7-15-2014

Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ - Butler County, Kentucky (MSS 507)

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1814, a small body of Baptists in the northern part of Butler County, east of Green River, on the Indian Camp Creek, united with the Gasper River Association. It was reported dissolved by 1832. An apparent division took place in this body, but they did not dissolve as a church. Four years later they appeared at the Goshen Baptist Association and united with that body, to which they remained a member until 1895. In 1867, this old church was received into the Green River Association under the name of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, and remained with that body until 1903, when it was dismissed by letter to join the Gasper River Association.

The present church record book, which starts in 1904, states that the church was organized prior to 1813. The first location of the body appears to have been at Banock. When the division came in 1832, a remnant of the Indian Camp Church moved to the present location of Mt. Vernon Church. According to a deed made to William Beesley in 1847, which called for “corner of Indian Camp Meeting House,” the church was then located at the back of the old Mt. Vernon Cemetery. The church closed down during the Civil War, possibly because of the large number of men in military service. After the war, a third structure, a large log building, was built. This probably occurred about the same time the church received the deed to the old cemetery in 1871. Elder A.J. Snodgrass and his wife Cynthia are buried where the pulpit was located in this building. The logs of this old church house were later moved and used for the Howard School at Dexterville, and even later for a barn. The barn lasted until World War II, when it was blown down in a windstorm.

In 1870, the name of the church was officially changed from Indian Camp Creek to Mt. Vernon. The reason for the name change is uncertain, and some still refer to it unofficially as Greenbrier Church. G.C. “Dink” Kessinger designed the present frame church building in 1900. The church bell and steeple were added around 1924.

**COLLECTION NOTES**

Box 1, Folder 2 of this collection includes pages from the ledger book that contain the minutes of the Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church or Christ, now Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church, of Butler County, Kentucky from 1 April 1905 to 21 January 1987. The ledger includes membership lists at both the front and the back. The volume’s condition, and fear that the pages would be further mutilated if left inside, led the Archivist to remove the pages for preservation; blank pages were not retained which accounts for the missing numbers. Box 2 contains loose minutes, financial records, and sundry reports in chronological order from 1986 to 2008. No attempt was made to remove and collate the individual items; they were left in original order and the pages numbered consecutively. Photocopies of all these materials were given to the church. Box 2, Folder 6 contains the church’s constitution and by-laws (1986 and 1991 versions), deeds, and some secondary material related to church incorporation. Box 2, Folder 7 contains a printed history of the church filled with colored photographs, the script for a short drama about the church’s history, and a list of former pastors.

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Mt. Vernon United Baptist…</th>
<th>1881-1987</th>
<th>2 items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Church records</td>
<td>1881-1987</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>BOX 2</th>
<th>Mt. Vernon United Baptist…</th>
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<td>Minutes</td>
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<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>2000-2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>2007-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>2009-2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Constitution and by-laws, correspondence, deeds, etc.</td>
<td>1871-1991</td>
<td>15 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Materials related to the 200th anniversary of the church</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3 items</td>
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**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS  MT. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ – Butler County, Kentucky 1904-2010
507

Minutes, financial reports, membership lists, articles of incorporations, deeds, etc. for Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ in Butler County, now Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church.

2 boxes. 9 folders. 25 items. Originals and photocopies.

SC2014.76.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Baptist churches – Butler County
Baptists – Butler County
Church anniversaries
Religion – Butler County

**SEE or SEE ALSO**

Greenbrier Church – Butler County
See:
Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ – Butler County

Indian Camp Creek Church – Butler County
See:
Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ – Butler County

Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church – Butler County
See also:
Mt. Vernon United Baptist Church of Christ – Butler County

Jeffrey 07/21/2014