

Marjorie Matthews Papers

1929-1996



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The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers; followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear.

The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

Biographical Note

Marjorie Swank Matthews (1916-1986), first female bishop consecrated in The United Methodist Church, was born circa July 11, 1916 to Jess A. and Mae (Chapman) Swank. Before entering the ministry, Matthews was secretary and assistant treasurer for an automotive parts corporation. Matthews began her ministry in 1959 at Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church in Michigan. She was ordained as a local elder in 1965. Matthews also served Pleasant Valley-Leaton, Vermontville-Gresham, Sunfield-Sebewa Center, Evart, Ashley-Bannister, and Napoleon Methodist charges, all in Michigan. While at seminary, Matthews served LeRoy and Barre Center Presbyterian Churches in New York. Matthews was received as a Full Member into the West Michigan Conference in June of 1969. In 1976, she was appointed District Superintendent of the Grand Traverse District. On July 17, 1980, Matthews was elected United Methodism's first female bishop by the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church, she was appointed to the Wisconsin Conference, where Matthews served until her retirement in 1984. Matthews was a champion of women's issues in the church and led many workshop for clergywomen and pastors' wives. Matthews had a considerable academic career. She was awarded a Bachelor of Arts from Central Michigan University in 1967 and a Bachelor of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 1970. Matthews received a Master of Arts in 1971 and Doctorate in Philosophy in Humanities in 1976, both from Florida State University. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled "Issues and Answers in the Book of Job and Joban Issues and Answers in Three Twentieth Century Writers: Carl Jung, Robert Frost, and Archibald Macleish." Matthews had one son, William, and three grandchildren, Robbie, Lori, and Greg. She died after a prolonged bout with cancer on June 30, 1986. Matthews is interred in the Alma Cemetery, Alma, Michigan.

Scope Note

This collection contains records of Matthews' personal and ministerial life, understanding that these topics overlap. The ministry series contains a sizeable compilation of Matthews' sermons and bulletins as well as newspaper clippings detailing ministerial milestones, particularly her appointment as district superintendent and her consecration as bishop. There are also a significant number of congratulatory letters and other correspondence. Most of this series documents Matthews' episcopacy. The education series contains mostly course notes and term papers that are listed in chronologically order by semester. The Women series constitutes mostly materials from workshops for women and women's issues that Matthews led. The latter part of the collection consists of family records, such as photographs, information on dolls, and genealogical papers. Also, artifacts such as stoles, a clerical robe, pins, and Matthews' copy of the 1980 Book of Discipline.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner.

Ministry

LOCAL CHURCH.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT.

EPISCOPACY.

Education

COLLEGE.

SEMINARY.

GRADUATE SCHOOL.

WOMEN.

FAMILY.

ARTIFACTS.

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Marjorie Matthews Papers, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the items call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Subject Terms

Subject Geographic

Florida

Michigan

Wisconsin

Subject Topics

Bishops

Clergy

District superintendents (Methodist)

Education, Higher

Ordination

Women clergy

Genre

Artifacts

Audiocassettes

Calendars

Certificates

Church bulletins

Clippings

Correspondence

Episcopal Addresses



Sermons

Subject - Corporate Names

United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Occupations

Bishop

Minister

Container List

Ministry Local Church

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-2-6:1	Local Preacher's License	1957
1604-2-6:2	Bulletins	1966-1969
1604-2-6:3	Bulletins	1970
1604-2-6:4	Bulletins	1971
1604-2-6:5	Bulletins	1972-1973
1604-2-6:6	Bulletins	1974
1604-2-6:7	Bulletins	1975
1604-2-6:8	Sermons	Undated
1604-2-6:9	Sermons	1966-1969
1604-2-6:10	Sermons	1970-1972
1604-2-6:11	Sermons	1973-1974
1604-2-6:12	Sermons	1975
1604-2-6:13	Clippings	1966-1969
1604-2-6:14	Clippings	1973
1604-2-6:15	Clippings	1975
1604-2-6:16	Correspondence	1969
1604-2-6:17	Correspondence	1970
1604-2-6:18	Correspondence	1972-1973
1604-2-6:19	Correspondence	1974-1975
1604-2-6:20	Photos	Undated
1604-2-6:21	Style Show Photo	1963
1604-2-6:22	Record Books	1958-1980
1604-2-6:23	Record Books	1970-1973

District Superintendent

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-2-7:1	Bulletins	1976-1979
1604-2-7:2	Prayers	1970-1975
1604-2-7:3	Sermons	1976
1604-2-7:4	Sermons	1977
1604-2-7:5	Sermons	1979-1980
1604-2-7:6	Clippings	1976-1979
1604-2-7:7	Comics	1976
1604-2-7:8	Correspondence - Congratulatory	1976
1604-2-7:9	Correspondence - General	1976-1980
1604-2-7:10	Photographs	1980
1604-2-7:11	Portraits	Undated
1604-2-7:12	Daily Christian Advocate, Folder 1	1980
1604-2-7:13	Daily Christian Advocate, Folder 2	1980
1604-2-7:14	Daily Christian Advocate, Folder 3	1980
1604-2-7:15	General and Jurisdictional Conferences	1979-1980
1604-2-7:16	Preaching and Teaching Notes and Schedules	1976-1982
1604-2-8:1	Commission on District Superintendency	1975-1979
1604-2-8:2	Seminar, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, March 24-26, 1980	1980
1604-2-8:3	Native American School	1978-1979
1604-2-8:4	Trip to Egypt	1979
1604-2-8:5	Rationale for Episcopacy	1980
1603-5-5:6	Audiocassette - Christian Found in Egypt	1979
1603-5-7:5	CD - Christian Found in Egypt	1979

Episcopacy

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-2-8:6	Bulletins	1980
1604-2-8:7	Bulletins	1981
1604-2-8:8	Bulletins	1982
1604-2-8:9	Bulletins	1983
1603-3-1:1	Bulletins	1984
1603-3-1:4	Sermons	1980
1603-3-1:5	Sermons	1981
1603-3-1:6	Sermons	1982
1603-3-1:7	Sermons	1983
1603-3-1:8	Sermons	1984
1603-3-2:1	Clippings	1980
1603-3-2:2	Clippings	1980
1603-3-2:3	Clippings	1981-1982
1603-3-2:4	Clippings	1983
1603-3-2:5	Clippings	1984
1603-3-2:8	Correspondence - Congratulatory	1980
1603-3-2:9	Correspondence - General	1980
1603-3-2:10	Correspondence - General	1981
1603-3-3:1	Correspondence - General	1982
1603-3-3:2	Correspondence - General	1983
1603-3-3:3	Correspondence - General	1984
1603-3-3:6	Correspondence - General Conference	1984
1603-3-3:8	Photographs - Folder 2	1980-1984
1603-3-3:9	Photographs - Folder 3	1980-1984
1603-3-3:10	Photographs - Folder 4	1983
1603-3-4:1	Portraits	1980-1984
1603-3-4:2	Consecration Service Slides	1980
1603-3-4:4	Memory Book	1980
1603-3-4:6	Episcopal Seal	1980
1603-3-4:7	General Conference	1984
1603-3-4:8	General Conference - Daily Christian Advocate	1984
1603-3-4:9	Jurisdictional Conference	1984
1603-3-4:10	World Council of Churches Assembly	1983
1603-3-4:11	State of the Church Address	1982
1603-3-4:13	United Methodist Women Day, New York, NY	1981
1603-3-4:14	United Methodist Heritage Fellowship	1981
1603-3-4:15	Pastors' School, South Carolina Conference	1981
1603-3-4:16	Pastors' School, West Ohio Conference	1982
1603-3-4:17	Adult Bible Study	1983
1603-3-4:18	Shalom Course	1984
1603-3-5:2	Florida State University Courses	1984
1603-3-5:6	Listing of Bishops	1980
1603-3-5:9	Council of Bishops Executive Committee	1983
1603-3-5:10	Conciliar Review Committee Report	1984
1603-3-5:11	Planned Episcopal Transition Committee	1980-1984
1603-3-5:12	London Conference	1981
1603-3-6:2	Trip to Eastern Europe - Record Books	1982
1603-3-6:3	Trip to Asia, Folder 1	1984
1603-3-6:4	Trip to Asia, Folder 2	1984
1603-3-7:1	Pre-Retirement Seminar	1983
1603-3-7:3	New York Annual Conference	1982
1603-3-7:4	Pacific-Southwest Conference Committee on Ministry Report	1984
1603-3-7:5	Char Cowan Interview	1984
1603-3-7:8	Interim Pastors Article	1976-1980
1603-3-7:10	National Security and Defense	1982
1603-3-6:1	Trip to Eastern Europe	1982
1603-5-2:1	Religious Prints	1980-1984

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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1603-5-2:3	Portrait	Undated
1603-5-2:4	Certificates - General Agencies	1980-1984
1603-5-2:5	Certificates - Arkansas Traveler	1983
1603-5-2:6	Certificates - Military	1984
1603-5-2:7	Certificates - Colleges	1980
1603-5-2:9	Certificates - Miscellaneous	1981-1984
1603-5-2:10	Book of Discipline	1980
1603-5-2:11	Brunner's "The Letter to the Romans " and Bible	1960-1978
1603-5-1:1	Certificate of Episcopal Consecration	1980
1604-4-5:1	Beta Tape - Dakota East and West	1981
1604-4-5:2	Beta Tape - A Lost History	1984
1604-4-5:3	Beta Tape - Television Interview, Houston, TX	1980
1603-5-4:1	Audiocassette - Bishop Loder	1974
1603-5-4:2	Audiocassette - Pentecost Sunday	1983
1603-5-4:3	Audiocassette - Morning Edition Interview with George Gallup	1980
1603-5-4:4	Audiocassette - Bishop Marjorie Matthews Interview for Jubilee! 200 Years of American Methodism	Undated
1603-5-5:8	Audiocassette - Matthews' Farewell Celebration, Part II	1980
1603-5-5:7	Audiocassette - Matthews' Farewell Celebration, Part I	1980
1603-5-6:2	Microcassettes - Egypt, Bishop Samuel, and Disney World	1980
1603-5-7:2	CD - Bishop Dwight Ellsworth Loder	1974
1603-5-7:8	CD - Matthews Farewell Celebration Part 1	1980
1603-5-7:9	CD - Matthews Farewell Celebration Part 2	1980
1603-5-7:10	CD - NPR Morning Edition Interview with George Gallup November 13, 1980	1980
1603-5-7:11	CD - Pentecost Sunday	1983
1603-5-7:12	CD - Interview for Jubilee-200 Years of American Methodism	1984

*Education
College*

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-3-1:1	School Book	1929
1604-3-1:2	Guiding Intermediate Material	1958
1604-3-1:3	Supply Pastors' School	1953-1960
1604-3-1:4	Supply Pastors' School	1957
1604-3-1:5	Supply Pastors' School	1958
1604-3-1:6	Supply Pastors' School	1959
1604-3-1:7	Supply Pastors' School	1960
1604-3-1:8	Supply Pastors' School	1961
1604-3-1:9	Supply Pastors' School	1962
1604-3-1:10	Supply Pastors' School	1963
1604-3-1:11	Supply Pastors' School	1964
1604-3-2:1	Fall 1964	1964
1604-3-2:2	Spring 1965	1965
1604-3-2:3	Fall 1965	1965
1604-3-2:4	Spring 1966	1966
1604-3-2:5	Fall 1966	1966
1604-3-2:6	Spring 1967	1967
1604-3-2:7	Freshman Composition	1963-1964
1604-3-2:8	Bible as Literature	1964
1604-3-2:9	Shakespeare	1964
1604-3-2:10	Intermediate German	1964-1965
1604-3-2:11	Advanced Composition	1965
1604-3-3:1	American Literature	1965
1604-3-3:2	English Literature	1965
1604-3-3:3	World Literature	1965
1604-3-3:4	Honors Courses	1965-1966



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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-3-3:5	Church Music	1966
1604-3-3:6	Contemporary American Literature	1966
1604-3-3:7	German Literature	1966
1604-3-3:8	The American Novel	1966
1604-3-3:9	Radio and Television Speech	1966
1604-3-3:10	Ethics	1966
1604-3-3:11	Biology	1966-1967
1604-3-3:12	Abnormal Psychology	1967
1604-3-3:13	Grade Reports and Other Administrative Papers	1964-1967
1604-3-3:14	Miscellaneous Notes	1961-1965
1604-3-3:15	Junior Class Dance Committee	1967-1968

Seminary

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-3-4:1	Church History of the United States	1967
1604-3-4:2	Hebrew	1967
1604-3-4:3	Old Testament	1967
1604-3-4:4	Religion and Personality	1967
1604-3-4:5	Biblical Hebrew	1968
1604-3-4:6	New Testament	1968
1604-3-4:7	Old Testament	1968
1604-3-4:8	Reformation	1968
1604-3-5:1	Religion and Culture	1968
1604-3-5:2	Advanced Hebrew	1968
1604-3-5:3	Christian Theology I	1968
1604-3-5:4	Faith and History in the Old Testament	1968
1604-3-5:5	Christian Theology II	1969
1604-3-5:6	Church and World	1969
1604-3-5:7	Psalms	1969
1604-3-6:1	Hebrew Studies	1969
1604-3-6:2	Methodism	1969
1604-3-6:3	New Testament Greek	1969
1604-3-6:4	Pastoral Care	1969
1604-3-6:5	Romans	1969
1604-3-6:6	Ugaritic	1969
1604-3-7:2	Transcript and Grade Reports	1967-1969
1604-3-7:3	Dialogues	1968
1604-3-7:4	Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Disorder	1965-1969
1604-3-7:1	Miscellaneous Notes	1967

Graduate School

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-3-7:5	Graduate Record Examination Scores and Certificate of Admission	1967-1970
1604-3-7:6	Ancient Near Eastern History	1970
1604-3-7:7	Modern Judaism	1970
1604-3-7:8	The Bible as Literature	1971
1604-3-7:9	Dead Sea Scrolls	1971
1604-3-7:10	Judaism and Islam	1971
1604-3-7:11	Phenomenology of Religion	1971
1604-3-7:12	Religion and Ethics	1971
1604-3-7:13	Renaissance	1971
1604-3-8:1	Old Testament	1971
1604-3-8:2	Mythology	1971
1604-3-8:3	American Literature	1971
1604-3-8:4	Classical Period	1971



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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1604-3-8:5	Greek Art	1971
1604-3-8:6	Greek and Roman Epic	1971
1604-3-8:7	Master of Arts Thesis	1971
1604-3-8:8	20th Century Islam	1972
1604-3-8:9	20th Century Poetry	1972
1604-3-8:10	Electronic Music	1972
1604-3-8:11	Freud and Culture	1972
1604-3-8:12	Greek - Medieval Background	1972
1604-3-8:13	Hellenistic History	1972
1604-3-8:14	Messiahship	1972
1604-3-8:15	Role of Artist	1972
1604-3-8:16	Roman Art	1972
1604-3-8:17	Miscellaneous Notes	1972
1603-4-1:1	Dissertation Prospectus	1973
1603-4-1:2	Dissertation Notes	1974
1603-4-1:3	Dissertation	1976

Women

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1603-3-7:12	Bulletins	1982
1603-3-7:13	Sermons and Notes	1981
1603-3-7:15	Publications, Folder 1	1968-1981
1603-3-7:16	Publications, Folder 2	1976-1984
1603-3-7:17	COSROW - Application for Executive Director	1972-1973
1603-3-7:18	COSROW - Application for Executive Director	1976-1983
1603-3-8:1	COSROW, North Arkansas Conference	1982
1603-3-8:2	COSROW, North Indiana Conference	1981
1603-3-8:3	COSROW, North Texas Conference	1983
1603-3-8:4	Ministers' Wives Retreats	1977-1981
1603-3-8:5	Consultation of United Methodist Clergywomen	1978
1603-3-8:7	Women's History Project, Holston Conference	1982
1603-3-8:8	United Methodist Women, Wisconsin Conference	1984
1603-3-8:11	Women - General	1976-1983

Family

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1603-4-1:4	Identification Cards	1942-1983
1603-4-1:5	Biographical Information	1969-1980
1603-4-1:6	Curriculum Vitae	1973-1984
1603-4-1:7	Family Photographs	1981
1603-4-1:8	Family - General	1962-1983
1603-4-1:12	Dolls - Photographs	1983
1603-5-5:1	Audiocassette - Christmas Morning	1977
1603-5-5:3	Audiocassette - Christmas 1978	1978
1603-5-5:2	Audiocassette - Christmas 1975	1975
1603-5-5:4	Audiocassette - Christmas 1979, Part I	1979
1603-5-5:5	Audiocassette - Christmas 1979, Part II	1979
1603-5-7:1	CD - Christmas 1973	1973
1603-5-7:3	CD - Family Christmas Part 1	1978
1603-5-7:4	CD - Family Christmas Part 2	1978
1603-5-7:6	CD - Family Christmas Part 1	1979
1603-5-7:7	CD - Family Christmas Part 2	1979

Artifacts



Marjorie Matthews Papers

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
1603-4-2:4	Stole, Episcopal	1982
1604-4-1:4	Whip	1980
1604-4-1:5	General Conference Pin	1976
1604-4-1:10	United Methodist/Olympics Pin	1984
1604-4-1:13	Christian-Jewish Relations Workshop Pin	1981
1604-4-1:17	North Central Jurisdictional Conference Pin	1976
1604-4-1:18	North Central Jurisdictional Conference Pin	1980
1604-4-1:19	West Michigan Pin	Undated
1604-4-1:20	Christian-Jewish Relations Workshop Pin	1981