

**Manuscripts Collections  
South Caroliniana Library  
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**Records of the First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, S.C.)**

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MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
SOUTH CAROLINIANA  
LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Records, 1794-1994**  
**of the First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, S.C.)**

**Some Materials stored offsite; advance notification required.**

**Extent:**

Ca. 93 volumes

64 manuscripts

**Background:**

Congregation organized in Columbia, S.C., in 1795; present building, constructed ca. 1854, is second church building constructed on this site; currently affiliated with the Catawba Presbytery of the Associate Reform Presbyterian Church (ARP); in 1983, this congregation requested and received dismissal from Congaree Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in the United States [i.e. PC (U.S.A.)]; this realignment coincided with the 1983 merger of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States, with the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

**Summary:**

Historical essays and related records, 1794-1994, include: "First Presbyterian Church," A History compiled by John M. Bateman [ca. 1933] (unbound, filed in folder); "Manuscript History of the

Presbyterian Church, Columbia, S.C., Compiled from Original Papers by B.M. Palmer, Jr., Pastor" (ca. 1850, 1 vol.); World War I Records (1 vol., 1921); and text of commemorative sermon delivered, 23 Mar.

1986: "I Will Remember the Works of the Lord... A sermon preached on March 23, 1986, marking the Bicentennial of the City of Columbia and 192 years of history of the First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, S.C.," by the Rev. Glen Charles Knecht (14 pp.).

Unbound papers, 1794-1986 and undated, include letter, 30 March 1794 (Columbia, S.C.) from Tho[ma]s Taylor and B[enjami]n Waring to David Dunlap (Fairfield County, S.C.), informing him of the intention of establishing a church and requesting his services as minister as early as possible since "it is greatly contrary to the interest of a young town to be growing up without the Sabbath day's observation" and stating the amount of money raised.

Deed, 26 May 1824, for two lots sold to the Rev. Robert Means, signed by "a committee of said corporation for that purpose specially appointed," William Edward Hayne, Benjamin F. Taylor, William Hall, Robert Mills, and David Ewart; letter, 8 March 1854 (Greenwood, S.C.), from Mrs. M.R. Donnelly to [Benjamin Morgan Palmer], replying to his request for information re early members of the church; copies of receipts for pew rent; and printed rules and regulations of the Church.

Five manuscripts, 1866-1925, consisting of land papers and plats showing buildings and grave sites; printed manuscript, 1940, portions of the church bulletin devoted to various phases of the church's history.

Other materials (chiefly bound volumes) consist of the records of: Board of Deacons / Diaconate Minutes (1927-1994); Bulletins (1957- 1993); Cemetery volume, with photographs and transcriptions of epitaphs from church cemetery and notes re individuals buried there; "First Things" newsletter (1988-1994); Membership Lists / Miscellaneous Accounts (1854-1901); Men's Auxiliary Records (1905-1915); Pew Rent Financial Records (1827-1843); Session Minutes (1819-1994); Sunday School Finance Records (1888-1914); Sunday School Records (1872-1915); and Women's Auxiliary Records (1925-1926) (unbound, filed in folder).

**Images of the church from SCDAH:**

<http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/richland/S10817740010/index.htm>

**History of the Congregation from the Church's own site:**

<http://www.firstprescolumbia.org>

*[click on "About Us" for history]*

See "Churchyard Information" to Download a spreadsheet listing those interred in the cemetery.

**First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, S.C.) materials at the South Caroliniana Library (USC):**

\*Materials labeled "Annex" are stored at a remote storage facility and require advance notification before they can be accessed.

**Board of Deacons / Diaconate Minutes, 1927-1994**

Vol., 1927-1929

Vol., 1930-1933

Vol., 1933-1935

Vol., 1937-1939

Vol., 1939-1940

Vol., 1947-1948

Vol., 1958-1960 (Annex)

Vol., 1962 (Annex)

Vol., 1963 (Annex)

Vol., 1968 (Annex)

Vol., 1971 (Annex)

Vol., 1972-1973 (Annex)

Vol., 1974-1975 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1976-1977 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1978-1979 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1980-1982 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1983-1984 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1985-1986 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1987-1988 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1989-1990 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1991-1992 (Annex)  
 Vol., 1993-1994 (Annex)

**Bulletins, 1957-1993 (Annex)**

Vol., 1957-1959  
 Vol., 1960-1961  
 Vol., 1962-1963  
 Vol., 1964-1965  
 Vol., 1966-1967  
 Vol., 1968-1969  
 Vol., 1970-1971  
 Vol., 1972-1973  
 Vol., 1974-1975  
 Vol., 1976-1977  
 Vol., 1978-1979  
 Vol., 1980-1981  
 Vol., 1982-1983  
 Vol., 1984-1985  
 Vol., 1986-1987  
 Vol., 1988-1989  
 Vol., 1990-1991  
 Vol., 1992-1993

**“First Presbyterian Church,” A History compiled by John M. Bateman**  
 1 essay [ca. 1933] (Unbound, filed in folder)

**Newsletter, *First Things*, (1988-1994) (Annex)**  
 1988-1989

1990  
1991  
1992  
1993  
1994

**“Manuscript History of the Presbyterian Church, Columbia, S.C.,  
Compiled from Original Papers by B.M. Palmer, Jr., Pastor”**  
ca. 1850

**Membership Lists/Miscellaneous Accounts**  
1854-1901

**Men’s Auxiliary Records, 1905-1915**  
Vol., 1905-1909  
Vol., 1909-1915

**Pew Rent Records**  
Vol., 1827-1843

**Session Minutes, 1819-1994**  
Vol., 1819-1847  
Vol., 1847-1874 (Includes WPA Typescript)  
Vol., 1873-1904  
Vol., 1904-1913  
Vol., 1913-1920  
Vol., 1920-1925  
Vol., 1925-1927  
Vol., 1927-1931  
Vol., 1931-1935  
Vol., 1935-1939  
Vol., 1939-1944  
Vol., 1944-1947  
Vol., 1947-1950  
Vol., 1951-1952  
Vol., 1953-1955 (Annex)  
Vol., 1956-1958 (Annex)

Vol., 1959-1960 (Annex)  
Vol., 1961-1962 (Annex)  
Vol., 1963-1964 (Annex)  
Vol., 1965-1966 (Annex)  
Vol., 1967-1968 (Annex)  
Vol., 1969-1970 (Annex)  
Vol., 1971-1972 (Annex)  
Vol., 1973-1974 (Annex)  
Vol., 1975-1976 (Annex)  
Vol., 1977-1978 (Annex)  
Vol., 1979-1980 (Annex)  
Vol., 1981-1982 (Annex)  
Vol., 1983-1984 (Annex)  
Vol., 1985-1986 (Annex)  
Vol., 1987-1988 (Annex)  
Vol., 1989-1990 (Annex)  
Vol., 1991-1992 (Annex)  
Vol., 1993-1994 (Annex)

### **Women's Auxiliary Records**

Records, 1925-1926 (Unbound, filed in folder)

### **Sunday School Finance Records, 1888-1914**

Vol. 1888-1914

### **Sunday School Records, 1872-1915**

Vol., 1872-1873  
Vol., 1890-1895  
Vol., 1895-1897  
Vol., 1903-1907  
Vol., 1913-1914  
Vol., 1914-1915

### **World War I Records**

Vol., 1921

**Other manuscript collections at South Caroliniana Library that include references to First Presbyterian Church (Columbia, S.C.)**

**include the papers of :**

John M. Bateman (1864-1940)

Bryce Family

Henry Campbell Davis (1879-1951)

W.K. Duffie

James Wyly Jackson (1893-1963) Eliza

Hibben Leland (1792-1856) Benjamin

Morgan Palmer (1818-1902) Mary Verner

Schlaefer

Kathleen Lewis Sloan

John Eldred Swearingen (1875-1957)