9 Worship, the courage to act, 1991 January 27
- 9 Prayer, Monday P.M., 1979 May 07
- 9 The will of God, undated
- 9 Bishop Marvin Franklin, Birmingham, 1949 December 11
- 9 Wednesday, 1988 September 21
- 9 The Glorious Gospel, 1983 April 03
- 9 Five Laws of faith, 1983 April 17
- 9 3 steps to self-confidence, 1982 June 20
- 9 My first sermon, 1982 June 06
- 9 Forgiveness - Beautiful word, 1982 July 18
- 9 I wish we had Lincoln today, 1982 July 04
- 9 God's plan for prosperity, 1982 August 01
- 9 Overcome inferiority complex, 1982 August 22
- 9 Five questions about prayer, 1982 September 05
- 9 How Jesus taught people to pray, 1982 September 19
- 9 Don't wait till it's too late, 1982 October 03
- 9 Second mile gets you there, 1982 October 17
- 9 Don't be afraid - trust your heart, 1983 May 01
- 9 Five ways to pray, 1983 May 15

- 9 Learn to wait for the tide, 1983 January 30
- 9 How to dry your tears, 1983 February 13
- 9 When a loved one has died, 1983 March 06
- 9 Jesus calls Lazarus from the grave, 1983 March 20
- 9 Disappointments - appointments, 1982 November 07
- 9 The blessings of Thanksgiving, 1982 November 21
- 9 Love is the greatest, 1982 December 05
- 9 Very First Christmas Sermon, 1982 December 19
- 9 How to make 1983 your best year, 1983 January 02
- 9 Dare to take a chance in life, 1983 January 16
- 9 Two unlabeled cassettes, undated

Scrapbooks

- 10 Scrapbook, 1950 June - 1956 January
Includes photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen and his sermons.
- 10 Scrapbook, 1952 May 19 - 1953 May 23
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 11 Scrapbook, 1954 September 2 - 1956 February 6
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 11 Scrapbook, 1957 July. 20 - 1959 January 15
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 11 Scrapbook, 1956 February 07 - 1957 July 19
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 11 Scrapbook, 1957 - 1960
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 12 Scrapbook, 1953 May 25 - 1954 September 1
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 12 Scrapbook, Whitesburg - Thomson, 1934 - 1948
Materials from the United Methodist churches in Sylvan Hills, Blue Ridge, Georgia, Acworth, Georgia, Douglasville, Georgia, Thomson, Georgia. Also, Pulpit Preaching material, hand bills for Revival services, Articles from the Wesleyan Christian Advocate and the MucDuffie Progress.

- 12 Scrapbook, 1956 February - 1962 December
Includes photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen and his sermons.
- 13 Scrapbook, Grace, undated
Includes photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen during his time at Atlanta Grace United Methodist Church.
- 13 Scrapbook, Grace, 1948 - 1951
Includes photographs, newspaper clippings, bulletins and pamphlets about Dr. Charles L. Allen during his time at Atlanta Grace United Methodist Church.
- 13 Scrapbook, 1949 December - 1953 September
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
- 13 Scrapbook, 1953 October 11 - 1957 April 28
Includes Charles L. Allen's Sunday column from the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
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