

Descriptive Summary:

Creator:	Bryan First Methodist Church, Ella Pink Jenkins, Mamie Betts
Title:	Bryan First Methodist Church Records
Inclusive Dates:	1903-1906
Bulk Dates:	1903-1906
Abstract:	The Bryan First Methodist Church Records consists of documents created by members of Bryan First Methodist Church (now First United Methodist Church of Bryan). The papers contain meeting minutes, financial ledgers, and attendance records.
Accession #:	0184
Extent:	0.45 linear feet (1 document box)
Language:	Collection is in English
Repository:	The Texas Collection, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Biographical Note:

Prior to the American Civil War, the Methodist community of Bryan, Texas, was served by a circuit rider, Rev. Byron Carden. Trustees of this Methodist congregation officially founded Bryan First Methodist Church, at that time called the Methodist Episcopal Church, South of Bryan, in 1868. The first pastor was Rev. H.G. Horton. By 1900, the town of Bryan had grown to a population of 3,589 and the Methodist Episcopal Church had 400 regular attendees.

In 1902, a new brick church building was erected. The materials in this collection were created during the brief lifespan of that building. Bryan First Methodist Church had an active Home Missions Society as well as a Foreign Missionary Society. The secretary of the Home Missions Society, Mrs. Ella Pink Jenkins, as well as the secretary pro-tem, Mrs. Mamie Betts, recorded the minutes in this collection. Mrs. Betts's husband, I.F. Betts was the pastor of Bryan First Methodist Church in 1906, when the church building was destroyed in a fire. The night of the fire is recorded in the Society minutes. The members of the Home Missions Society continued to meet weekly after the fire. In 1908 a new building was built on the previous church's foundation.

Bryan First Methodist Church continued to thrive throughout the 20th century under the name First United Methodist Church of Bryan. Its larger neighbor, College Station, home of Texas A&M University, has since overshadowed the town of Bryan. First United Methodist Church of Bryan has adapted to these changes by creating ministries designed to reach the college students of Texas A&M. The documents in this collection provide an important insight into the brief life of the church as it existed in the brick church building from 1903-1906.

Sources:

"First Methodist Church, Bryan, Texas". Brazos County Historical Commission, 1950.
<http://www.brazoscountyhistory.org/sites/bchc/files/FirstMethodistChurch.pdf>.
 Accessed 2012 June 19.

First United Methodist Church, Bryan. "Our History." Church Website. *FUMCbryan*.
<http://www.fumcbryan.org/842545>. Accessed 2012 June 19.

Mark Odintz. "BRYAN, TX." Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
Handbook of Texas Online,
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdb05>. Accessed 2012 June 19.

United States Census. "Isaac Betts." 1910 and 1930. Heritage Quest Online.
<http://www.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/index>. Accessed 2012 June 19.

Scope and Content:

The Bryan First Methodist Church Records were purchased by the Texas Collection on an unknown date.

The Bryan First Methodist Church Records contains literary productions and financial records. It includes three books of handwritten records. Members of the church's Home Missions Society created the majority of the collection. The books begin in 1903 and conclude in 1906.

Organization and Arrangement:

This collection was not organized prior to this finding aid. The Bryan First Methodist Church Records are organized in two series: I. Financial Ledger and II. Literary Productions.

Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Literary Rights Statement:

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Index Terms:

United Methodist Church (U.S.) -- Texas -- History.

Bryan (Tex.) -- Church history.

Brazos County (Tex.) -- Church history.

Related Materials: None.

Separated Materials: None.

Custodial History:

Acquisition:	Collection was acquired by purchase of the Texas Collection at an unknown date.
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Citation:	Bryan First Methodist Church Records, Accession #0184, Box #, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.
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Processing Information: Finding aid completed by Adina Johnson, 2012 June 21.

Container List:

Series I. Financial Documents, 1903-1905, 1 folder.

Series includes financial ledger book listing donations to Bryan First Methodist Church for the years 1903-1905. The donations are listed by individual name. The series is in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	1	Financial Ledger	1903-1905

Series II. Literary Productions, 1903-1906, 2 folders.

Series includes two books of minutes from Bryan First Methodist Church. The minutes cover meetings of the Home Mission Society from 1903-1906. Included in the books are attendance lists and financial reports. The second book includes minutes from the night the church burned, 1906 March 19. This series is in average to good condition.

BOX NUMBER	FOLDER NUMBER	FOLDER TITLE	DATES
1	2	Literary: Minutes	1903-1905
	3	Literary: Minutes	1906