

Title: Cranston, Rhode Island. Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church records

Creator: Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)

Knightsville Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)

Franklin Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)

Dates: 1807, 1863-2008

Physical Description: 11 boxes; 4.67 linear feet

8 document boxes, 1 narrow box, 1 oversize box, 1 card file box

Collection number: RG_4936

Access Restrictions: No access restrictions

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the archivist or librarian

Language: Material entirely in English

Repository: Congregational Library and Archive

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

617-523-0470

<http://www.congregationallibrary.org>

Collection processed by Abraham Miller, July 2010. Accession 12-2011 completed by Sari Mauro, January 2012.

Abstract:

This collection consists of the records of the Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church. Materials include records about church governance and organization, financial records, membership documents, Sunday School and auxiliary records, church publications, historical notes, and audiovisual material.

Acquisition Information

Donated by the Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church of Cranston, R.I., April 2010.

Organizational History:

The Knightsville Meetinghouse was constructed in 1807 for the Benevolent Baptist Society in Cranston, Rhode Island. This society and other churches used the building, which also served as the town meeting center, intermittently until 1864, when the Knightsville Mission Sabbath School was organized. Soon after inception, the Sunday School grew considerably in size, where by the members desired to organize a church as well.

In 1878, in lieu of organizing a separate church, members of the Sunday School organized as a branch of the Union Congregational Church of Providence, Rhode Island, until the Union-Plymouth merger in 1928. Following this merger, the Knightsville Congregational Church was organized and incorporated as a separate church. In this time, the church developed a strong membership base, with active auxiliary groups and an active Sunday School. In 1967, the Franklin Congregational Church merged with Knightsville Congregational Church. Franklin Congregation Church was founded in 1873 with nine members. By the 1960s, Franklin Congregational Church saw declining membership and was sharing a minister with Knightsville Congregational Church.

By the 1990s, the Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church was dealing with declining membership, with roughly twenty regular attendees at services. In 2006, the members voted to leave the United Church of Christ and join the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. By the beginning of 2009, it was clear to the community that the Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church lacked the funding and membership to continue activity, and ceased operation in October, 2009.

Ministers:*Franklin Congregational Church:*

James P. Root 1876-1879
Jeremiah Taylor 1883-1887
Hiram E. Johnson 1887-1892
Richard H. Wickett 1892-1911
C. Fremont Roper 1911-1921
Henry H. Guernsey 1921-1929
Orville O. Lozier 1929-1944
Walter Main Stone 1944-1949
Thomas K. Thompson 1950-1951
Lawrence W. Fairchild 1951-1953
Lloyd Marble 1954-1956
Oscar W. Arell 1956-1962
Donald W. Biggs (Student pastor) 1956-1962
Paul E. Duhamel 1964-1967

Knightsville Congregational Church:

Wilfred E. Stone 1928-1857
Deene Clark 1957-1958
John Wright 1958-1962
Paul E. Duhamel 1962-1967

Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church:

Paul E. Duhamel 1967

J. R. Beasley 1969-1973

W. E. Renfree 1976

Marsha L. Goldstein 1979-1984

Lois A. Bryant 1985-2009

Scope of Collection:

The Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church records document the history and life of the church, including church governance, financial data, ministers' records, membership data, auxiliary organizations, published material, historical information, and audiovisual material. Materials within the collection include minutes and reports, ledgers and registers, directories, correspondence, church publications, and photographs.

Arrangement:

The Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church records are arranged in eight series. The records are arranged chronologically, unless otherwise noted.

- I. Governance
- II. Financial
- III. Ministers
- IV. Membership
- V. Auxiliary Organizations
- VI. Published Material
- VII. Historical
- VIII. Audiovisual
- IX. Dissolution

Related Material:

Cranston, R.I.: Knightsville Congregational Church. 17.11.1 C85.3 KNICC

Access Terms:

Knightsville Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)
Franklin Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)
Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church (Cranston, R.I.)
Cranston (R.I.) -- Church history
Rhode Island -- Church history
Congregational churches -- Rhode Island -- Cranston
Church records and registers -- Rhode Island

Detailed Description and Container List:

Series I: Governance 1930-2005

The Governance series includes records relating to the administration of the church. The Annual reports include reports from ministers, clerks, and other church officials. The Meeting records include reports from the annual meetings and the nominating committee, which selected church officers. The monthly standing committee records details church activities and decision making. The governance records also include the church constitution and by-laws and conference membership information.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Annual Reports 1930-1990
- Folder 2: Annual Reports 1995-2008
- Folder 3: Meetings 1876-1991
- Folder 4: Meetings – Annual Meetings 1933-1989
- Folder 5: Meetings – Standing Committee 1939-1969
- Folder 6: Meetings – Standing Committee 1970-1977
- Folder 7: Meetings – Nominating Committee 1932-1975
- Folder 8: Meetings – Clerks’ Reports 1978-1983
- Folder 9: Constitution and Bylaws 1967, n.d.
- Folder 10: Application to the NACCC 2005-2007
- Folder 11: Correspondence 1932-1957

Box 2

- Folder 1: Correspondence 1957-2005

Box 7

- Record ledger

Box 9

- Folder 1: Governance 1957-2007

Series II: Financial 1863-2008

The Financial records include ledgers, treasurers’ reports, bank statements, and tax documents relating to the financial administration of the churches. Included are collection books and documents relating to raising funds for the church. Also of note are the building records, detailing building repairs and maintenance.

Box 2

- Folder 2: Financial 1863-1907
- Folder 3: Financial 1916-1939
- Folder 4: Financial 1940-1949
- Folder 5: Financial 1950-1959
- Folder 6: Financial 1960-1989
- Folder 7: Financial 1998-2003
- Folder 8: Financial 2004-2006
- Folder 9: Financial 2006-2009

Box 3

- Folder 1: Financial – Tax 1969-1989
- Folder 2: Building – Repairs 1953-2006
- Folder 3: Insurance 1899-1977
- Folder 4-6: Insurance 1990s-2000s

Box 4

- Folder 1: Financial – Collections Book 1887-1902
- Folder 2: Financial – Collections Book 1889-1902

Folder 3: Financial – Fundraising and Donations 1944-2002

Folder 4: Grants, Applications 1990-2004

Box 9

Folder 2: Financial 1963-1965

Series III: Ministers 1938-2004

This series includes calendars, correspondence, notes, and pamphlets. Of note are the records relating to the search for new ministers, including dossiers of candidates.

Box 4

Folder 5: Ministers – Stone, Wilfred E. 1938-1939

Folder 6: Ministers – Search For and Ordinations 1958-1973

Folder 7: Ministers – Calendars 1999, 2002-2004

Series IV: Membership 1928-2007

The Membership series includes records about the members of and people associated with the church. The transfers include information about members being received into or leaving the church. The directories, and church registers include lists of members, including dates of membership. The Genealogical records and Remembrance Book includes information on births and deaths within the community.

Box 4

Folder 8: Membership –Transfers 1928-1947

Folder 9: Membership – Transfers 1947-1976

Folder 10: Membership – Directories 1925-1985 [Gaps]

Folder 11: Genealogical Records 1959-1997

Folder 12: Vital Statistics – Notes 1985-2009

Box 5

Folder 1: Membership – Record, Knightsville 1928-1976

Box 7

In Remembrance book

The Pilgrim Church Register ledger

Church Register and Record ledger

Box 9

Folder 3: Guest Register 1958-2007

Box 10

Membership index cards

Series V: Auxiliary Organizations 1914-1999

The Auxiliary Organizations series includes records from volunteer organizations and the Sunday School. The auxiliaries include the Wide Awakes, a women’s club, the Fellowship Club, a service club, and other social and service oriented groups. Sunday School records include reports of activities, and booklets

containing class records. Additional records include documents relating to the planning of and reports on church events.

Box 5

- Folder 2: Auxiliary 1926-1936
- Folder 3: Auxiliary 1937-1999
- Folder 4: Auxiliary – Wide Awakes 1933-1967
- Folder 5: Auxiliary – Fellowship Club 1968
- Folder 6: Events 1923-1972
- Folder 7: Sunday School 1914-1967

Box 11

- Sunday School booklets 1921-1963

Series VI: Published Material 1875-2007

The Published Material includes pamphlets and newsletters published by the church, and orders of worship, used at services. Included are pamphlets by Wilfred E. Stone, including published parables.

Box 5

- Folder 8: Pamphlets 1875-1967
- Folder 9: Order of Worship 1921-1973

Box 6

- Folder 1: Order of Worship 1873-2009

Box 9

- Folder 4: Newsletters 1952-1976

Series VII: Historical 1807, 1925-2007

The Historical records include newspaper clippings and other notes about the history of the Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church. Of particular note are the materials related to the 200th Anniversary of the Knightsville Meetinghouse in 2007, including attendee lists and newspaper reports, and a lottery ticket from 1807, used to fund the construction of the meetinghouse.

Box 6

- Folder 2: Historical Notes 1807, 1928-2001
- Folder 3: 200th Anniversary 2007

Box 9

- Folder 5: Certificates and Awards 1925-2003
- Folder 6: 200th Anniversary 2007

Series VIII: Audiovisual 1891-2008 [Gaps]

The Audiovisual material includes photographs and two videocassettes. The photographs document church activities, functions, and trips. Also included are various portraits of church members, many unidentified, and photographs of the Knightsville Meetinghouse. Many of the photographs were removed from albums.

Arrangement: Material arranged by media type. Photos removed from albums are arranged by album.
Technical Access: Videocassettes recorded on VHS. The Congregational Library does not own a VHS player

Box 6

Photograph Album 2008-2009

Videocassette – R.I. Conference “Doing Together More Than We Can Do Alone” 1994

Videocassette – Knightsville-Franklin Congregational Church

Folder 4-9: Photographs

Box 8

Folder 1-18: Photographs

Series IX: Dissolution 2009

The Dissolution material contains records pertaining to the dissolution of the church, the sale of their building, and the disposition of the sale proceeds.

Box 9

Folder 7: Legal Documents

Box 12

Folder 1: Building renovations

Folder 2: Institutions receiving proceeds from building sale, 2010

Folder 3: Meeting Minutes, 2008-2010

Folder 4: Building Sale, 2010