

Salem UMC Archives
Finding Aid for the
St. John's United Methodist Church Collection

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Salem United Methodist Church Archives, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Phone: (314) 991-0546. Email: eterryhistory@gmail.com Website: salemstlouis.com

Creator: St. John's United Methodist Church

Title: St. John's United Methodist Church Collection

Dates: 1931-1990

Quantity: 5.7 linear feet

Language: English

Historical Note

The Asbury Methodist Chapel was established circa 1848 at the corner of 19th and Gay Streets in St. Louis. A Sunday school arose from this congregation in 1864, and it was from that group of worshipers that St. John's church began. When the chapel was sold in that same year, about seventy-five people organized and decided to build a new church in a different location.

Work on the structure, at 2901 Locust Street, began in 1867, and the church was dedicated in 1869. Called St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church South*, the new building made quite an impression on a local writer who called it "one of the largest, wealthiest, and most influential churches in the city." That same writer said the church cost \$90,000 to build.

As the population in the City of St. Louis moved westward, the church needed to follow its parishioners. They bought property at 5000 Washington Place, an Italian Renaissance building designed by architect Theodore C. Link at Kingshighway and Washington Boulevard. That location in the Central West End came to be called "The Holy Corners"*** because of the beautiful houses of worship that located there. In 1902, they sold their original property and moved to their new home. The Italian Renaissance building on Washington became home to the newly renamed St. John's United Methodist Church. They remained open until 2007, and, as of 2021, the building is the home of an antiques auction house.

*The name Methodist Episcopal Church was used prior to 1939. In that year, the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South merged to become the Methodist Church. In 1968, the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren to become the United Methodist Church.

***"Holy Corners" acquired its name because of the concentration of churches that were erected at the intersection of Kingshighway and Washington Boulevards. Holy Corners is a designated St. Louis City Landmark. The first church, St. John's Methodist, was designed by Theodore Link in 1902. The next to be built was First

Church of Christ, Scientist designed by Mauran, Russell and Garden. Across Kingshighway the Racquet Club was constructed in 1906, also designed by Mauran, Russell and Garden. The Second Baptist Church was constructed in 1907, followed by Temple Israel. In 1908, the Tuscan Temple was the last of the Holy Corners buildings to be constructed.

Citation:

Holy Corners—City Landmark #47, Cultural Resources Office, St. Louis MO Gov, accessed 10-18-2021 AET,

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/cultural-resources/city-landmarks/holy-corners.cfm>

St. John's United Methodist Church, St. Louis Genealogical Society, accessed 10-18-2021 AET, <https://stlgs.org/research-2/congregations/methodist/methodist-churches/st-johns-united-methodist-church>

Scope and Content Notes

Series 01, Box 1: Consists largely of clipped newspaper articles and notices that specifically pertain to St. John's. Many had been pasted to paper, in scrapbook format.

Series 01, Box 2: A variety of documents, including clipped newspaper articles and notices, pasted to paper in scrapbook format.

Series 01, Box 3: Documents related to building maintenance, like those used by trustees.

Series 01, Box 4: Variety of documents related to St. John's.

Series 02, Boxes 6, 7, 8, 9, 10: Includes documents related to the noted organizations.

Note: W.S.C.S. is Women's Society of Christian Service. The name changed to the United Methodist Women (U.M.W.) in 1972.

Series 03, Boxes 11, 12, 13: Variety of documents financially related to St. John's.

Series 04, Box 14: ****Restricted**** Documents related to the Soulard Day Care (operated by Kingdom House) in the late 1980s.

Series

Series 05, Item 5: A large section of newspaper, including featured article.

Series 05, Item 15: Two newspaper magazines

Administrative Information

Source of Collection

Salem United Methodist Church, and the conferences in which Salem was a member.

Accruals

Salem's Archives will continue to accrue conference reports.

Processing Information

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2012

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There is restricted material in this collection.

Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of Salem UMC Archives Materials.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Salem UMC Archives a hard copy of the notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish Salem UMC Archives Materials form.

All publications not covered by fair use restricted to those who have permission of the copyright holder.

Collection Contents

Series 01: Historical

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	1931 – newspaper articles 1932 – newspaper articles and audited treasurer’s report 1933 – <i>Folder 1</i> newspaper articles 1933 – <i>Folder 2</i> newspaper articles and United Missionary Conference programs 1934 – <i>Folder 1</i> newspaper articles 1934 – <i>Folder 2</i> group photo in front of church and newspaper articles 1934 – <i>Folder 3</i> newspaper articles
2	1935 – newspaper articles 1936 – Mothercraft Class program, which includes lists of members. “A Little Parable for Mothers.” 1937 – Mothercraft Class program, which includes lists of members. Easter worship service bulletin. Newspaper articles. Photo of a Christmas pageant. Christmas pageant script. 1938 – <i>Folder 1</i> Mothercraft Class program, which includes lists of members. Newspaper articles. 1938 – <i>Folder 2</i> Newspaper articles. 1939 – <i>Folder 1</i> Mothercraft Class program, which includes lists of members. Photo of production of “Little Women.”

Newspaper articles.
 1939 – *Folder 2*
 Newspaper articles.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
3	1 1960s: insurance policy documents inventory of items insured insurance policy notes
	2 1960s: insurance policy documents 1946: insurance policy documents
	3 1957: property warranty deed 1956: letters and proposals from exterior / interior contractors air conditioning documents 1960s: insurance policy documents

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
4	Miscellaneous material: Local United Methodist Church organizational chart <i>Crusade Courier</i> , February 1971 Nov. 23, 1960 minutes of the Executive Committee, Central Development Council St. John's Methodist Church bulletin, Oct. 24, 1943 Fall Round Up, 1980-1981 Variety of documents related to this event Holy Communion, 1956 June 21, 1956 program for this event

Series 02: Boards, Organizations, Staff

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
6	<i>Folder 1</i> - Council on Ministries, 1986 <i>Folder 2</i> - Council on Ministries, 1986 Variety of documents related to this council

Folder 1 - Council on Ministries, 1987

Folder 2 - Council on Ministries, 1987

Variety of documents related to this council

Box

7

Folder

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1944-1949

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1950-1953

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1954-1956

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1957-1958

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1959-1960

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1960-1961

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1961-1962

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1963

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1964

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1965

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1966

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1967

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1968

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1969

Notes, minutes, etc.

Box

8

Folder

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1970

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1971

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1972

Notes, minutes, etc.

Wesleyan Service Guild, Christmas programs

1957, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1967

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1953-1968

Variety of documents related to the guild

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1966-1969

Correspondence

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1964-1969

Treasurer's reports

Box

9

Folder

W.S.C.S. 1953-1961

Treasurer's reports

W.S.C.S. 1962-1970

Treasurer's reports

W.S.C.S. 1964-1971

District treasurer's reports

W.S.C.S. 1970-1972 – *Folder 1*

Treasurer's reports

W.S.C.S. 1959-1968

Variety of documents related to the organization

W.S.C.S. 1970-1972 – *Folder 2*

Meeting minutes, notes, and related documents

W.S.C.S. 1970-1973

Variety of documents related to the organization

U.M.W. 1972-1973 - *Folder 1*

Treasurer's reports

U.M.W. 1972-1973 - *Folder 2*

Yearbook

Box

10

W.S.C.S. directories

1946-1972 (missing: 1959-1960, 1962-1963, 1967-1968)

W.S.C.S. handbooks

Series 03: Financial

Box

11

Folder

Endowment Fund, 1954-1958 *Folder 1*

Correspondence, notes, etc.

Endowment Fund, 1954-1958 *Folder 2*

Correspondence

Box

12

Folder

Finance Committee, 1972

Call for meeting

Finance Committee, 1974-1976

Notes, reports, correspondence, etc.

Finance Committee, 1976-1979

Notes, reports, correspondence, etc.

Ledger, 1989 *Folder 1*
 Ledger, 1989 *Folder 2*
 Ledger, 1989 *Folder 3*
 Ledger, 1989 *Folder 4*

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
13	Ledger, 1990 <i>Folder 1</i> Ledger, 1990 <i>Folder 2</i> Ledger, 1990 <i>Folder 3</i>

Series 04: Daycare

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
14	**RESTRICTED** Intake forms, medical information, financial documents, etc. Information regarding children who attended Soulard Day Care (operated by Kingdom House) in the late 1980s.

Series 05: Print Media

<u>Item</u>	<u>Folder</u>
5	<i>Oversized</i> newspaper article: "Churchmen and Darrow Debate Religion Before Huge Audience at Odeon." May 21, 1931. <i>St. Louis Globe-Democrat</i> .
15	<i>Oversized</i> <i>St. Louis Globe-Democrat Magazine</i> , February 19, 1956. Featured article: "The Life Story of Bishop Ivan Lee Holt." <i>Oversized</i> <i>Life</i> magazine, 1956. "Christianity" issue.