WOMEN OF THE CHURCH (PCUS) COLLECTION, 1902-1972

Descriptive Summary

Title: Women of the Church (PCUS) collection  
Dates: 1902-1972  
Accession Number(s): 1993-013; 1996-055  
Extent: 13 feet, 5 inches  
Language: Materials are written in English.

Administrative History:

The Women of the Church of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) was a group within the church, led by women, which performed its work at the level of the General Assembly, the Synod, the Presbytery, the District, and the local congregation. At each level a leadership was elected and reported periodically up to the next level of the organization.

The Women of the Church (PCUS) in the Synod of Texas was established as the Texas Synodical Union on October 21, 1904 with Mrs. J. C. Terrell serving as the first Chairman. The group was known by several different names throughout its history, including: the Synodical Auxiliary of the Synod of Texas, the Woman’s Auxiliary of the Synod of Texas, the Woman’s Synodical of Texas, the Woman’s Synodical Auxiliary of Texas, the Women of the Church of the Synod of Texas, the Texas Synod Women’s Council, and the Texas Synodical Association. At the congregational level, the women’s groups were often known as the Women’s Auxiliary or the Women of the Church. The headquarters office, connecting the Women of the Church organization to the General Assembly, was known as the Board of Women’s Work.

The congregational women’s groups would meet monthly, breaking into “circles” if the group was large enough. The work of circles would vary by congregation, but would often include service to the church, the development of the personal spiritual life of members, group bible study lessons, the collection of money for congregational and charitable needs, making and sending “White Cross” supplies to World Missions medical centers, and general fellowship. Leadership of the congregational groups would attend annual meetings at the Presbyterial, Synodical, and General Assembly level.
A major fund-raising event for all the Women of the Church groups was the Annual Birthday Meeting, an observation of the “birthday” of the Women of the Church which was observed with a special program and offering. These funds were forwarded up to the Board of Women’s Work and often used to support Home or Foreign Mission work.

The Texas Synodical Association was dissolved on January 1, 1973 and incorporated into the regional Synodical of Red River. In 1988, after the reunion of the PCUS and UPCUSA churches, the women’s groups of both organizations were merged into the Presbyterian Women of the PC(USA). A history of women’s groups in the Presbyterian Church can be found on their website: http://www.pcusa.org/pw/about/history.htm.

Scope and Contents:
The Women of the Church Collection is an artificial collection that brings together the minutes, reports, histories, annual meeting programs, scrapbooks, printed material, and administrative files of the women’s groups of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), primarily in Texas. Materials are organized alphabetically at the Synodical, Presbyterial, and congregational level. A small amount of material on Synods in Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as a collection of publications from the Board of Women’s Work at the General Assembly is also included at the end of the inventory.

The bulk of the material consists of annual Synodical, Presbyterial and Congregational histories prepared by the historians at each level of the organization, forwarded up to the next level, and compiled annually as part of the History of Churches and Woman’s Work in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, a project which began in 1930. The historians also prepared overarching histories of their churches and groups to accompany the annual reports. These histories often include photographs, programs, and other scrapbook material. Please note that the dates listed for histories are the date of creation, not necessarily the historical dates covered in the narrative.

Material documenting annual meetings at the Synod and Presbytery level includes published minutes, reports, and directories; annual meeting programs; administrative files; and scrapbooks.

Because Presbyteries merged and dissolved over time, records pertaining to an individual congregation may be found under more than one Presbytery. For a detailed listing of material related to individual congregations, see the Index to Congregational History Materials, available from the archivist.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.
Index Terms:
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Board of Women’s Work.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Synod of Texas.
Women of the Church (Presbyterian Church in the U.S.)

Related Collections: Stitt Library Microfilm (M383), Minutes of the annual sessions of the women of the church April 1935-October 1957.

Preferred Citation: Women of the Church (PCUS) collection, 1902-1972, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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Churches [includes overall church histories and reports on women’s auxiliary work sent to the Presbytery]:

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- Alvin Presbyterian Church, 1940-1942, 1947-1950
- First Presbyterian Church of Angleton, 1933-1951 and undated
- Bay City Presbyterian Church, 1936-1951
- Robbins Memorial Presbyterian Church (Beaumont), 1936, 1940-1949

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- Westminster Presbyterian Church (Beaumont), 1921-1951
- Bellaire Presbyterian Church, 1941-1951
- Benchley, June 1948
- Blessing Presbyterian Church, 1936-1941 and undated
- First Presbyterian Church of Brazoria, 1945
- First Presbyterian Church of Brenham, 1922-1927, 1939-1940
- Caldwell Presbyterian Church, 1949
- A&M College Presbyterian Church (College Station), 1931, 1941-1951
- First Presbyterian Church of Conroe, 1941, 1946-1950
- First Presbyterian Church of Eagle Lake, 1909-1951
- Bethel Presbyterian Church (East Columbia), 1940-1941
- First Presbyterian Church of El Campo, 1946-1949
- First Presbyterian Church of Freeport, 1933, 1945-1951
- First Presbyterian Church of Galveston, 1934-1935 and undated
- Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church, 1946-1949
- First Presbyterian Church of Hempstead, 1935 and undated
- Central Park Presbyterian Church (Houston), 1937, 1941-1949
Denver Presbyterian Church (Houston), 1934, 1948-1951
North Side Presbyterian Church (Houston), 1946-1949
Pine Crest Presbyterian Church [aka Gregg Street Presbyterian Church] (Houston), 1950-1951 and undated
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Presbytery of Brownwood:
Minutes, reports and directories, 1926-1945

C164a  Scrapbook

C134  Presbytery of Central Texas:
Minutes, reports and directories, 1922-1971
Annual meeting programs, 1905-1957
Financial records and lists of officers, 1928-1934, 1944-1947

C135  Histories:

*History of the Women’s Auxiliary of the Presbytery of Central Texas*, prepared by Mrs. George Begg, circa 1927

*The History of Central Texas Presbytery from 1905-1958*, [includes some reports to the Synodical of Texas], circa 1958

Historical reports sent to the Synodical of Texas, 1954-1958

Churches [includes overall church histories and reports on women’s auxiliary work sent to the Presbytery]:

“Church Histories, Central Texas Presbytery,” [see index], undated

C136  El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church (Austin), 1955
First Southern Presbyterian Church (Austin), 1931-1957 and undated
Hyde Park Presbyterian Church (Austin),
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C137  Dallas Presbytery:
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C138 Minutes and reports, 1940-1957
       Correspondence and annual meeting programs, 1941-1942
       Histories:
              “Golden Echoes from Dallas Presbyterial,”
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[supplement, consists primarily of newspaper clippings], 1925-1945

“History of the Woman’s Auxiliary, Dallas Presbytery, 1902-1949” [written history and scrapbook including photographs, meeting programs, newspaper clippings, and printed material, includes information on the Ceta Canyon Conference], 1902-1929 section compiled by Lady Kate Medders, 1939-1943 section compiled by Mrs. Cooper E. Wyatt, includes additional interfiled material, 1929-1949 and undated

C139

Historical reports sent to the Synodical of Texas and related material [includes “Calendar of Work” forms from individual churches], 1945-1946, 1956 and undated

“History, Women of the Church, Presbytery of Dallas: 1949-1957,” prepared by Mrs. Norman G. Hardy and others [written history and scrapbook including photographs, meeting programs, newspaper clippings, and printed material; includes reports from individual churches], 1949-1957

Churches:

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First Presbyterian Church of Irving, 1936-1940
Lancaster Presbyterian Church, 1936-1939
First Presbyterian Church of McKinney, 1936-1940
First Presbyterian Church of Milford, 1936-1938, 1943-1944
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Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church (Sherman), 1938
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First Presbyterian Church of Waxahachie, 1936-1941
First Southern Presbyterian Church (Wichita Falls), 1944

**Eastern Texas Presbytery:**
Minutes and reports, 1929-1935

**El Paso Presbytery [continued as Presbytery of the Southwest in 1957]:**
Minutes, reports and directories, 1933-1945

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Minutes, reports and directories, 1946-1956
Histories:

- Historical reports sent to the Synodical of Texas, 1954-1956

Churches [Note: El Paso Presbytery became the Presbytery of the Southwest in 1957, there are church histories for both presbyteries in this section]:
- Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1957
- First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring, 1956-1957
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First Presbyterian Church of Coahoma, 1957
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First Presbyterian Church of Crane, 1957
Faith Presbyterian Church (El Paso), 1957
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First Presbyterian Church of Lovingston, New Mexico, 1954-1957
First Presbyterian Church of Lubbock, 1955-1957
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First Presbyterian Church of Midland, 1955-1957
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Midland), 1957-1958
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Tahoka Presbyterian Church, undated
First Presbyterian Church of Van Horn, 1957

Presbytery of Fort Worth:
Minutes and reports, 1923-1945
Annual meeting programs, 1902-1907, 1930

C161a Scrapbook

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Presbytery of John Knox:
Minutes, reports, directories and constitution, 1957-1964
Presidential records:
1. Board of Women’s Work, 1967-1969
2. Synod of Texas, 1966-1968
4. Vice-President, 1968-1969
5. Secretary-Treasurer, 1967-1969
20. Extra Newsletters [folder discarded]
[No number], Council – Annual reports, 1969
22. Constitution, 1967
23. Brazos Presbytery, 1968
25. North East [empty folder]
27. South West, 1968
28. Literature, 1968

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29. Presbyterian Women (newsletter), January-November 1969
30. Mission ranch [empty folder]
32. Church Women United, 1968
33. Training Schools [empty folder]
34. Budget, 1968
35. Vouchers [empty folder]
36. Annual – 1968 [also includes material on the 1969 meeting, see also file 38. Mo-Ranch], 1967-1969
37. Montreat, 1966-1968
39. Synod Women’s Council Reports [empty folder]
Annual report, 1966
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Board of Women’s Work, 1965-1967
Whitecross (Ecumenical mission and relations), 1965-1968
Mission Ranch, Austin, 1966-1967
Reports, 1965-1967
Officer’s reports, 1966-1967
Foreign students, 1965 and undated
Franz [Mrs. W. H. Franz, chairman, Synod Women’s Council], 1965-1967
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First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, 1950-1955
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First Presbyterian Church of Sterling City, 1951-1953

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Presbytery of Northeast Texas:
Minutes, reports, directories and constitution, 1957-1971

Presbytery of Paris:
Minutes and reports, 1929-1957
Histories:
Historical reports sent to the Synodical of Texas, 1954-1957

Presbytery of South Texas:
Minutes and directories, 1957-1966
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Presbytery of the Southwest:

Note: See also El Paso Presbytery / Histories / Churches

Minutes and directories, 1957-1965

Histories:

Historical reports sent to the Synodical of Texas, 1957

Scrapbook, [includes clippings, annual reports, financial records, and printed material], 1957-1963

Churches:

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Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1961-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Ballinger, 1961-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Barstow, 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Big Spring, 1962-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Clovis (New Mexico), 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Colorado City, 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Crane, 1963
First Presbyterian Church of Eldorado, 1962-1963
Faith Presbyterian Church (El Paso), 1961-1963
Manhattan Presbyterian Church (El Paso), 1961-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Stockton, 1962
First Presbyterian Church of Lovington (New Mexico), 1961-1963

First Presbyterian Church of Lubbock, 1954-
1963
John Knox Presbyterian Church (Lubbock), 1962-1963
Westminster Presbyterian Church (Lubbock), 1962-1964
Covenant Presbyterian Church (Midland), 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Midland, 1961-1963
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (Midland), 1962
Westminster Presbyterian Church (Midland), 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Odessa, 1962-1963
Saint Paul Presbyterian Church (Odessa), 1962-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Paint Rock, 1962
First Presbyterian Church of Portales (New Mexico), 1962
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St. Mark Presbyterian Church (San Angelo), 1961-1962
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First Presbyterian Church of Seagraves, 1961-1962
First Presbyterian Church of Sterling City, 1962-1963
First Presbyterian Church of Talpa, 1962

Presbytery of Western Texas:
Minutes and reports, 1923-1957
Histories:
“Historical Sketch of the Presbyterial Auxiliary of Western Texas Presbytery from June 1902 to April 1928,” 1928
Annual Meeting Scrapbook [includes meeting programs, clippings, and reports], 1905-1952, 1956
Scrapbook material [includes clippings, correspondence, histories, etc. documenting home mission work, the Presbytery of Western Texas,
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Woodlawn Presbyterian Church (Corpus Christi), 1954-1957  
Cotulla Presbyterian Church, 1955  
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C127 Non-Texas:
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C156 Publications produced by the Board of Women’s Work
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