

Baylor University . The Texas Collection

Charles Wellborn Papers. 1945-2009, undated

Summary Information

Creator	Wellborn, Charles Talmadge, 1923 - 2009
Extent (quantity/size)	3 document boxes.
Language	English
Abstract	This collection contains sermons and other materials primarily from Charles Wellborn's time as pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas.

Subjects

Baptists -- Sermons. / Baptists -- Texas -- History. / Baptists -- Texas -- Waco. / Baptists--Texas--Waco--History / Revivals -- Texas -- History -- 20th century.

Administrative Information

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Use/Reproduction Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

Originals/Copies

All originals

Preferred Citation

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

Charles Wellborn Papers, #3823, Box#, Folder #, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.

Processing Information

Described by Paul T. Fisher and released on 2012-12-20.

Scope and Content

The Charles Wellborn Papers were acquired by gift in one transaction from Wayne L. and Faye Wellborn Robbins on 2012 November 13. The collection begins in 1945 and ends in 2009, with some undated materials. Of special note are the sermons written by Charles Wellborn during his time as pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco and Faith Baptist Church in Kentucky. These sermons are the largest group of materials in the collection.

Administrative/Biographical History

The Charles Wellborn Papers contain the professional writings of Pastor Charles Wellborn, a noted Baptist preacher and teacher during the mid-to-late 1900s. He came to know Christ, taught at Baylor University, and was pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church, all in Waco, Texas, during this long and distinguished career.

Charles Wellborn, born in Alto, Texas, to Charles F. and Ethel Swanzy Wellborn, grew up in East Texas and attended Gladewater High School. After graduating from high school, he attended Kilgore Junior College, where he won the national junior college debate championship twice. Wellborn received a full scholarship to come to Baylor University in 1942, but he joined the United States army shortly before graduation from Baylor. Through a series of clerical errors, Wellborn ended up in the 10th U.S. Army Division, the only unit of the army that was a ski unit, for the rest of the war.

After the war ended, Wellborn came back to Baylor to finish his degree. Because of his prior school experience, he taught several courses in political science as he finished his degree. At that time, the Christian revival movement was sweeping Baylor, and Wellborn became part of it. He dedicated his life to Jesus Christ, and quickly became part of a team of college men leading revivals in major Texas colleges and cities. After finishing his political science degree, Wellborn began a master's degree in religion at Southwestern Theological Seminary and continued preaching at revivals across the South.

While still a seminary student, Wellborn recorded messages for "The Baptist Hour," and continued proclaiming the Gospel in revival meetings across the United States. After graduating and working for a time in Atlanta, Georgia, he was asked to become the pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church back in Waco, which he accepted. Through his ten productive years as pastor of Seventh and James, Wellborn grew the church's membership exponentially and opened church membership to people of all races in 1958. Though he received threatening telephone calls and a cross was burned in his front yard in protest of opening church membership to everybody, Wellborn never wavered in his belief that the Gospel was for all people.

In 1961, Wellborn left Seventh and James and began studying for a doctorate at Duke University. He returned to Baylor University to teach religion for a time, but taught primarily at Florida State University for the rest of his career. He retired in 1990, and passed away in 2009. Florida State still honors him by hosting the Charles T. Wellborn Endowed Lecture Series every other year.

Related Resources

Related citations

Allen, Bob. "Former 'Baptist Hour' preacher Charles Wellborn dies ." http://www.baptiststandard.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10177&Itemid=53. Accessed 2012 December 13.

Bedell, George C. *Religion in America*. New York: Macmillan, 1975.

Shapiro, Michael W. "Friends Recall Pastor Charles Wellborn, who Integrated Two Churches in Waco, TX" <http://blackchristiannews.com/news/2009/10/friends-recall-pastor-charles-wellborn-who-integrated-two-churches-in-waco-tx.html>. Accessed 2012 December 13.

"Charles Wellborn." *Waco Tribune-Herald*. <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wacotrib/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=134374790#bLoggedOut>. Accessed 2012 December 13.

Wellborn, Charles. "Oral Memoirs of Charles T. Wellborn." interview by M. Rebecca Sharpless, 24 March 1999. Waco, Texas, Institute for Oral History, Baylor University.

Archival Arrangement

This collection came to us organized by type with folder titles prior to this finding aid. Many of the folder titles were kept. No inventory was available prior to this finding aid.

Currently, the Charles Wellborn Papers are arranged in four series: I. Baptist Church Pastor, II. Religion Professor, III. The Baptist Hour, and IV. Personal Materials.

Series 1: Baptist Church Pastor. 1945-2002, undated

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains sermons written by Charles Wellborn during his time as pastor of Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco, Texas, and Faith Baptist Church in Kentucky. While some complete sermons are written out, most are in outline form, with a list of the stories he wanted to tell to illustrate the point he was trying to make in the sermon. This series is in average condition.

Item List

- Box 1. 1. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Correspondence, 1955, undated
- Box 1. 2. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (1 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 3. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (2 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 4. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (3 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 5. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (4 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 6. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (5 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 7. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (6 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 8. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (7 of 7), 1945-1950
- Box 1. 9. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (1 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 10. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (2 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 11. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (3 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 12. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (4 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 13. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (5 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 14. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: Revival: (6 of 6), 1951-1952
- Box 1. 15. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 5), 1952
- Box 1. 16. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 5), 1952
- Box 1. 17. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 5), 1952
- Box 1. 18. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 5), 1952
- Box 1. 19. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 5), 1952
- Box 1. 20. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons, 1952-1960
- Box 1. 21. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 22. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 23. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 24. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 25. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 26. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (6 of 6), 1954-1955
- Box 1. 27. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 5), 1955-1956
- Box 1. 28. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 5), 1955-1956
- Box 1. 29. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 5), 1955-1956
- Box 1. 30. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 5), 1955-1956
- Box 1. 31. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 5), 1955-1956
- Box 1. 32. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 1. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 2. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 3. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 4. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 5. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (6 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 6. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (7 of 7), 1956-1961
- Box 2. 7. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 3), 1957-1959
- Box 2. 8. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 3), 1957-1959
- Box 2. 9. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 3), 1957-1959
- Box 2. 10. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 5), 1958-1963
- Box 2. 11. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 5), 1958-1963
- Box 2. 12. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 5), 1958-1963
- Box 2. 13. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 5), 1958-1963
- Box 2. 14. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 5), 1958-1963
- Box 2. 15. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 16. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 17. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 18. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (4 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 19. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (5 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 20. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (6 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 21. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (7 of 7), 1959
- Box 2. 22. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (1 of 3), undated
- Box 2. 23. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (2 of 3), undated
- Box 2. 24. Baptist Church Pastor: Seventh and James Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons: (3 of 3), undated
- Box 2. 25. Baptist Church Pastor: Faith Baptist Church: Literary: Sermons, 2002, undated

Series 2: Religion Professor. 2001-2009, undated

Administrative/Biographical History

This series contains a number of articles that Wellborn wrote for publication, probably when he was a professor at Florida State University. This series is in excellent condition.

Item List

- Box 2. 26. Religion Professor: Literary: Articles, 2001-2004
- Box 2. 27. Religion Professor: Literary: Articles, 2009
- Box 2. 28. Religion Professor: Literary: Articles: (1 of 2), undated
- Box 2. 29. Religion Professor: Literary: Articles: (2 of 2), undated

Series 3: The Baptist Hour. 1951-1953**Administrative/Biographical History**

This series contains tracts written by Charles Wellborn for the Baptist Hour, a regular radio program featuring sermons by prominent Baptist preachers. This series is in good condition.

Item List

- Box 3. 1. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, 1951 January
- Box 3. 2. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, 1951 February-March
- Box 3. 3. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, July-September
- Box 3. 4. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, 1951 October-December
- Box 3. 5. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, 1952
- Box 3. 6. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts 1953 March-May, 1953 January-February
- Box 3. 7. The Baptist Hour: Literary: Tracts, 1953 March-May

Series 4: Personal Materials. 1953-2009, undated**Administrative/Biographical History**

This series contains several plays written by Charles Wellborn, eulogies and obituaries written about Wellborn, and other materials. The series is in excellent condition.

Item List

- Box 3. 8. Personal: Literary: General, 1993, undated
- Box 3. 9. Personal: Literary: Funeral Program, 2007, 2009
- Box 3. 10. Personal: Literary: Obituaries, 2009
- Box 3. 11. Personal: Literary: Eulogies, 2009 July-October 2
- Box 3. 12. Personal: Literary: Eulogies, 2009 October 3-2012, undated
- Box 3. 13. Personal: Literary: Article: "A Question to Search Your Soul", undated
- Box 3. 14. Personal: Literary: Plays: "No More Darkness", 1953
- Box 3. 15. Personal: Literary: Plays: "Duel", undated