Ohio University
Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for
Archives & Special Collections

**Alexander Presbyterian Church Collection**
MSS# 95

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

**Author:** Unknown

**Title:** Alexander Presbyterian Church Collection

**Date:** 1830-1975

**Abstract:** Minutes, records, and publications

**Quantity:** 1.6 cu. ft.

**BIOGRAPHY OF**

Due to the lack of official records, the beginnings of the Presbyterian Church in Alexander Township are vague. A few lines from records kept by the Athens Presbyterian Church points to the late 1820s as the probable years for the origination of the first Presbyterian in Alexander Township. The first pastor was thought to be Reverend Ebenezar Hebard, who came to Ohio in the early 1820s as a missionary sent by the American Home Missionary Society. In the Spring of 1832, Rev. Hebard, who led a fairly conservative congregation, welcomed Rev. John Morgan, a Cumberland Presbyterian Evangelist, to preach in Alexander. Resulting from Rev. Morgan’s visit, many people favored Cumberland Presbyterianism. Jacob Lindley, assisted by a Cumberland missionary, conducted a highly successful camp meeting to inform people more about Cumberland Presbyterianism.

By October 17, 1832, Rev. Lindley (formerly the head of Ohio University) was appointed first pastor of the Alexander Cumberland Presbyterian Church (credited with being First Cumberland Presbyterian congregation in Ohio and the records effectively start in 1880). The Alexander Cumberland Presbyterian Church became a mother to two young congregations in the early 1880s. The Albany Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in 1880, followed, in 1884, by the organization of a Cumberland congregation in Waterloo Township, Wingett Chapel. These actions reduced the membership rolls of Alexander Church considerably; however, in 1925, the three congregations were reunited.
In the 1950s, the church was growing in numbers and activities. To handle this growth, new bylaws were adopted and new committees formed. Finally, since 1975, the Alexander Congregation now serves God in a growing rural-suburban area and deals with the problems of a transient community.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection has been arranged into four series. The first series includes the session records, records, and Board of Deacon material. These official record books contain minutes of session, register of infant baptisms, register of death, register of elders, register of communicants, and statistical reports to the presbytery.

The second series contains record books of Sunday School, Bible School, Ladies Auxiliary and Young Adult Classes. The Sunday School records include an explanation of what was taught that Sunday, a list of who attended, number of teachers and the amount of money collected. The Bible School records contain a treasury’s report, a report of each class meeting, what time the class began, who was presiding, the hymn, prayer, devotional reading, golden text, description of what will be taught in the primary, intermediate, and adult classes, officers and teachers present, total number present, amount of offerings, announcements and the secretary report. In the Ladies Auxiliary, records were the songs sung at the meetings, money collected, fund raising dinners, suggestions about what they were going to do for the church, and an attendance chart on the last page. The Young Adult Class records include a list of officers, treasury report, mailing list, hostess of the programs, and a description of what went on at each young adult social meeting.

The third series contains Journals of the Treasurer and the Wingett Chapel Financial Records. The journals includes information on receipts and disbursements, expenditures, old cemetery fund, rent from the Manse, church attendance, special accounts, deacon fund, Mrs. Ruth B. Hines account, and the Raymond Webb Memorial Fund. The Wingett Chapel Financial Records deal with money for the minister’s salary, incidentals, Presbyterian dues, ministerial fund, and four different boards of the church. Finally, the fourth series contains a History of Ohio’s First Cumberland Church, the Constitution of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Bible Songs.

**ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION**

These records are organized into the following series:

- Series I: Official Records of the Congregation
- Series II: Educational and Auxiliary Services
- Series III: Fiscal Records
- Series IV: Publications
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Ohio University Libraries.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number, and the Ohio University Libraries, in all footnotes and bibliographical references.

Accession Number: Unknown

Provenance: The Ohio University Archives received the collection a gift from Mrs. Sharon Ransdell on October 21, 1975.

Property Rights: Ohio University retains all property rights to the collection.

Copyrights: Ohio University retains all copyrights unless retained by the donor, other correspondents, or other artists.

Photoduplication: Ohio University will entertain requests to photocopy reasonable amounts of material from the collection for the convenience of individual researchers.

Processing: Marie B. Beck inventoried the collection in February 1988.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.

CONTAINER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Series 1:</td>
<td>Official Records of the Congregation Session Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 / 1</td>
<td>Sessional Records of Alexander Church organized in 1832 as First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Ohio, united with Presbyterian Church of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Series I: Minutes and Records of the Alexander Presbyterian Church, Athens-Albany Road, October 1926-November 1959</td>
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<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Minutes of sessions of the Alexander Presbyterian Church, Athens-Albany Road, October 1926-November 1959</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Minutes of sessions and Church Register of Albany Cumberland Presbyterian Church from June 7, 1899-July 25, 1920</td>
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</tbody>
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**Record**

4 Record of the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Alexander 1875-1921
5 Record of the First Waterloo Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, October 1884-August 1910

**Board of Deacons**

2 / 1 Alexander Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons, March 1957-October 1963
2 Alexander Presbyterian Church Board of Deacons, February 10, 1963-December 31, 1969

**Series II: Educational and Auxiliary Services**

**Sunday School**

3 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, December 1871-April 1883
4 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1885-April 1888
5 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1903-April 1904
6 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1888-April 1893
7 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, September 1895-April 1901
8 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1902-April 1903
9 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1903-July 1904

3 / 1 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, July 1904-April 1906
2 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1910-October 1914

3 / 3 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, October 1914-April 1918
4 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, May 1918-June 1922
5 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Sunday School, April 1943-June 1948
6 Wingett Chapel Sunday School 1885-1889
Bible School
7 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Bible School, October 1927-February 1930
8 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Bible School, April 1943-June 1948
9 Record of Book of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Bible School, June 6, 1948-August 9, 1953

Others
4 / 1 Alexander Ladies Auxiliary 1927-1938
2 Alexander Young Adult Class 1956-1957
3 Westminster Fellowship, Alexander Presbyterian Church May 1949

Series III: Fiscal Records
4 Journal of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Treasurer, January 1959-September 1964
5 Journal of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Treasurer, January 1963-February 1972
6 Journal of the Alexander Presbyterian Church Treasurer, October 1964-March 1972

5 / 1 Wingett Chapel Financial Records, April 1887-July 1922

Series IV: Publications
2 Alexander’s Congregation, United Presbyterian Church in the USA, Ohio’s First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1932-1975 (a mimeographed history)
3 The Constitution of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Pittsburgh, Forrester and Campbell, 1939 (printed volume)
4 Bible Songs: A collection of standard hymns and tunes for all occasions of worship, published by the board of publications of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1875