

Immanuel Church Records, 1893-2020

MSS: #037

Processed by: Jackson Reed, Oct.-Nov. 2022

Volume: 16 boxes, ~7 linear feet, oversize items excluded

Abstract:

These records document the history of the Immanuel Church from the founding of the Ryal Side Sunday School in 1893 to the church's closure in 2020. Included are the church's annual reports, records of births, deaths, and marriages, records of meetings of the church's cabinet and its various groups and committees; photos and newspaper clippings; issues of the church newsletter and other ephemera.

Collection Creator:

Immanuel Church, Beverly, Massachusetts

Provenance:

These records were in the church's custody until its closure in 2020, at which time they were transferred to Historic Beverly.

Conservation/Processor's Note:

The collection is broadly in good condition but a few items are severely water damaged or burned. Some basic preventative measures were taken: removal of staples, clips, plastic bindings; extraction of sheets from ring binders and old plastic sleeves; etc. Some files, as indicated in the inventory, were left stapled due to a large volume of staples. Items were rehoused into new folders and boxes but some original folders were reused. The received order is documented by my inventory but I did not find it to be meaningful; collection was significantly rearranged, see series listing below.

Copyright:

Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Curator of Collections in the Cabot House of Historic Beverly.

Preferred Citation:

Title of Document, Immanuel Church Records, Historic Beverly, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915.

Biographical/Historical Note

Immanuel Church was established in November 1903 to provide residents of the Ryal Side neighborhood with a more local place of worship. Ten years prior to its founding, the Ryal Side Sunday School was organized and held in local homes; then in 1896, the Ryal Side Chapel, which was the church's first home, was constructed. Services were initially provided by ministers from other Beverly churches, including Reverend Perley C. Grant who in 1903 became the first in a succession of twenty-three pastors of Immanuel Church. The superintendent of the chapel for most of this period was Alvah J. Bradstreet, a key founding member and early historian of the church. The church moved into a new building on Bridge Street in March 1916, which would be its permanent location. In July 1963, in advance of a plan to build an addition the church, the building was damaged beyond repair by a fire. After additional fundraising, a new building was built and dedicated in November 1964. In 1998, Reverend William J. Fleming, Jr. was appointed pastor of the church and would serve until its closure. At the annual meeting in February 2020, members agreed that in light of financial issues, dwindling attendance, and the imminent retirement of Fleming, the church would be closed and the building gifted to the city. For over a century the church was a hub for local activity and community. It hosted long-running Mothers' and Couples' Clubs as well as sports teams and singing groups.

Scope and Content Note

The collection comprises both items produced by the church's regular activities and items documenting the church's history collected or created by its members. The former category includes annual reports, meeting notes from several church-associated groups, records of baptisms, deaths, etc., correspondence, ledgers; the latter includes photos and newspaper clippings, many collected in scrapbooks. The collection consists mostly of paper materials, often in bound volumes/notebooks; excepting framed photos and a few large boards with photos and clippings glued to them. The records represent the entire span of the church's history from 1893 to 2020, though the period from 1950-2000 is more extensively covered than the church's earlier or later history.

Keywords/Access Points

Immanuel Church, Church, Ryal Side, 1900s

Series List:

This collection is arranged into six series, some containing several subseries which are documented in the container list:

- Series I: General records, 1915-2020
- Series II: Organization/committee/meeting records, 1893-2020
- Series III: History, 1913-2005
- Series IV: Chimes newsletter, 1953-2012
- Series V: Church ephemera, 1963-2005
- Series VI: Other volumes/publications, 1950-1975

Container List:**Series I: General records, 1915-2020**

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains records relating to the church as a whole and its general activities, rather than those of any particular committee or group. The series is divided into subseries, which are arranged by type and/or chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Subseries 1: Constitution	
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Church constitution	1967, rev. 1970
	1	1	Constitution and by-laws revisions	1960-1983
	1	2	Constitution and by-laws revisions	1993-2000
			Subseries 2: Annual reports	
	1	3	Annual reports	1960-1967
	1	4	Annual reports	1969-1970
	1	5	Annual reports	1971-1977
	1	6	Annual reports	1977-1986
	1	7	Annual reports	1986-1994
	1	8	Annual reports	1994-1998
	2	1	Annual reports	1998-2003
	2	2	Annual reports	2004-2010
	2	3	Annual reports	2011-2019
			Subseries 3: Baptism, death, marriage, confirmation records	
	2	4	Baptismal records	1957-1969
	2	5	Baptismal records	1970-1989
	2	6	Baptismal records	1990-2002
	2	7	Baptismal records	2005-2016
	2	8	Certificates of baptism	1961-2002
	2	9	First communion class of May 18, 1997 certificates	1997
	3	1	Blank certificate of confirmation	undated
	3	1	Certificates of confirmation	1983-2002
	3	2	Confirmation records and photos	1976-2002
	3	3	Death records and obituaries	1992-2002

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	3	4	Certificates of marriage	1988-1996
	3	5	Certificates of marriage	1997-2002
	3	6	Certificates of membership	1991-2002
			Subseries 4: Financial, admin, etc. records	
	3	7	Financial documents including deeds/mortgages, donation of estates	1915-1994
	3	7	Last Will and Testament of Beatrice G. Gray,	2006
	3	7	Blank forms for copying	undated
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: "Book of Remembrance" with list of building fund pledges, memorial gifts	1964-1989
	3	8	New church construction docs	1963-1965
	3	9	Budgets	1974-1985
	3	10	Pastor Sarah Frank compensation docs	2005
			Subseries 5: Ledgers/attendance records	
	3	11	Visitor sign-in	1966-1979
	4	1	"Guests of Our Church" ledger	1989-2012
	4		Worship Attendance notebook	1987-2020
	4		North Shore Prayer Watch sign-in	2012
			Subseries 6: General correspondence	
	4	2	Letters from Alvah J. Bradstreet to Ray	1937-1939
	4	2	Postcard from Mr. and Mrs. R. Gosley	undated
			Subseries 7: Certificates	
	4		Danvers State Hospital Volunteer Program Certificate of Recognition	1957
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Framed certificate of appreciation for trustee R. Erwin Dolloff	1968
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Framed certificate honoring Anson Little as Deacon Emeritus	1973
			Subseries 8: Mixed, misc. general records	
	16		Notebook with baptism list, member list, meeting records	1917-1920

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	4	3	Member lists	1936-1943
	4	3	Member lists	1983
	4		Notebook with baptism list, meeting minutes, const. amendments	1921-1934
	4		Notebook with Yearly Department Reports	1924
	4	4	envelope with information for interim pastors, pamphlet for the "American Family Foundation"	1981-1982
	4	4	Church closure surveys	2020
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Church architectural plans in tube	undated

Series II: Organization/committee/meeting records, 1893-2020

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains records relating to the church's several clubs, committees, and groups. The series is divided into subseries by group, which are arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Subseries 1: General/business/cabinet meetings	
	4		Meetings notebook with some newspaper clippings and other insertions	1903-1917
	5		Cabinet records notebook	1916-1917
	5		Cabinet records notebook	1934-1942
	5		Meetings notebook	1936-1948
	5	1	Cabinet records	1974-1976
	5	2	Cabinet meeting notes	1998-2000
	5	3	Cabinet meeting notes	2001-2005
	5		Meetings notebook	2009-2020
			Subseries 2: Anniversary Committee	
	5	4	75th Anniversary Committee records and correspondence	1979
			Subseries 3: Auxiliary	
	5	5	Women's Auxiliary Amended Constitution and By-Laws	undated
	5		Immanuel Auxiliary "Record Book no. 1"	1912-1919

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	6		Immanuel Auxiliary "Book 2" meetings notebook	1917-1928
	6		Immanuel Auxiliary meetings notebook	1928-1938
	6	1	Immanuel Auxiliary records, correspondence	1991-1995
	6		Immanuel Auxiliary membership notebook	1927
	6		Immanuel Auxiliary membership notebook	1930, 1967
	6	2	Immanuel Auxiliary programs	1990-1994
			Subseries 4: Building Committee	
	16		Immanuel Church Building Committee records notebook	1915
			Subseries 5: Christian Endeavor	
	6		Christian Endeavor records notebook	1925-1930
	6		Paper envelope that contained Christian Endeavor notebook	undated, ca. 1930
			Subseries 6: Couples' Club	
	6	3	Immanuel Church Couples' Club meeting notes and records	1956-1961
	6	4	Immanuel Church Couples' Club meeting notes and records	1962-1965
	6	5	Immanuel Church Couples' Club meeting notes, photos, certificates, etc.	1962-1966
	7	1	Immanuel Church Couples' Club meeting notes and records	1963-1968
	7	2	Immanuel Church Couples' Club meeting notes and records	1966-1968
	7	3	Immanuel Church Couples' Club, correspondence and invitations	1987-1996
			Subseries 7: Diaconate Board	
	7	4	Diaconate Board meeting notes and correspondence	1972-1978
	7	5	Diaconate Board meeting notes and records	1978-1982
	7	6	Diaconate Board meeting notes and records	1982-1987
			Subseries 8: Harmony Group	

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	7		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1948-1951
	7		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1951-1955
	7		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1955-1959
	7		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1959-1961
	7		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1961-1965
	8		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1965-1968
	8		Harmony Group meetings notebook	1969-1975
	8	1	Harmony Group correspondence and ephemera	1952-1963
	8	2	Harmony Group correspondence	1968-1975
			Subseries 9: Leadership Committee	
	8	3	Leadership Committee records	1957-2003
			Subseries 10: Men's Class	
	8	4	Description of origin of Ryal Side Men's Class with photo	1933
	8	4	Immanuel Men's Class records, correspondence	1932-1937
	8	5	Immanuel Men's Class records, correspondence, newspaper clippings	1937-1940
	9	1	Immanuel Men's Class records, correspondence, newspaper clippings	1940-1943
	9		Immanuel Men's Class binder with sports records on inside covers	undated, ca. 1940
			Subseries 11: Mothers' Club	
	9		Binder originally containing Mothers' Club records with notation on inside cover	undated, ca. 1932
	9	2	Ryal Side Mothers' Club meeting notes	1932-1938
	9		Ryal Side Mothers' Club meetings notebook	1932-1938
	9	3	Ryal Side Mothers' Club meeting notes	1938-1945
	9		Ryal Side Mothers' Club meetings notebook	1945-1947
	9		Ryal Side Mothers' Club meetings notebook	1947-1948
	10		Ryal Side Mothers' Club meetings	1958-1960

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			notebook	
			Subseries 12: Pastoral Supply Committee	
	10	1	Pastoral Supply Committee records	1965, 1974, 1981-1982
	10	1	Professional Profiles for David and Dereen Vanderlinde-Abernathy	undated, ca. 1982
			Subseries 13: Program and Refreshment Committee	
	10	2	Program and Refreshment Committee member listing, correspondence	1965-1969
			Subseries 14: Silver Thimble Group	
	11	1	Silver Thimble Group records, correspondence	1975-1991
	11	2	Silver Thimble Group records	1976-1984
			Subseries 15: Sunday School	
	10		Ryal Side Sunday School records notebook	1893-1902
	10		Ryal Side Sunday School records notebook	1895-1921
	10		Ryal Side Sunday School records notebook	1904-1927
			Subseries 16: Ways and Means Committee	
	11	3	Ways and Means Committee meeting notes, correspondence, records	1965-1967

Series III: History, 1913-2005

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains items documenting the history of the church and its members, mainly including newspaper clippings and photos. The series is divided into subseries by type, which arranged by sub-type and/or chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Subseries 1: Scrapbooks	
	11	4	Scrapbook	1951-1955
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Scrapbook	1963-1965

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Scrapbook	1966-1975
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Scrapbook	1974-1987
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Large board with photos and newspaper clippings about pastors	1956-1980
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Large paper with photos and newspaper clippings about choir	1957
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Large board with photos and newspaper clippings	1994
			Subseries 2: Newspaper	
	16	1	The Beverly Beacon	1913
	11	5	"Artist's Conception Of Proposed New Immanuel Church Buildings" newspaper copy	1963
	11	5	"Immanuel Parishioners Vote To Build New Church" newspaper copy	1963
	11	5	Newspaper clippings	1963
	11	5	Newspaper copy with photo of pastors,	1979
	11	5	Newspaper copy with photo of Abernathys,	1982
	11	5	Newspaper clipping	1988
	11	5	"Parade Winners" newspaper clipping	undated
	11	5	Newspaper clippings	1990s and undated
	11	5	"Man behind the camera leaves to become a man of the cloth" Bob Hagopian newspaper copy	1994
	11	5	"Immanuel Congregational Church names minister" Bill Fleming newspaper clipping	1998
	11	5	"Immanuel Congregational Church names minister" Bill Fleming newspaper copy	1998
	11	5	Poetry newspaper clippings	undated
			Subseries 3: Photos	
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Basketball team photos	1921-1930
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Framed photo of kindergarten class	1926
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Framed photo of Ryal Side	1933

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Mens' Bible Class	
	11	6	Large photo of church interior	1949
	11	6	Photo of members with pastor Thomas Walter, undated	undated, ca. 1974-1981
	11	6	Photo of boys	1983
	11	6	Pages of photos of church members, holiday festivities	undated, ca. 1990-1995
	11	6	Photo of small orchestra	1996
	11	6	Photos of church building	1997
	11	6	Photo of Christmas pageant	2001
	11	6	Photos of flower arrangements	undated
	11	6	Photo of children with names on back	undated
	11	6	Smaller photos of children	undated
			Photo of girls' chorus	undated
			Subseries 4: Mixed, misc. history	
	11	7	History of the church by Alvah J. Bradstreet	1948
	11	7	Handwritten history of the church up to 1965	undated, ca. 1965
	11	7	Church history and information	1965
	11	7	Historical listing of pastors up to 2005	undated, ca. 2005
	11	8	Mixed history file with 1924 constitution and member list, newspaper clippings, ephemera	1924-2000
	11	9	Mixed history file with photos, newspaper clippings	1957-1970
	12	1	Mixed history file	1963-1992
	12	2	Mixed history file with photos, newspaper clippings	1997-2005
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Binder with names, photos of World War II soldiers	undated, ca. 1945

Series IV: Chimes newsletter, 1953-2012

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains issues of the church's newsletter "Chimes". The series is divided into three separate chronologies that existed in the original order, which are arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	12	3	Chimes assorted individual issues	1953, 1966, 1968, 1972, 2000
	12	12	Volume of Chimes issues	1990
	12	4	Chimes issues	1995-1997
	12	5	Chimes issues	1998
	12	6	Chimes issues	1999
	12	7	Chimes issues	2000
	12	8	Chimes issues	2001
	12	9	Chimes issues	2002
	12	10	Chimes issues	2002
	12	11	Chimes issues	2004-2006
	13	1	Chimes issues	2007-2012
	13	2	Chimes masters	1998
	13	3	Chimes masters	1999
	13	4	Chimes masters	2000
	13	5	Chimes masters	2001
	13	6	Chimes masters	2002
	13	7	January issues of Chimes	1997-2002
	13	8	February issues of Chimes	1996-2002
	13	9	March issues of Chimes	1995-2002
	13	10	April issues of Chimes	1995-2003
	14	1	May issues of Chimes	1995-2003
	14	2	Summer issues of Chimes	1998-2002
	14	3	September issues of Chimes	1994-2001
	14	4	November issues of Chimes	1996-2002
	14	5	December issues of Chimes	1995-2004

Series V: Church ephemera, 1963-2005

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains items published by the church/distributed to members, including programs and directories. The series is divided into subseries by type, which are arranged chronologically.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Subseries 1: Programs	
	14	6	Program for service celebrating the burning of the church's mortgage	1963
	14	6	Program for Service of Dedication	1965
	14	6	Program for Service of Dedication	1965
	14	6	75th anniversary dinner program	1978
	14	6	Order of Worship for the Installation of the Reverend Ms. Lisa D Schoenwetter	1991
	14	6	100th anniversary dinner program	2003
	14	6	Program for a Celebration of the Ordination of Sarah Frank	2005
	14	6	Generic programs for baptism, communion	undated
			Subseries 2: Directories	
	14	7	Family Directory	undated, ca. 1966-1973
	14	7	Family Directory	undated, ca. 1966-1973
	14	7	Church directory, 75th anniversary	1978
	14	7	Church directory	1984
	14	7	Church directory	1992
	14	7	Church directory	undated, ca. 2002-2005
			Subseries 3: Misc.	
	14	8	Building for Tomorrow booklet	undated, ca. 1963
	14	8	75th anniversary calendar	1978
	14	8	Invitation to the installation of Rev. William J. Fleming	1998
	14	8	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day service mailing	1999
	14	8	Program of songs	undated

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
	14	8	Blank donation cards	undated

Series VI: Other volumes/publications, 1950-1975

Series/Arrangement Note: This series contains additional bound items, some related to the church and others unrelated. The series is divided into subseries by type.

Location	Box	Folder	Content	Date
			Subseries 1: Bibles, songbooks, etc.	
Map Case X			OVERSIZE: Immanuel Church's Bible – Revised Standard Version in box	undated
	14		Pilgrim Hymnal	undated
	15		The New Century Hymnal	undated
	15	1	Church Song Book	undated
			Subseries 2: Church members	
	15	2	Life and Times of Alvah J. Bradstreet	1950
	15	2	Seasons Greetings from Alvah J. Bradstreet and Bertha L. Bradstreet	1955
	15	2	Norm Hemstad: My Treasure Chest of Poems	undated
			Subseries 3: Non-local	
	15	3	Thomas Terry Studios catalog	1975
	15	3	"A Mother's Day Message to Fund Raising Groups" Ideals Publishing catalog	undated
	15	3	"Christmas Profit Makers for Fund Raising Groups" Ideals Publishing pamphlet	undated
	15	3	Ideals Publishing Christmas catalog	undated
	15	3	Revere Bells booklet	undated
	15	3	A Manual for Pulpit Search Committees	undated ca. 1976
	15		Anthony B. Robinson: Transforming Congregational Culture	2003

Bibliography

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 Carolyn Rawson, A Brief History of Immanuel Church, n.d.
 letter/survey on closure of the church, February 16, 2020