

## Baylor University . The Texas Collection

### [Waco] First Baptist Church Collection.

#### Summary Information

<b>Creator</b>	[Waco] First Baptist Church
<b>Extent (quantity/size)</b>	5 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English; German
<b>Abstract</b>	The [Waco] First Baptist Church Collection consists of correspondence, literary documents and financial records that pertain to or are associated with the First Baptist Church of Waco.

#### Subjects

Baptists -- Texas -- History. / Baptists--Texas--Waco--History / First Baptist Church (Waco, Tex.)--History

#### Administrative Information

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**Preferred Citation** When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is:

[Waco] First Baptist Church Collection, Accession #119, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

**Processing Information** Described by Christine Hicks and released on 2012-12-19.

Archivist's Notes: **Pastors of First Baptist Church of Waco (incomplete list)**

Noah T. Byars, 1851-1853  
 S. G. O'Bryan, 1854-1860  
 Rufus C. Burleson, 1862-1863, 1865-1867, 1870  
 Benajah H. Carroll, 1871-1899  
 James M. Carroll, 1901-1902  
 J. M. Dawson, 1915-1946  
 John Wood, 1981-1991  
 Matt Snowden, 2010-Present

#### Scope and Content

This collection was acquired in four parts. The first part of the collection was acquired from an unknown donor at an unknown time. The earliest date indicated in the control file is 1974 July 30. The second part was acquired from The President's Office. This collection was transferred 1991 January. The third gift was acquired from the Comelia Smith Estate in the summer of 1997. This gift consists of a Church Yearbook. The fourth transaction was from the Texas Collection Uncataloged Holdings on 1998 September. This gift consists of one folder that is less than 1/4 inches.

#### Administrative/Biographical History

The First Baptist Church of Waco was established on 1851 May 31 by four charter members along with Noah T. Byars, who became their first pastor on June 1. Originally the church met in the meeting place of the First Methodist Church. In 1857 the congregation moved to a building located at Fourth and Mary until 1877 when the building was destroyed by a fire. Construction for a new building began immediately. The new structure was completed in 1883 and lasted until 1907. The current building was erected in 1907 located on Fifth and Webster.

In the early 1870's under the direction of Rev. B.H. Carroll the church underwent innovative changes such as the introduction of instrumental music in worship. During this time period First Baptist Church of Waco also allowed Women to serve as deacons. They also were invited for the first time, by Rev. B.H. Carroll, to the Southern Baptist Convention in 1883.

In 1915, First Baptist Church's longest serving pastor, Dr. J.M. Dawson, started his tenure. Dr. J.M. Dawson concentration was on the church budget. During his tenure a campaign was launched called Southern Baptist Convention's 75 Million Dollar Campaign. The First Baptist Church was assigned with raising 200,000 dollars, the largest portion given to any church. Even during the Great Depression Dr. J.M. Dawson was still dedicated to the church budget even sacrificing his own salary. Dr. J. M. Dawson was also concerned with social issues such as racial and gender prejudice and the separation of church and state. Along with his pastoral duties he also served vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1922, the chairman of the Southern Baptist Committee on World Peace in 1945, and the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1945 to 1946. He also served on the board of trustee for various institutions such as Baylor University and the Southern Baptist Convention. J.M. Dawson also published twelve books including his autobiography, and was the editor of the *Western Evangel* in 1906 and the *Baptist Standard* from 1943 to 1946. The First Baptist Church of Waco is credited for establishing the Waco Classical School, that later became Waco University. This University would merge with Baylor University in 1886. The First Baptist Church also has been involved in the creation of two seminaries. One was the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary located in Fort Worth and also the George W. Truett seminary located on Baylor University campus. Along with universities First Baptist Church also contributed to the founding of Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center in 1919.

Baylor University and First Baptist Church have retained a strong relationship since 1886. Many of Baylor's Presidents, administration, staff and students are members of the First Baptist Church. The First Baptist Church is also known for its college ministry such as the former Fidelis and Baraca Groups, and providing opportunities for service. To this day First Baptist Church of Waco is still active and serving the Waco community.

**Related Resources****Summary of related Archive materials**

The Benajah Harvey Carroll Papers also contain documents about the First Baptist Church of Waco.

**Related citations**

Lefever, Alan J. "First Baptist Church, Waco," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bf03>), accessed November

Lefever, Alan J. "Recalling the Vision: A Brief History of First Baptist Church, Waco, Texas."

<http://198.66.139.138/history.html>. Accessed 2012 November 11.

Reynolds, J. A. "Dawson, Joseph Martin," *Handbook of Texas Online*

(<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fda52>), accessed November 29, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Texas Historical Commission. "First Baptist Church of Waco." Historical Marker.[http://www.9key.com/markers/marker\\_detail.asp?atlas\\_number=5309001681&se\\_arch\\_term=first+baptist+church](http://www.9key.com/markers/marker_detail.asp?atlas_number=5309001681&se_arch_term=first+baptist+church). Accessed 2012 November 11.

**Archival Arrangement**

Originally the [Waco] First Baptist Church Collection did have an inventory for one box but the collection did not have a finding aid.

Currently The [Waco] First Baptist Church Collection is organized into six series: I. Young People's Department, II. Fidelis and Baraca Groups, III. Church Events, IV. Literary Religious Documents, V. Budget Announcements and Meetings and VI. Organ Committee.

**Series 1: Young People's Department. 1940-1949, undated****Administrative/Biographical History**

This series consists of service programs from the Young People's Department. This series also consists of literary documents such as publications that pertain to the Young People's Department. This series is in average condition.

**Item List**

- Box 1. Folder 1. Young People's Department Literary and Correspondence: General, 1940, 1945, 1947, 1949, undated
- Box 1. Folder 2. Young People's Department Programs (1 of 6), 1944
- Box 1. Folder 3. Young People's Department Programs (2 of 6), 1945 January-August
- Box 1. Folder 4. Young People's Department Programs (3 of 6), 1945 September-December
- Box 1. Folder 5. Young People's Department Programs (4 of 6), 1946 January-March
- Box 1. Folder 6. Young People's Department Programs (5 of 6), 1946 April- July
- Box 1. Folder 7. Young People's Department Programs (6 of 6), 1946 September- December, 1947 January- February

**Series 2: Fidelis and Baraca Groups. 1932-1947, undated****Administrative/Biographical History**

This series consists of correspondence, Sunday programs and advertisements pertaining to the Fidelis and Baraca Groups. These two groups were bible classes for college students; the Fidelis for the girls and the Baraca for the boys. This series also consists of letters the group would send to new Baylor female students to convince them to join Fidelis. This series is in good to average condition.

**Item List**

- Box 1. Folder 8. Fidelis Group: Literary (1 of 3), undated
- Box 1. Folder 9. Fidelis Group: Literary (2 of 3), undated
- Box 1. Folder 10. Fidelis Group: Literary (3 of 3), 1937, 1938, undated
- Box 1. Folder 11. My Dear Baylor Girl Letters, 1932-1940, 1947, undated
- Box 1. Folder 12. Baraca Group: General, 1938-1939, 1944, 1947, undated
- Box 1. Folder 13. Fidelis and Baraca Groups: General, 1938-1941, undated

**Series 3: Church Events. 1892-1958, undated****Administrative/Biographical History**

This series consists of literary productions and correspondence pertaining to church events including Sunday service programs and church events scheduled during the week. This series is in good condition.

**Item List**

- Box 1. Folder 14. Sunday Services (1 of 4), 1892, 1933
- Box 1. Folder 15. Sunday Services (2 of 4), 1935
- Box 1. Folder 16. Sunday Services (3 of 4), 1936-1946
- Box 1. Folder 17. Sunday Services (4 of 4), undated
- Box 1. Folder 18. Holiday Services (1 of 2), 1934-1942
- Box 1. Folder 19. Holiday Services (2 of 2), 1943-1957, undated
- Box 1. Folder 20. Additional Programs, 1927, 1934, 1936-1938, 1940-1943, 1946-1947, 1958, undated
- Box 1. Folder 21. The Evangel Publication (1 of 2), 1927 1932
- Box 1. Folder 22. The Evangel Publication (2 of 2), 1935-1937, 1942
- Box 1. Folder 23. Sunday School Documents: Convention, 1959
- Box 1. Folder 24. Sunday School Documents: Programs, 1945 June 24-1945 August 19
- Box 1. Folder 25. Sunday School Documents: General, 1936, 1939-1940, 1946-1947, 1952, undated
- Box 2. Folder 1. Invitations and Promotional Documents (1 of 9), 1927, 1932-1935, 1937-1939
- Box 2. Folder 2. Invitations and Promotional Documents (2 of 9), 1939-1944
- Box 2. Folder 3. Invitations and Promotional Documents (3 of 9), 1945-1957
- Box 2. Folder 4. Invitations and Promotional Documents (4 of 9), undated
- Box 2. Folder 5. Invitations and Promotional Documents (5 of 9), undated
- Box 2. Folder 6. Invitations and Promotional Documents (6 of 9), undated
- Box 2. Folder 7. Invitations and Promotional Documents (7 of 9), undated

- Box2. Folder 8. Invitations and Promotional Documents (8 of 9), undated  
 Box2. Folder 9. Invitations and Promotional Documents (9 of 9), undated  
 Box2. Folder 10. Baylor University and First Baptist Church Events and Promotional Documents (1 of 4), 1926, 1932, 1934, 1936  
 Box2. Folder 11. Baylor University and First Baptist Church Events and Promotional Documents (2 of 4), 1940-1947  
 Box2. Folder 12. Baylor University and First Baptist Church Events and Promotional Documents (3 of 4), undated  
 Box2. Folder 13. Baylor University and First Baptist Church Events and Promotional Documents (4 of 4), undated

#### Series 4: Literary Religious Documents. 1892-1978, undated

##### Administrative/Biographical History

This series consists of documents such as poems, religious publications involving religious matters or that mention the First Baptist Church. This series features a number of yearbooks from various church groups such as the Women's Auxiliary Group, Women's Mission Union, and Timothy Eunice Lois Sunday School. This series includes various forms of Church letterhead. This series is in good condition.

##### Item List

- Box2. Folder 14. "Why This Building" by Charles C. Carroll, undated  
 Box2. Folder 15. "Why This Building" by Charles C. Carroll Handwritten draft, 1936  
 Box2. Folder 16. "The Issue Before Us: Its Threat To Religious Liberty" by Harold E. Lindsey, 1960 July 27  
 Box2. Folder 17. "The Issue Before Us: Its Threat To Religious Liberty" by Harold E. Lindsey Second Stage Draft, 1960 October 16  
 Box2. Folder 18. "The Issue Before Us: Its Threat To Religious Liberty" by Harold E. Lindsey Final Draft, 1960 October 16  
 Box2. Folder 19. Beneath Two Stars, undated  
 Box2. Folder 20. "Sketches of First Baptist Church" by Judge W. H. Jenkins, 1910  
 Box2. Folder 21. Treasure Thoughts of Our Friends Books, 1951  
 Box2. Folder 22. New Year Report, undated  
 Box2. Folder 23. Poems and Songs, 1937, undated  
 Box2. Folder 24. Manual of the First Baptist Church, 1892  
 Box3. Folder 1. Women's Auxiliary Yearbook, 1927, 1932  
 Box3. Folder 2. Women's Missionary Union Yearbook (1 of 4), 1938, 1940  
 Box3. Folder 3. Women's Missionary Union Yearbook (2 of 4), 1942, 1943  
 Box3. Folder 4. Women's Missionary Union Yearbook (3 of 4), 1943-1944, 1950-1954  
 Box3. Folder 5. Women's Missionary Union Yearbook (4 of 4), 1953-1956  
 Box3. Folder 6. First Baptist Church Yearbook, 1978  
 Box3. Folder 7. Literary Items for Mother's Day, undated  
 Box3. Folder 8. Mother's Council Yearbook, 1927  
 Box3. Folder 9. Timothy Eunice Lois Sunday School Class Yearbook, 1930, 1943-1944  
 Box3. Folder 10. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (1 of 6), 1934, 1942-1944  
 Box3. Folder 11. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (2 of 6), 1945-1947  
 Box3. Folder 12. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (3 of 6), 1947 July, undated  
 Box3. Folder 13. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (4 of 6), undated  
 Box3. Folder 14. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (5 of 6), undated  
 Box3. Folder 15. Church Clubs' Documents and Correspondence Lists (6 of 6), undated  
 Box3. Folder 16. Promotional Documents, 1949-1958  
 Box3. Folder 17. Church Forms (1 of 4), 1933 September 13, undated  
 Box3. Folder 18. Church Forms (2 of 4), undated  
 Box3. Folder 19. Church Forms (3 of 4), undated  
 Box3. Folder 20. Church Forms (4 of 4), undated  
 Box3. Folder 21. Church Stationary, 1934, 1938, undated

#### Series 5: Budget Announcements and Meetings. 1925-1957, undated

##### Administrative/Biographical History

This series consists of budget reports and promotional items to increase the church budget. This series consists of an account book from 1943. This series is in average condition.

##### Item List

- Box4. Folder 1. Offering Envelopes, 1936, undated  
 Box4. Folder 2. Budget Lists (1 of 7), 1925-1927  
 Box4. Folder 3. Budget Lists (2 of 7), 1930-1935  
 Box4. Folder 4. Budget Lists (3 of 7), 1936  
 Box4. Folder 5. Budget Lists (4 of 7), 1937  
 Box4. Folder 6. Budget Lists (5 of 7), 1938-1939  
 Box4. Folder 7. Budget Lists (6 of 7), 1940-1941  
 Box4. Folder 8. Budget Lists (7 of 7), 1942-1947, 1957  
 Box4. Folder 9. Budget Forms and Stewardship Cards (1 of 2), 1936, undated  
 Box4. Folder 10. Budget Forms and Stewardship Cards (2 of 2), undated  
 Box4. Folder 11. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (1 of 10), 1942-1945  
 Box4. Folder 12. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (2 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 13. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (3 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 14. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (4 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 15. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (5 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 16. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (6 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 17. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (7 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 18. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (8 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 19. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (9 of 10), 1943  
 Box4. Folder 20. The Account Book of FBC, Waco (10 of 10), 1943

#### Series 6: Organ Committee. 1911-1918, undated

**Administrative/Biographical History**

This series consist of documents pertaining to First Baptist Church acquiring a new organ. This series includes letters and brochures from various organ manufacturers around the country. This series includes telegram correspondence and a sketch of the church organ. This series is in good condition.

**Item List**

- Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence (1 of 7), 1916 November
- Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence (2 of 7), 1917 April-May
- Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence (3 of 7), 1917 June 1-11
- Box 5. Folder 4. Correspondence (4 of 7), 1917 June 13
- Box 5. Folder 5. Correspondence (5 of 7), 1917 July 9-21
- Box 5. Folder 6. Correspondence (6 of 7), 1917 July 26
- Box 5. Folder 7. Correspondence (7 of 7), 1917 August 1
- Box 5. Folder 8. Telegrams (1 of 2), 1917 June 9-12
- Box 5. Folder 9. Telegrams (2 of 2), 1917 July 13- August 10
- Box 5. Folder 10. Notes, 1915, 1918, undated
- Box 5. Folder 11. Organ Manufacturers (1 of 8), 1916
- Box 5. Folder 12. Organ Manufacturers (2 of 8), 1916, undated
- Box 5. Folder 13. Organ Manufacturers (3 of 8), undated
- Box 5. Folder 14. Organ Manufacturers (4 of 8), undated
- Box 5. Folder 15. Organ Manufacturers (5 of 8), undated
- Box 5. Folder 16. Organ Manufacturers (6 of 8), 1915
- Box 5. Folder 17. Organ Manufacturers (7 of 8), 1916
- Box 5. Folder 18. Organ Manufacturers (8 of 8), 1911, 1917, undated