



*Special Collections/Archives Department  
John B. Coleman Library  
Prairie View A&M University*

MSS0025

The Bethlehem United Methodist Church Collection

Compiled by Idalia Avezuela, March 2024

## **The Bethlehem United Methodist Church Finding aid**

### **Collection Overview**

**Creator:** Bethlehem United Methodist Church Staff

**Title:** The Bethlehem United Methodist Church Collection

**Dates:** 1958-1983

**Bulk Dates:** 1958-1983

**Quantity:** .5 linear feet (1 box)

**Abstract:** The Bethlehem United Methodist Collection mainly contains annual Homecoming Service bulletins dating back to 1958, which include the service program and reports from the different service committees. The collection also contains miscellaneous documents, including regular service bulletins, a handwritten report, newspaper article clippings, and photocopies.

**Identification:** MSS0025

**Use Restrictions:** Before publishing quotations, excerpts, or images from any materials in this collection, written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders.

**Language:** The materials are in English.

**Repository:** Prairie View A&M University

**Biographical Note:** The Bethlehem United Methodist Church initiated services in 1869 under the helm of Reverend Alexander Gillum, Willis Coleman, and Spencer Hardwell, who conducted initial services in a schoolhouse a block from the current church building. Established as Bethlehem Methodist Episcopal Church, it was renamed Bethlehem United Methodist after the Uniting Conference in 1939. The church's current location has been the official property of Bethlehem United Methodist in Hempstead since 1872. Parts of the Church building date back to 1901, with many repairs and spaces added since then.

Sources:

Waller County Historical Survey Committee (1973). A history of Waller County, Texas.  
Waco: Texian Press.

**Scope and Contents Note:**

The collection is arranged chronologically in the order in which the items were created. No series was needed since the items are all related to Bethlehem United Methodist Church Services. The items are housed in eight other Waller County Churches collections until unique accommodation becomes necessary. The collection consists of 21 folders, mostly of church services, bulletins, Homecoming services booklets, and some article clippings and newsletters.

**Administrative Information****Preferred Citation:**

The Bethlehem United Methodist Church Collection, MSS0025, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

**Related Material:**

Black Churches in Texas Collection, MSS0016, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University

Inventory of the Clyde McQueen Papers, Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University

Waller County Historical Survey Committee (1973). *A history of Waller County, Texas*. Waco: Texian Press.

**Index Terms:**

African American churches--Gulf Coast--Texas--History.

African American churches--Texas, Central--History.

Waller County (Tex.)--History.

**Inventory**

Box #	Folder #	Title/Description	Date	Location
1	1	History – Bethlehem United Methodist Church	Undated	R3/C4/R5
1	2	Stewardess Board Homecoming Report	1958	R3/C4/R5
1	3	Service Program	09/21/1958	R3/C4/R5
1	4	Annual Homecoming Programs and Reports	1958	R3/C4/R5

1	5	Annual Homecoming Programs and Reports	09/15/1968	R3/C4/R5
1	6	Women's Day Program	03/08/1970	R3/C4/R5
1	7	Service of Consecration	02/18/1973	R3/C4/R5
1	8	Annual Homecoming Programs and Reports	09/15/1974	R3/C4/R5
1	9	Annual Homecoming Programs and Reports	09/21/1975	R3/C4/R5
1	10	Annual Homecoming Programs and Reports	09/17/1978	R3/C4/R5
1	11	Annual Homecoming Program and Reports	09/16/1979	R3/C4/R5
1	12	Annual Homecoming Program and Reports	09/21/1980	R3/C4/R5
1	13	Reports – Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church	01/06/1981	R3/C4/R5
1	14	Annual Home Coming Programs and Reports	09/20/1981	R3/C4/R5
1	15	Annual Homecoming Program and Reports	09/19/1982	R3/C4/R5
1	16	Sunday Service Bulletin	01/16/1983	R3/C4/R5
1	17	Dedication and Note-burning Service Article from a Newsletter	Undated	R3/C4/R5
1	18	Supplemental Bulletin – Dedication Service	01/16/1983	R3/C4/R5
1	19	Annual Homecoming Program and Reports	09/18/1983	R3/C4/R5
1	20	Annual Homecoming Program and Reports	09/16/1984	R3/C4/R5
1	21	Laity Sunday Service Program	10/12/1980	R3/C4/R5