

Collection #
P 0365

**GRACE ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
COLLECTION, 1936–1983, N.D.**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs, 1 folder of manuscripts and ephemera

COLLECTION DATES: 1936–1983, n.d.

PROVENANCE: Gift from Beulah Jane Stephens of Fort Wayne, Ind., 2005

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0128

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Grace St. John's United Church of Christ in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was formed in 1983 as the result of the merger of St. John's Reformed Church and Grace Reformed Church.

St. John's Reformed Church was founded in 1844 with services performed exclusively in German until 1908. Worship services in English were then phased in gradually through 1935. It was located at 219 W. Washington Street.

In 1883, Grace Reformed Church was organized. It held services in English in a former Jewish synagogue on Harrison Street. The next year the church erected its own building on E. Washington Boulevard. To accommodate growth, the Grace congregation purchased property at Lexington and Webster streets and dedicated a new church building in 1928. An addition was built in 1969 for an educational unit. After the 1983 merger, the St. John's congregation came to worship there as well. The old St. John's church was sold in 1984 and later demolished.

Both St. John's and Grace congregations were part of the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed denominations in 1934 and a subsequent denominational merger with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957. The resulting denomination is known as the United Church of Christ.

Sources:

Grace St. John's United Church of Christ. "History" <https://www.gracestjohns.org/history.php>. Accessed 1 March 2019.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of six black-and-white photographs as well as some manuscript material and ephemera pertaining to what is now known as Grace St. John's United Church of Christ in Fort Wayne, Indiana, or its earlier separate congregations. The bulk of the material is from the branch of the church that was Grace Reformed Church. The collection is arranged in two series.

Series 1, Photographs: This series is composed of five photographs of choirs at Grace Reformed Church in Fort Wayne [ca. 1950s–1960s] and one photograph of a boys' basketball team, presumably at Grace United Church of Christ (n.d.).

Series 2, Manuscripts and Ephemera: This series includes a photocopy of a court summons for Grace Reformed Church (1936), outlines for sermons at Grace United Church of Christ (1979), a description of the church's centennial banner (1983), and a church bulletin cover with a photograph of St. John's United Church of Christ in Fort Wayne (n.d.).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs

CONTENTS

Adult Choir, Grace Reformed Church – Back row: Henry Bell, William Hebermehl, George Marchal, Harry Schlacter, Ray Sink, Eldon Slater, Bill Schlacter. Middle row: Betty Tegtmeier, Clara Hebermehl, Mary Mills, Selma Schlacter, Edna Mae Paff Fosnight, __?__. Front row: Lorraine Frykberg, Ruth Fisher, Mildred ?, Mrs. Vern Gingher [Georgia Gingher] (organist), Reverend John Heistand, Josephine Gerig (director), Sylvia Heistand, Lorraine Heuer, Joyce Pentz, Ruth Baumgartner. [ca. 1950] (Photo by Bob Smith, *Journal-Gazette* Photo, Fort Wayne)

[Grace Reformed Church choir, ca. 1955] – Group portrait, but only the name Velma Arnold is written on back. Includes some of the same people as in the other adult choir group photos. [Photo has some damage.]

Children's Choir with two adults [Ruth Marchal and Elizabeth Squires] – Top row: Joanne Slater, __?__, __?__, Sandy Rosenberg [or Sandy Rosenbery?], Gary Marchal, Beth Squires. Middle row: Ruth Marchal, __?__, Rosalie Curtis, Judy Ruhl, Douglas Fox, Lois Gallimore, Mike Nitzsche, Jane Slater, Ted Pfeiffer [or Ted Peiffer?], Elizabeth Squires. Front row: __?__, Stanley Fox, Sherrill Williams, Joseph Masel, Tim Marchal. [Grace Reformed Church, ca. 1958]. (Photo by Clippinger Photography of Fort Wayne)

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Adult Choir. Back row: Eugene Dennis, Floyd Johnson, Robert Ponsot, George Marchal, Walter Pohler, Ivan Gordon, Melvin Arnold, Ray Sink. Second row from top: Rosalie Curtis, Mildred Koelle, La Delia Gordon, Velma Arnold, Duetta Davis, Ruth Marchal, Jackie Brown. Second row from bottom: Hazel Gallimore, __?__, Mary Ponsot, Betty Tegtmeyer, Helen Bailey, Virginia Ruhl, Beverly Preston, Don Cochran. Front row: Joyce Pentz Dennis, [Velma] Arnold, Pam Brown, Mrs. [Josephine] Gerig (director), Lillian White (organist), Carol Heuer, Connie Arnold. [Grace Reformed Church. Written on attached note is "1946?" but this may be ca. 1960.] (Photo by Clippinger Photography of Fort Wayne)

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Group photo of choir with names written on back [ca. mid- to late-1960s]. Back row: Bob Ponsot, Mike Nitzsche, Floyd Johnson, Jim Ponsot, Melvin Arnold, Tim Marchal, Ivan Gordon. Middle row: Laurence Slater, George Marchal, Pharol Pringle, Velma Arnold, Ruth Marchal, Nan Hollins, Sandra Stryker, Laverne Enzor. Front row: Jerry Mitchell (organist), Duetta Davis, Irene Longenberger, La Delia Gordon, Hazel Gallimore, Irene Slater, Ruth Gilbreath. [Grace Reformed Church.]

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Boys' basketball team – shows eight unidentified boys in basketball uniforms, n.d. Note on back says to return to Grace UCC, 4120 S. Webster St. (Photo by Clippinger Photography of Fort Wayne)

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Series 2: Manuscripts and Ephemera

CONTENTS

Photocopy of summons for the Grace Reformed Church (Rev. Bertwin E. Reemsnyder, pastor) to appear in Superior Court of Allen County regarding foreclosure of mortgage, dated 13 October 1936.

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2

One typed page of service summary for 15 July 1979, includes Baptism of Samuel Morris Hartman, stewardship awards, theme, and hymn. [Grace Reformed Church]

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2

Nine typed pages of topics, scripture, hymns, and other songs from services given by Rev. Charles S. Hartman, interim pastor at Grace United Church of Christ, 11 February 1979 through 9 September 1979.

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2

Description of centennial banner and list of people who created it, 1983.

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2

Cover of church bulletin with blank pages inside. Cover has photo of St. John's United Church of Christ, 219 West Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, n.d.

Photographs, Folder 2 of 2