

**Roanoke Public Libraries
Virginia Room
First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Collection**

Collection Description:

Repository: Roanoke Public Libraries, Virginia Room

Accession Number: 2014.9.7

Title: First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Collection

Physical Characteristics: 1 document storage case

Donated by: unknown

Arrangement: Generally chronologically

Creator: unknown

Reproduction Restrictions: No known restrictions on publication. Virginia Room copy fees apply.

Processor: Angela Stiefbold, November 2024

Historical Note:

While its history can be traced back to the Big Lick Baptist Church founded in 1875, it was in 1929 that the congregation of First Baptist Church moved to its newly constructed church on Third Street between Franklin and Luck Avenues. The church occupied this building into the twenty-first century. During the mid-twentieth century, the period of time this collection represents, its pastors were William Cooke Boone (1927-1930), Walter Pope Binns (1931-1943), Wade Hampton Bryant (1945-1961), and Charles Grantland Fuller (1961-1999). Membership in the church ranged from about 2,000 in 1929 to almost 2,500 in 1971.

Scope and Content:

The collection primarily consists of church service programs from 1929-1948 and directories and yearbooks from the 1960s and 1970s. The collection includes programs from Sunday Services during the years 1929-1948 and 1961-1970, though coverage of many years is scant, and no year includes the full complement of programs. Programs often include a church calendar for the upcoming week. Full church directories are available for the years 1965, 1967, 1971, and 1974, and a leadership directory is included for 1966. Several yearbooks for the Woman's Missionary Union and the Rebekah Bible Class from the 1960s and early 1970s are also part of the collection.

Container List:

Box 1

- Folder 1: Honor Rolls (1929) – Listings of members who have paid their pledges to the church budget and building fund
- Folder 2: Sunday Programs (1929) – Incomplete
- Folder 3: Sunday Programs (1930-32) – Incomplete
- Folder 4: Sunday Programs (1933-36) – Incomplete
- Folder 5: Sunday Programs (1939) – Incomplete

- Folder 6: Sunday Programs (1940) – Incomplete
- Folder 7: Sunday Programs (1941) – Incomplete
- Folder 8: Sunday Programs (1942, 1943, 1948) – Incomplete; includes farewell service of pastor Walter P. Binns, June 17, 1943
- Folder 9: Sunday Programs (1961, 1963, 1965, 1968, 1970) – Incomplete
- Folder 10: Church Directories (1965, 1967, 1971)
- Folder 11: Church Directory (1974)
- Folder 12: Church Leadership Directory (1966) – also includes new church members of 1965
- Folder 13: Woman’s Missionary Union Yearbooks (1923-24, 1962-63, 1967-68, 1969-70, 1971-72)
- Folder 14: Rebekah Bible Class Yearbooks (1960-61, 1962-63, 1964-65, 1967-68)
- Folder 15: Miscellaneous Items –
- handwritten list of members of Gravatt Circle (nd);
 - program for “A Festival Service of Reformation Music” sponsored by the Roanoke Ministers’ Conference, Oct. 29, 1961;
 - Jan. 29, 1971 issue of “The First Baptist Beacon” newsletter
- Folder 16: Woman’s Missionary Union of Virginia – Programs for meetings held in Roanoke in 1950 and 1959