

Salem UMC Archives  
Finding Aid for the  
*Miriam Dryden Collection of*  
*Salem United Methodist Church*  
*Material*

**Descriptive Summary**

Repository: Salem United Methodist Church Archives, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Phone: (314) 991-0546. Email: [eterryhistory@gmail.com](mailto:eterryhistory@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.salemstlouis.com>

Creator: Miriam Dryden

Title: Miriam Dryden Collection of Salem United Methodist Church Material

Dates: 1927-1994

Quantity: 0.416 linear feet

Language: English

**Biographical Sketch**

**Miriam Louise Maier** was born to William and Helen Marth Maier on June 27, 1926. Miriam's parents, as well as her grandparents, were members of Salem UMC, so Miriam became a lifelong member of Salem. She grew up, with her parents and grandparents, in the Shaw neighborhood, just one block from Tower Grove Park. Miriam graduated from Roosevelt High School, then from Harris Teachers College. She went on to receive her Masters Degree in Education from Washington University.

As a young adult, Miriam loved to travel. She visited Colorado, spent summers hiking in the mountains in the Northeast, and did a grand tour of Europe with a friend from Harris. Miriam began her teaching career in St. Louis Public Schools and taught classes for students with visual impairments. Miriam remained in contact with a few of her students for the rest of her life.

In the early 1950s, Miriam met Gene Dryden, a member of St. John's UMC, at a square dance at the Downtown YWCA. They were married in the Chapel of Salem-in-Ladue UMC on December 3, 1960. While they took annual summer vacations (always of an educational nature), Gene did not share Miriam's wanderlust, and her love for him exceeded her love of travel. They soon moved into their home in University City, where they lived for 48 years. In 1968, they were blessed with their only child, Katherine Louise.

Miriam became a stay at home mom until Katherine was 3 years old and started preschool at Salem. As Miriam had to take Katherine to and from Salem, she soon decided that she need not drive back and forth, thus beginning her second teaching career that would last the next 20 years. In addition to working at Salem Preschool, she also volunteered with Kingdom House, was active in United Methodist Women, and

Salem's Choir. Miriam served as an officer in Eastern Star, a Pixie (Girl Scout) Leader, bowled on a league, and kept up with her interests of playing piano and working in the yard.

Miriam and Gene's daughter Katherine married David Farache in 1992. Miriam eagerly awaited grandchildren, though she was not upset that she at least had a "granddog." In 2002, she became a proud grandma with the adoption of Angela and Chloe. Their early memories of her of include helping her in the garden, playing the piano, and the special gold silverware that was reserved just for them.

In 2007, Miriam and Gene made the decision to move into the Gatesworth, where they lived until his passing in 2011. When Gene passed away, a part of Miriam left also. She soon moved into McKnight Place Assisted Living, calling McKnight Place Extended Care room #125 her home. She has spent much of that time wondering why it was taking so long for her to join the love of her life. Following her death on December 27, 2017, she spent that Christmas with her ever lovin' Gene.

*A Service of Life and Resurrection for Miriam Dryden.* Funeral program, Salem United Methodist Church, December 27, 2017.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

These miscellaneous materials were collected by Mrs. Miriam (Maier) Dryden throughout the duration of her lifetime. All are related to Salem. Collection includes photos, certificates, etc.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Source of Collection**

This material was given to Archives by Miriam Dryden

#### **Accruals**

#### **Processing Information**

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2012

### **Restrictions**

#### **Access Restrictions**

There is no 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: Varied Material**

#### Box 1

##### Folder 1

1939 Confirmation photo  
 photos of the various Salem church buildings  
 photos of the inside of a church (presumably one of Salem's buildings)  
 certificates  
 Jacoby gravestone photo  
 photo of retirement cake with Salem decorated on it  
 1968 Crossroads  
 Purpose of Woman's Society of Christian Service  
 photo, 2 men, 2 women, unidentified, circa 1920s or 1930s

##### Folder 2

Cradle Roll Certificate, June 19, 1927

#### Item 2

##### Oversized

- 1) 1939 Confirmation photo
- 2) William Meyer's 1906 Eden Methodist Episcopal confirmation certificate
- 3) Miriam Maier's 1932 certificate of promotion to the primary department
- 4) Helen Marth's 1912 Zoar Methodist Episcopal confirmation certificate