



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
(MANCHESTER, TENN.) RECORDS,
1843-1986**

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

First Baptist Church (Manchester, Tenn.)

Inclusive Dates:

1843-1986

Scope & Content:

Composed of association minutes, church minutes, deacon's meeting minutes, membership rolls, newsletters, and Sunday School records spanning the period 1843-1986.

The association minutes (Box 1, f. 1-6) contain typescript printed booklets detailing the meetings of the Duck River Baptist Association. The minutes are bound in three-ring binders. In addition to the Duck River Association minutes, the first binder (Box 1, f. 1) also contains the 1843 minutes of the Elk River Baptist Association, a 1963 *History of the Duck River Association of Missionary Baptists*, and a 1986 *History of Duck River Baptist Association and Churches*. The second binder (Box 1, f. 2) contains several minute books for the William Carey Baptist Association as well as the 1896 *Proceedings of the Middle Tennessee Baptist Sunday School Convention*.

The deacons' minutes (Box 1, f. 7) are chronological and span the period 1966 to 1977. Various loose items are included within the minute book including proposed yearly operating budgets for the church.

The *History of First Baptist Church Manchester, Tennessee* (Box 1, f. 8) is a typescript history of the church. It was compiled in October 2005 and updated in November 2012. The narrative also contains lists of pastors, ministerial staff, church secretaries, ordinations, licensees, missionaries, and mission work as well as a record of the pipe organ.

The minutes and church roll volumes (Box 1, f. 9 - Box 2, f. 10) contain records of the transactions and proceedings of the church. In addition to the minutes, the tomes also hold membership lists.

The newsletters (Box 2, f. 11-Box 3, f. 6) are comprised of various printed newsheets of the church. The following titles are included: *The Monthly Messenger* (1965-1966), *Guiding Light* (1966-1974), and *The News* (1974-1980). *The News* for 1975-1980 are bound together by year.

The Sunday School records (Box 3, f. 7-10) contain minute books for Sabbath School. A list of attendees and teachers is given for each Sunday as well as the opening song, lesson subjects, related scriptures, and offering amounts. It should be noted that, for some Sundays, the weather is recorded. Interesting examples of this can be seen in the entry for March 1890. The volume notes the weather for March 2 as "rough," March 9 and 16 are "Fair and cool," and March 22 is "Clear and pleasant."

Physical Description/Extent:

3 linear feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

Mf. 2020

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

Mf. 2020 (available only on microfilm)

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

- 1868 The Reverend William Huff and T. G. Mosley organized a Baptist church in the Presbyterian house of worship, in Manchester, Tennessee.
- 1882 The Reverend William Huff began to preach one Sunday each month and the church started to have consecutive meeting times. They met in the county courthouse.
- 1885 Minutes of the Duck River Association meeting list Manchester as having a membership of 17.
- 1886 Church occupied the M. E. Church, South building and commenced building their own structure.
- 1887 May 29. New church building is formally dedicated. The Reverend J. J. Porter brought the dedicatory sermon and assisted the pastor, the Reverend William Huff, in a weeklong series of meetings.
- 1906 Church starts Wednesday night prayer meetings.
- 1906 May 13. The Reverend J. C. Miles is called as “half-time” pastor.
- 1925 First WMU (Woman’s Missionary Union) report is given.
- 1942- Additions are made to the church building to provide additional Sunday
1943 School rooms and a three-room annex for a pastor’s apartment.
- 1949 Church buys property on South Ramsey Street to be used as a parsonage.
- 1951 January 10. Two committees are formed. One is to select a lot for a new church building, and the other is to sell the current church property on Woodland and Main.
- 1951 June 4. Church buys lot on Hillsboro Road from Dr. Howard Farrar.
- 1953 January 11. Groundbreaking for new church building.
- 1954 April 4. First services are held in the new building.
- 1954 September 12. New building is dedicated and the cornerstone is laid.
- 1967 Education building is added.
- 1981 September 29. Arsonist breaks into the church and starts a fire that completely destroys the main church building. The education building only sustains very slight damage. Damages are estimated to be about \$850,000.

- 1981- Church meets at the Central High School for Sunday morning worship
 1984 services. They meet at the First Presbyterian Church for Sunday night
 worship services and Wednesday night Prayer Meetings.
- 1982 September 19. Groundbreaking services are held for new structure.
- 1984 March 25. First services are held in the new church building.
- 1984 April 8. Dedication services are held for the new sanctuary and education
 building.
- 1987 September 27. Church holds “Noteburning Celebration and Fellowship
 Lunch.”
- 1999 Church purchases additional property on Hillsboro Highway.
- 1998- Church music department presents “Merry Christmas, Manchester,” an
 2001 outdoor music and drama presentation, each year at Christmas.
- 2000 September. Church begins a preschool ministry.
- 2000 October. Church creates a time capsule to be opened in 2099.
- 2007 Groundbreaking is held for a new family life center and education
 building.

List of Pastors

- 1853-1854 S. L. Summers
 1868-1888 William Huff
 1888-1889 A. D. Phillips
 1889-1890 W. B. Rutledge
 1892-1893 William Huff
 1894-1895 Dr. A. F. Vincent
 1896-unknown I. S. Baker
 1897-1898 Dr. A. F. Vincent
 1898-1899 B. F. Jones
 unknown-1901 Dr. A. F. Vincent
 unknown-1902 E. H. Yankey
 1903-1904 J. H. Sharp
 unknown-1906 W. J. Robison
 1906 J. C. Miles
 1907 W. D. Hudgins
 1908-1911 C. L. Skinner
 1911-1912 C. H. Bailey
 1913-1914 J. W. McQueen

1920-unknown John W. Jamison
1924-1940 J. L. McAliley
1942-1945 James Canaday
1945-1946 Buford M. Bull
1946-1949 H. A. Russell
1950-1951 Chester H. Jones
1952-1958 E. M. McCarty
1859-1964 Hugh L. Myers
1965-1969 Dr. Kenneth Hubbard
Interim Art Bircham
1970-1971 Bill Searcy
Interim Dr. James Barry
1971-1973 Dr. Kenneth Hubbard
Interim Dr. Lee Porter
1974-1977 J. R. Covington
Interim Dr. Wade Darby
1977-1981 Dr. Murphy Martin
Interim Dr. Wade Darby
1982-1993 Jerry L. Tracy
Interim Tom Madden
1994-present Dr. Brenton Cox

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from various items within the collection.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The arrangement of the collection is alphabetical.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

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Index Terms

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Duck River Baptist Association -- History -- Sources
Elk River Baptist Association -- History -- Sources
First Baptist Church (Manchester, Tenn.) -- Records and correspondence
William Carey Baptist Association -- History -- Sources

Subjects:

Baptists -- History -- Tennessee -- Sources

Document Types:

Membership lists
Minute books
Newsletters

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

Records loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by the First Baptist Church of Manchester, Tennessee, on November 15, 2012. They were microfilmed and returned to the owner.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

First Baptist Church Records (Manchester, Tenn.), 1843-1986, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Completed by Lori D. Lockhart in November 2012.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Held privately.

Electronic Location and Access:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf2020.pdf>

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Association minutes	1843-1885, 1963, 1986	1	1
Association minutes	1886-1896	1	2
Association minutes	1896-1910	1	3
Association minutes	1911-1919	1	4
Association minutes	1920-1930	1	5
Association minutes	1931-1936	1	6
Deacon minutes	1966-1977	1	7
<i>History of First Baptist Church Manchester, Tennessee</i>	2005, 2012	1	8
Minutes and church roll	1895-1920	1	9
Minutes and church roll	1925-1942	1	10
Minutes and church roll	1942-1949	2	1
Minutes and church roll	1949-1954	2	2
Minutes and church roll	1954-1957	2	3
Minutes and church roll	1957-1960	2	4
Minutes and church roll	1960-1963	2	5
Minutes and church roll	1964-1967	2	6
Minutes and church roll	1967-1971	2	7
Minutes and church roll	1971-1974	2	8
Minutes and church roll	1974-1976	2	9
Minutes and church roll	1976-1984	2	10
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1966-1967	2	11
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1968	2	12
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1969	2	13
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1970	2	14
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1971	2	15
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1972	2	16
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1973	2	17
Newsletters -- <i>Guiding Light</i>	1974	2	18
Newsletters -- <i>The Monthly Messenger</i>	1965-1966	2	19
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1974	2	20
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1975	3	1
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1976	3	2
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1977	3	3
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1978	3	4

Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1979	3	5
Newsletters -- <i>The News</i>	1980	3	6
Sunday School records	1890-1892	3	7
Sunday School records	1895-1896	3	8
Sunday School records	1905-1909	3	9
Sunday School records	1909-1911	3	10