Descriptive Summary

Title: John Franklin Anderson, Jr. collection  
Accession Number(s): 2009-005; 2010-012; 2016-013; 2018-0058  
Extent: 5 inches of manuscript material, 1 CD-ROM, 6 DVDs, 1 VHS tape  
Language: Materials are written in English.

Biographical Note:

John Franklin Anderson, Jr. (1920-2009) was born in Dallas, Texas on May 27, 1920. He graduated from Highland Park High School in 1937. He obtained a bachelor’s degree from Austin College in 1941 and a Bachelor of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1944. After his ordination in 1944, he served as a Navy chaplain in the Pacific until 1946. Upon his return from World War II, he served as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Tyler until 1951. He then became associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas and was selected as senior pastor in 1952. In 1953, he earned a Master of Divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In 1958, Anderson relocated to Florida and became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Orlando.

In 1965, Anderson shifted from acting as a pastor to a role within Presbyterian leadership. He moved to Atlanta, Georgia to act as executive secretary of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. Board of National Ministries. He returned to Texas in 1973 for a second stint as pastor of First Presbyterian in Dallas. In 1982, Anderson served as president of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches and as moderator for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. The next year, he played an important role in the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., which resulted in the current Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In 1984, Mr. Anderson became pastor emeritus of First Presbyterian Dallas. He died on January 31, 2009 in Dallas.

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary chose to honor Anderson and his wife, Nancy, by naming a new dormitory on campus after them. The John F. and Nancy Anderson House was completed in 2009.

Scope and Contents:
The John Franklin Anderson, Jr. Collection is comprised of newsletters, programs, invitations, books, clippings, architectural design drawings, a CD-ROM, DVDs, and a VHS tape. These materials document the fundraising activities and ceremonies for the John F. and Nancy Anderson House and Anderson himself. The collection is separated into two series. The first, The John F. and Nancy Anderson House, contains brochures, invitations, DVDs, newsletters, architectural design drawings, a CD-ROM, and a VHS tape that document the fundraising, groundbreaking, and dedication of the Anderson House dormitory on the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary campus.

The second series, John F. Anderson, Jr., consists of material directly related to Anderson. This includes programs, pamphlets, and a DVD from his funeral service as well as three church histories from the congregations that he served as pastor. Also included are a collection of Anderson’s weekly newspaper columns and various friends’ and family members’ recollections of Anderson, other writings, as well as a scrapbook compiled by Randal Whittington and Mike Murray commemorating Anderson’s life. The scrapbook [2016-013] was originally kept in the lounge at Anderson House.

Processing Information:
Processed by Elizabeth Garber, Archives Assistant, August 2009. Additions processed by Kristy Sorensen, January 2016, February 2017. This collection was primarily assembled by the Office of Institutional Advancement at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Index Terms:
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary--Buildings.
Presbyterian Church--Clergy.

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Architectural design drawings of proposed exterior, undated  
Groundbreaking, 2007 |
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Groundbreaking [DVD], 2007  
Anderson House Groundbreaking Slideshow [DVD], 2007  
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| E003 | Dedication (including “Down to Earth: Selected Writings of The Reverend John F. Anderson Jr.”), 2009 |
| D020 | A Tribute to Reverend John Anderson [DVD], 2009  
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APTS Master Plan 2005-2025 [DVD], circa 2005 |
| E003 | Fundraising brochure, undated  
First Presbyterian Houston dinner, 2007 |
| D020 | First Presbyterian Houston dinner [DVD], 2007 |
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| E003 | John F. Anderson, Jr.:  
“Down to Earth” newspaper column by Anderson, five clippings [2010-012], circa 1952-1958  
“On the Road: Beginnings” by Jerry Tompkins, 1976  
Heart of the City: History of the First Presbyterian Church, Orlando, Florida, 1876-1987, 1988  
“The Dynamics of Presbyterian Unity Threatened by Division,” presented to the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest [2018-005], November 2, 1992  
The First 125 Years at First Presbyterian Church, Tyler, Texas, 1995  
Letter from Anderson to Jerry Tompkins with “The Legend of the Forty Brave Wrestlers,” April 4, 1995  
Holding Forth the Word of Life: The Witness of a Downtown Church [First Presbyterian Church Dallas], 2006 |
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