

**ST. MATTHEW UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH (EAST POINT, GA).
St. Matthew United Methodist Church (East
Point, GA.) records, 1954-2001, undated**

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: St. Matthew United Methodist Church (East Point, GA).
Title: St. Matthew United Methodist Church (East Point, GA.) records, 1954-2001, undated
Call Number: Record Group No. 048
Extent: 11.05 cubic ft. (15 boxes)
Abstract: Consists of administrative and historical files, quarterly and charge conference records, committee files, treasurer's reports, newsletters, bulletins, and Sunday school records from the St. Matthew United Methodist Church in East Point, Georgia.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Collection stored off-site. Researchers must contact the Pitts Theology Library in advance to access this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], St. Matthew United Methodist Church (East Point, GA.)
Records, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Aimee Morgan, 2005.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

St. Matthew United Methodist Church was founded as St. Matthew Methodist Church on January 9, 1955. An initial organizational meeting had been held on November 14, 1954. The superintendent of the Atlanta East District, Nat G. Long, selected four Candler School of Theology Students to organize the church. These students were Gerry Hearin Jr. (who was appointed pastor in charge), Jack Henton, Ray Finklea, and Ernest Hogge. A fifth Candler student, Kenneth Burnett, was also active in the founding of the church, and began its first youth program.

There were 91 charter members of the church. The first prayer meeting was held on January 23, 1955, and the first evening church service on March 6 of that year. In December 1955, the church purchased its first parsonage. Worship services were held at Parklane School, site of the initial organizational meeting, until 1958, when a church building was constructed on land donated by Allen Tankersley. The building included a chapel, a nursery, a kitchen, and classrooms. Planning for a sanctuary began in 1967, and construction was completed in 1970.

Church membership reached a high of 365 in 1971, then declined steadily for the next three decades. The pastor's church conference report for 1999 reported a total of 86 members. Numbers continued to drop due to death and relocation of longtime members. The church closed in May 2001.

For a detailed, year-by-year overview of the church's history, see the narrative accounts in Series 1, Box 1, Folders 2-3.

Scope and Content Note

This collection documents the history of St. Matthew's Church from its founding in 1955 through the 1990s through administrative and historical files, quarterly and charge conference records, committee files, treasurer's reports, newsletters, bulletins, and Sunday school records. The collection does not, however, provide any documentation of the decision to close the church in 2001.

Also included is material on two women's' groups within the church: United Methodist Women and the Quilting Group. United Methodist Women, originally the Women's Society of Christian Service, was founded in 1955. The Quilting Group began in the early 1980s as a group of women who gathered to quilt and pray together. They sold their quilts and used the proceeds to support the church's mission.

Arrangement Note

Organized into 11 series: (1) Historical Files, (2) Administrative Records, (3) Quarterly, Charge, and Church Conference Records, (4) Building Committee, (5) Membership Records, (6) Education Records, (7) United Methodist Women, (8) Printed Materials, (9) Financial Records, (10) Quilting Group, and (11) Photographs.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Historical Files, 1955-2001](#)

[Series 2: Administrative Records, 1955-2001](#)

[Series 3: Quarterly, Charge, and Church Conference Records, 1955-2000](#)

[Series 4: Building Committee, 1957-1984](#)

[Series 5: Membership Records, 1955-2001](#)

[Series 6: Education Records, 1963-1991](#)

[Series 7: United Methodist Women, 1955-2001](#)

[Series 8: Printed Materials, 1968-2001](#)

[Series 9: Financial Records, 1972-1991](#)

[Series 10: Quilting Group, 1981-1988](#)

[Series 11: Photographs, 1955-1998, undated](#)

Series 1

Historical Files, 1955-2001

Box 1

Scope and Content Note

Included in this series are materials of general historical interest, such as detailed narrative histories of the church, plaques removed from the church building, guest books, news clippings, and information about the incorporation of the church.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Certificates, 1989, 1994-1995, 1999
1	2	Church Histories, 1962-1986
1	3	Church Histories, 1986-1994
1	4	Guest Book, 1955-1957
1	5	Guest Book, 1958
1	6	Guest Book, 1970-2001
1	7	Historical File, 1955-1968
1	8	Historical File, 1969-1970
1	9	Historical File, 1971-1974
1	10-11	Historical File, 1988-1998
1	12	Homecoming, List of Speakers, 1956-1998
1	13	Incorporation, 1969-1996
1	14	News Clippings, 1982-1984
1	15	Plaques, 1966, 1979-1985

Series 2

Administrative Records, 1955-2001

Boxes 1-2, 10

Scope and Content Note

This series contains an extensive run of administrative board minutes, as well as files on the Council of Ministries, the Finance Committee, the parsonage, and several other topics.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
1	16-18	Board Minutes, 1955-1961
1	19	Board Minutes, 1962-1963
1	20-23	Board Minutes, 1963-1967
1	24-25	Board Minutes, 1967-1971
1	26	Board Minutes, 1973-1975
2	1	Board Minutes, 1973-1975
2	2-4	Board Minutes, 1976-1981
2	5	Board Minutes, 1999-2001
2	6	Board of Trustees Minutes, 1968-1978
2	7	Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, 1962-1979
2	8	Building Program, Correspondence, 1969-1972
2	9	Council on Ministries, 1971-1974
2	10	Crusade Instructions, 1968
2	11	Finance Committee, Building Debt Retirement, 1976-1978
10	1	Parsonage, 1960-1999
2	12	Stewardship Revival, 1963

Series 3

Quarterly, Charge, and Church Conference Records, 1955-2000

Box 2

Scope and Content Note

This series contains the church's copies of reports filed for quarterly, charge, and church conferences.

Arrangement Note

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
2	13-14	Quarterly Conferences, 1955-1960
2	15-16	Quarterly Conferences, 1963-1964
2	17-18	Quarterly Conferences, 1964-1966
2	19	Quarterly Conferences, 1967-1970
2	20-22	Charge Conferences, 1970-1978
2	23-24	Charge Conferences, 1979-1986
2	25	Church Conferences, 1987-1991
2	26	Church Conferences, 1999-2000

Series 4

Building Committee, 1957-1984

Boxes 2-3, 10

Scope and Content Note

The bulk of the files in this series date from the late 1960s and early 1970s, the period during which St. Matthew's constructed a new sanctuary. Included in this series is documentation of legal action taken by the church against the contractor for the building project for failure to pay several subcontractors.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Content
2	27	Appraisal, 1968
2	28	Architect, 1968-1969
2	29	Board of Missions, 1968-1969
2	30	Builder, 1968-1970
2	31	Building, Correspondence, 1977, 1983
2	32	Building Debt Loan, 1977-1984
2	33	Building Fund, 1969-1971
2	34	Building Inventory, 1990
2	35	Building Plan, District Superintendent Information, 1968
2	36	Building Planning Survey, 1961
2	37	Chickering, F.W., 1967-1970
2	38	Contract, undated
3	1	Correspondence, 1969-1970
10	2	Court Transcript, 1972
3	2	Deed to Secure Debt, 1969
3	3	DSA, 1968-1969
3	4	Exterminator, 1978
3	5	Fabrication Details, 1970
3	6	Financial Records, 1969
3	7	Furnishings, 1969
10	3	Lawsuit, 1967-1971
10	4	Lawsuit, Questions, 1972
3	8	Lawyer, 1969-1970
3	9-10	Minutes, 1969-1970
3	11	Miscellaneous, 1967-1970
3	12	Mortgage Bonds, 1969
3	13	Music, 1969

3	14	Plans, 1969
3	15	Sanctuary Windows, 1969, 1977
3	16	Specifications for New Educational Building, 1957
3	17	Subpoenas, 1968-1970
10	5	Trust Indenture, 1969

Series 5

Membership Records, 1955-2001

Boxes 3, 10-11

Scope and Content Note

This series includes membership rosters, directories, address lists, membership certificates, and a card file with information on church members.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically.

Box	Folder	Content
3	18	Addresses, undated
10	6	Certificates of Transfer, 1959-1999
3	19	Church Directory, 1980
13		Membership Book, 1954-2001
13		Baptism records, 1955-2001
13		Preparatory Membership records, 1955-1991
13		Full Membership records, 1955-1998
13		Marriage records, 1955-1987
13		Death records, 1955-1991
13		Annual Summary, 1955-1962
13		Historical records, 1954-1957
13		Supplementary membership documents, 1994-1999
11		Membership Card File, 1955-1980s
3	20	Membership Certificates, 1955-1975
3	21	Membership Certificates, 1976-1984
3	22	Membership Directories, 1962-1995
3	23	Membership Handbook, 1968
3	24	Membership Handbooks, 1969-1972
3	25	Membership Records, 1993-2001

Series 6
Education Records, 1963-1991
Boxes 3-4

Scope and Content Note

Sunday school attendance books comprise the bulk of this series.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
3	26	Church School, 1963-1968
3	27	Class Record Books, 1983-1985
3	28	Commission on Education, 1963-1968
3	29	Crusader Class, 1975-1990
3	30	Sunday School Records, 1964-1966
3	31	Sunday School Records, 1966-1968
3	32	Sunday School Records, 1968-1970
3	33	Sunday School Records, 1970-1973
3	34	Sunday School Records, 1973-1976
3	35	Sunday School Records, 1976-1977
4	1	Sunday School Records, 1977-1980
4	2	Sunday School Records, 1980-1982
4	3	Sunday School Records, 1983-1986
4	4	Sunday School Records, 1986-1989
4	5	Sunday School Records, 1989-1991

Series 7

United Methodist Women, 1955-2001

Boxes 4-7, 14-15

Scope and Content Note

Included are administrative records such as charge conference reports, minutes, and financial ledgers, as well as several scrapbooks. The scrapbooks provide a visual look at the group's varied activities from the 1950s through the 1990s. Also in this series are two folders of photographs, which were removed from an album for preservation reasons. The photographs were taken at United Methodist Women events, including an Easter party and a baby shower.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically by format.

Box	Folder	Content
4	6	Charge Conference Reports, 1982-1985
4	7	Charter, 1968
4	8	Church History, 1989-1994
4	9	Directories, 1999-2001
4	10	Financial Ledger, 1969-1982
4	11	Financial Ledger, 1980-1983
4	12	Financial Ledger, 1983-1989
4	13	Financial Records, 1961-1966
4	14-15	Financial Records, 1964-1973
4	16	Financial Records, 1974-1979
14		Membership Roster (oversize), 1961-1986
4	17	Minutes, 1960-1970
4	18	Minutes, 1977-1986
4	19-20	Minutes, Circle #4, 1968-1977
4	21	Miscellaneous, 1969-1986
4	22-23	Photographs from Album [87 items], 1986-1987, undated
15		St. Matthew Women Photograph Tree, 1979-1980
4	24	Reports, 1962-1976
4	25	Reports, 1981-1990
5		Scrapbook, 1955-1963
5		Scrapbook, 1962-1965
5		Scrapbook, 1964-1967
5		Scrapbook, 1965-1967
5		Scrapbook, 1967-1970
6		Scrapbook, 1969-1979
6		Scrapbook, 1970-1974
6		Scrapbook, 1977-1984

- 6 Scrapbook, 1985-1992
- 7 Scrapbook, 1993-1998
- 7 Scrapbook, 1998-2000

Series 8
Printed Materials, 1968-2001
Boxes 8, 10

Scope and Content Note

Printed materials produced by St. Matthew's include weekly bulletins, a newsletter called *The Informer*, a newsletter called *The Adventurer*, and an untitled newsletter. There are also three folders of bulletins from other churches collected between 1974 and 1980. The significance of these items is unknown.

Arrangement Note

Arranged alphabetically and chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
8	1	<i>The Adventurer</i> , 1969-1971
8	2	Bulletins, 1968-1969
8	3	Bulletins, 1969-1970
8	4	Bulletins, 1970-1971
8	5-7	Bulletins, 1972-1976
8	8-9	Bulletins, 1976-1978
8	10	Bulletins, 1979
8	11	Bulletins, 1980
8	12	Bulletins, 1981-1982
8	13	Bulletins, 1983-1985
8	14	Bulletins, 1986-1987
8	15	Bulletins, 1988
8	16	Bulletins, 1995-1996
8	17	Bulletins, 1997
8	18-19	Bulletins, 1999-2001
8	20-22	Bulletins from Other Churches, 1974-1980
8	23	<i>The Informer</i> , 1981, 1983-1984
8	24	<i>The Informer</i> , 1985-1993
8	25	<i>The Informer</i> , 1995, 1997-1998
8	26	<i>The Informer</i> , 1999-2001
10	7-9	Newsletter, 1972-1980

Series 9

Financial Records, 1972-1991

Box 9

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of monthly treasurer's reports and budget information.

Arrangement Note

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
9	1	Treasurer's Reports, 1972-1973
9	2-3	Treasurer's Reports, 1973-1974
9	4-5	Treasurer's Reports, 1975-1976
9	6	Treasurer's Reports, 1977
9	7-8	Treasurer's Reports, 1978-1979
9	9-10	Treasurer's Reports, 1980-1981
9	11-12	Treasurer's Reports, 1982-1983
9	13-14	Treasurer's Reports, 1984-1985
9	15-16	Treasurer's Reports, 1986-1987
9	17-19	Treasurer's Reports, 1988-1991

Series 10
Quilting Group, 1981-1988
Box 12

Scope and Content Note

Two folders comprise this series. The first contains correspondence received by the Quilting Group, mainly thank-you cards and acknowledgements of financial donations made by the group. The second contains photographs of group members and their quilts. All of the items in this series were originally arranged in adhesive photo albums. They were removed from the albums for preservation reasons.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by format.

Box	Folder	Content
12	1	Correspondence, 1981-1988
12	2	Photographs [66 items], circa 1981-1988

Series 11

Photographs, 1955-1998, undated

Box 12

Scope and Content Note

In this series are photographs of church events from the 1950s through the late 1990s. Many of the photographs are identified with only a date; some are undated.

Arrangement Note

Arranged chronologically.

Box	Folder	Content
12	3	[Building Dedication, 1950s?] [5 items]
12		Christmas Party, late 1950s-early 1960s [15 items]
12		Church Events, 1978-1979 [31 items]
12	4	Church Events, 1980 [16 items]
12		Church Events, 1998 [11 items]
12		Church Events, undated [3 items]
