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Kerr Memorial Methodist Church - Bowling Green, Kentucky (MSS 133)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives
 Special Collections Library
 Department of Library Special Collections
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 Bowling Green, Kentucky

Descriptive Inventory

MSS 133 KERR Memorial Methodist Church – Bowling Green, Kentucky

1 box. 11 folders. 75 items. 1886-1995. Originals.

2000.115.1

HISTORY

In September 1890 Reverend Daniel Farmer Kerr was assigned to organize a Methodist Episcopal church in Bowling Green, Kentucky. In October 1890, about thirty people met in the Warren County Courthouse for services. Later, a vacant storeroom on lower Main Street was secured. Services were held there until the new church at the corner of Adams and 12th Streets was completed in the fall of 1891.

The original name of the church was First Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1937, the congregation, with the approval of the district superintendent, voted to change the name to Kerr Memorial Methodist Church in memory of its first pastor. Additions were made to the building in 1935 and 1950. In 1953, Kerr Memorial sponsored a new work in the western part of the city. It was organized on February 27, 1953 as Westside Methodist Church. After a period of growth, Westside purchased property on Veterans Memorial Boulevard to erect a new building. They sold their old building prior to completing the new one. Westside members petitioned the Kerr Memorial congregation to allow them to meet with Kerr until their building was completed. Due to the aging of the Kerr Memorial membership and the burden of the upkeep on its older facility, the congregation eventually merged with Westside in their new building in 1999 under the new name Faith Methodist Church. The old Kerr Memorial building was purchased by Barren River Area Child Advocacy Center. The renovation of the old church was completed in 2001.

THE COLLECTION

This small collection consists of historical information related to the history of Kerr Memorial Methodist Church. The collection contains several short histories of the church as well as reminiscences of the church members. A list of donors to the 1891 building project is included as well as the minutes of the Young Adult Fellowship (1947-1948). An unrelated but important accompanying piece is an account book listing the different Methodist circuits in Kentucky and the officers of the individual churches (1893). These materials were collected by Sara Kerr Cornwell, granddaughter of Daniel

F. Kerr, the church's first pastor. Faith United Methodist Church donated land records related to Kerr Memorial as well as congratulatory letters concerning Kerr's 100th anniversary. Daniel Kerr's photograph and ordination certificate are located in the Kentucky Library. The Kentucky Library also has several Kerr Memorial membership directories.

SHELF LIST

BOX 1	KERR Memorial Methodist Church	1886-1995	75 items
Folder 1	Inventory		2 items
Folder 2	Account book	1893	1 item; 54p
Folder 3	Correspondence	1984	10 items
Folder 4	Daniel F. Kerr's list of donors to church building project	1891-1893	2 items
Folder 5	Church histories	1964-1995	5 items
Folder 6	Miscellaneous	1895; 1946-1995	11 items
Folder 7	Reminiscences about Kerr Memorial	1985-1990	26 items
Folder 8	Daniel F. Kerr - Sermon delivered on December 26, 1886, at Bethel Church	1886	1 item
Folder 9	Young Adult Fellowship - Minutes and attendance rosters	1947-1948	1 item; 196p
Folder 10	Congratulatory letters and certificates concerning Kerr's 100 th anniversary	1990	7 items
Folder 11	Land records	1891-1985	9 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS KERR Memorial Methodist Church – 1886-1995
 133 Bowling Green, Kentucky

Historical materials about Kerr Memorial, including list of donors for original building (1891); printed histories; correspondence and commemorative programs from church anniversary celebrations; account book of the church's Young Adult Fellowship (1947-48); and deeds.

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SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Bowling Green – Churches – Methodist
 Bush, George Herbert Walker, b.1924 B1,F10
 Kerr, Daniel Farmer, 1847-1923 – Relating to B1,F5
 Methodist churches – Bowling Green
 Natcher, William Huston, 1909-1994 B1,F10&11
 Poetry B1,F6
 Wilkinson, Wallace Glen, 1941-2002 B1,F10

Jeffrey 06/26/2013