

Guide to
MS 248
Trinity Methodist Church
Collection

Span Dates, 1915-1974

7 inches (linear)



Processed by Bobbi Sago
June 2002

Donated by Richard Worthington

Citation: Trinity Methodist Church Collection, 1915-1974, MS 248, C.L. Sonnichsen
Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
The University of Texas at El Paso

RAS 6/2002

Historical Sketch

Rev. A. H. Sutherland, presiding elder of the South and West Texas Conference, and Rev. John R. Carter organized the church that became Trinity Methodist Church. Rev. Carter served as the first minister from 1881-1884. On March 12, 1881, they opened Union Sunday School in a one-story adobe building at the corner of Mesa and San Antonio streets. The community quickly outgrew this structure, and services were held in a tent erected at San Antonio and Kansas streets until a new church could be built. The cornerstone for a new frame church was laid November 24, 1881, at Texas and Stanton Streets. It was dedicated on January 29, 1882. The church had 13 charter members, and by the first quarterly meeting 33 members were listed. The first session of the New Mexico Conference was convened in the Trinity Church in 1890. In 1895, the women of the church organized the Women's Parsonage and Home Missions Society, and the community built a brick church at the same site.

By the early twentieth century the business district encroached on the church property and members decided to move. They sold the old building and purchased the current site at Mesa and Boulevard (now Yandell). The cornerstone for the new brick building was laid April 29, 1906. In order to serve a growing community, Trinity helped to establish two more churches; Highland Park Church at Federal and Dakota in 1909, and Asbury Church in 1914. In 1939, the brick church was razed and a new sanctuary in the Spanish renaissance style was erected. When celebrating its 90th anniversary in 1972, Trinity Methodist Church had 3,100 members.

Series Description or Arrangement

Collection is arranged in two series. The first is History and the second is Publications.

Scope and Content Notes

The collection contains seven linear inches of material that appear to have been compiled by Mrs. Frank D. Norwood and other members of the 90th Anniversary Committee. The bulk of the collection is research and transcription from a variety of newspapers, journals, and newsletters. There are 12 photographs of the building, pastors, and committee members. The collection also contains publications of the church, other El Paso Methodist churches, and other Methodist organizations.

Provenance Statement

Donated in 1984 by Professor Richard Worthington, who purchased it at an estate sale.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Trinity Methodist Church collection, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Trinity Methodist Church Collection, 1915-1974, MS 248, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

Some documents are very fragile. Please handle with care.

Container List

Series 1 History

Box #	Folder #	Description	Date
1	1	Correspondence	1950-1971
1	2	Historical Sketches	
1	3	Documents	
1	4	News Clippings	1921-1974
1	5	Research Notes	
1	6	Research Notes	
1	7	Research Notes	
1	Binder	Research Notes	
1	8	Photographs	
1	9	Finances	

Series 2 Publications

Box#	Folder#	Description	Date
2	1	<i>Texas Methodist</i>	April 1951
2	2	90 th Anniversary programs	1972
2	3	<i>Women's Society of Christian Service Yearbooks</i>	1940; 1950-1951; 1954-1955; 1961- 1962
2	4	<i>Trinity Methodist Messenger</i>	1919; 1947; 1950; 1958; 1951
2	5	<i>Mission Society Yearbook</i>	1936
2	6	Other	1950; 1963; 1967; 1973
2	7	Other El Paso Methodist Churches	1958; 1961; 1973
2	8	<i>New Mexico Conference Annual</i>	1915; 1939
2	9	<i>The Methodist Primer</i>	About 1944