ELBRIDGE (NEW CHAPEL) UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(ELBRIDGE, TENN.) RECORDS,
1886-2008

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:
Elbridge United Methodist Church (Elbridge, Tenn.)

Inclusive Dates:
1886-2008

Scope & Content:
Composed of Charge Conference records, membership registers, Sunday School records, and treasurer’s materials spanning the period 1886-2008. All items, with the exception of one membership register (which is from the Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South) and the Sunday School records (which are from the Jackson Hill Methodist Church), relate to the Elbridge United Methodist Church. Elbridge is also known as New Chapel United Methodist Church.

The Charge Conference records (Box 1, v. 1-5) are chronological from 1907-1969, with gaps occurring between 1911-1928 and 1946-1962. Included are details of the meetings of the Elbridge Charge. The Elbridge Charge was in the Dyersburg District, Memphis Conference, of the United Methodist Church. A charge consists of one or more local churches with the same minister. The Charge originally included Elbridge, Zion, Cunningham, and Minnick Methodist churches. Later volumes do not include Minnick. It should be noted that for the 1928-1936 and 1938-1940 volumes, the district is listed as Union City.
The membership registers (Box 1, v. 6-11) span the period 1886-2008 and contain a catalog of church members. Registers of deaths, baptisms, and marriages are also included in some volumes. The last volume (Box 1, v. 11), dated 1898-1943, is a membership register for the Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This church is listed in the early Charge Conference record volumes as well.

The Sunday School records (Box 1, v. 12) contain a “Complete Sunday School Record Book” for Jackson Hill Methodist Church. A list of attendees and teachers is given for each Sunday as well as the opening song, lesson subjects, and related scriptures. Weather conditions are also recorded. Interesting examples of this can be seen in the entry for June 24, 1917, where the weather is listed simply as “Hot.”

The treasurer’s materials (Box 1, v. 13-14), dated 1938-1963, relate to all churches in the Elbridge Charge (i.e. Elbridge, Zion, Cunningham, and Minnick). Listings of yearly cash flow as well as collections taken and paid to visiting preachers are included.

Physical Description/Extent:
14 volumes

Accession/Record Group Number:
Mf. 1950

Language:
English

Permanent Location:
Mf. 1950 (available only on microfilm)

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

Administrative/Biographical History
1852 Dr. Meredith Carroll donates 10 acres of land to build a church and cemetery.

1885 Church consists of 70 members.

1897 Riding Brothers is contracted to build a new church building. The cost was $900 for a building “following the lines of a New England Colonial.” This church building was named “New Chapel.”
1902  Membership increases to 277 members.

1926  A “watch service” is held on New Year’s Eve. A group of young people, wanting to “ring” in the New Year, accidentally tears down the church bell.

1939  April 23. A wood shingle on the roof catches fire. The building is saved but a new roof is required. A tin roof is installed to replace the burned wooden one.

1944  Church is wired for electricity.

1950  Church interior is remodeled. Two classrooms are added to the front on either side of the stage.

1963  Lighted stained glass window depicting Christ in the garden is installed.

1964-1965  Memorial stained glass windows are installed. Each window is paid for by members of the memorialized family.

1965  Central heat and air is installed.

1967  Wrought iron sign, donated by the G. W. Hailey family, is erected.

1983  Two restrooms are added to the back of the church building.

2009  Parsonage owned by Elbridge, Zion, and Cunningham Methodist churches is sold. Elbridge uses the money to paint the inside of the church, install new ceiling fans, and lower the ceiling.

2010  June. Church closes as membership has dropped to 17 with only six active members. The church building is deeded to the Elbridge Cemetery Association by the Methodist Conference.

2012  Church building relocated to Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee.

List of Pastors
1884-1885  S. L. Jewell
1885-1886  H. B. Owens
1886-1887  Andrew J. Wheeler
1887-1888  R. Y. Blackwell
1888-1889  B. Medlin
1889-1890  B. F. Peebles
1890-1891 G. W. Evans
1891-1892 J. S. Renshaw
1892-1895 S. B. Love
1895-1896 D. M. Evans
1896-1899 R. L. Norman
1899-1903 J. B. Winsett
1903-1905 R. S. Harrison
1905-1906 J. Tom Alexander
1906-1909 C. E. Norman
1909-1910 C. A. Waterfield
1910-1912 W. H. Collins
1912-1914 E. J. W. Peters
1914-1915 W. A. Banks
1915-1917 C. A. Riggs
1917-1919 J. T. Banks
1919-1921 T. N. Wilkes
1921-1923 B. A. Walker
1923-1925 B. D. Cairn
1925-1926 W. S. Lockman
1926-1927 C. D. Hilliard
1927-1928 W. A. Lampkin
1928-1931 J. B. Mackey
1931-1933 W. K. Lovett
1933-1935 O. H. Boatwright
1935-1936 R. E. Hickman
1936-1937 A. T. Hurley
1937-1939 J. E. Hopper
1939-1941 W. A. Baker
1941-June 1942 S. B. Jones
June-November 1942 M. M. Gurley
November 1942-1946 W. L. Hill
1946-1947 J. P. Murphy
1947-1949 W. T. M. Jones
1949-1951 R. E. Street
1951-1954 S. B. Morrison
1954-1956 W. H. Harpole
1956-1960 F. R. Bell
1960-1961 F. L. Clement
1961-1964 L. E. King
1964-1967 J. D. Featherston
1967-1968 Tom Jowers
1968-1970 Vernice Scarborough
1970-1971 Charles Morris
1971-1974 Donnie Harden
1974-1975 Ricky Pinkston
1975-1979 Lawrence Russ
1979-1986 William Larry Tubb
1986-1998 Bobby Dale Mills
1998-2001 Thomas O. Perkins
2002 Robert Craig
Walter Asher

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from “New Chapel Methodist Church: Through The Years, 1852-2010.”

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Arrangement is alphabetical by type of record.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:
None

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Index Terms

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:
Cunningham United Methodist Church (Obion, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources
Dyersburg United Methodist District -- History -- Sources
Elbridge United Methodist Church (Elbridge, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources
Jackson Hill Methodist Church (Hornbeak, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources
Memphis United Methodist Conference -- History -- Sources
Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Minnick, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources
Obion United Methodist District -- History -- Sources
Zion United Methodist Church (Obion, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources

Subjects:
Methodists -- History -- Tennessee -- Sources
Document Types:
  Membership lists
  Minute books

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:
Records loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Janice
Carver of Obion, Tennessee, on March 13, 2013. They were microfilmed
and returned to the owner.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:
Elbridge (New Chapel) United Methodist Church Records (Elbridge,
Tenn.), 1886-2008, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:
Completed by Lori D. Lockhart in March 2013.

Existence and Location of Originals:
Held privately.

Electronic Location and Access:
**CONTAINER LIST**

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