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 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

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**Administrative/Biographical History**

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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.

1942-1943  Additions are made to the church building to provide additional Sunday 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.


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 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 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:
## CONTAINER LIST

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