



SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Grace Church records, 1846-2001 SCHS 435.00

Creator: Grace Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)

Description: 21 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: Grace Episcopal Church was established in 1846, and the church building was completed in 1848. During the Civil War, the church was closed for a period because of the Federal bombardment of the city of Charleston. An entry in the vestry meeting minutes of Jan. 20, 1864, states: "Resolved unanimously that Grace Church be closed for the present, in consequence of the proximity of the shells thrown from the enemy's guns on Morris Island." The church building suffered serious damage from the explosion of a single shell. The silver communion vessels of Grace and other Episcopal churches of Charleston were sent to Columbia (S.C.), and were either stolen or destroyed when that city was burned by Federal forces.

Scope and content: Records include registers, vestry minutes (1846-1994), parish annual reports (1977-1999), building and property records, financial records (1846-2000), correspondence, records of auxiliary organizations, photographs, and miscellaneous items. Also included are papers of rectors William Way and Ralph S. Meadowcroft. Rev. Meadowcroft's papers consist of correspondence, clippings, sermons, and reminiscences by his wife. Papers of William Way are cataloged separately.

Registers include a full register (1847-1898); three marriage registers (1945-1995); and church service registers (1957-1998).

Building and property records pertain to the church windows, church furnishings, a pipe organ, restoration of the steeples and pinnacles (with specifications), the construction of a parish house, the rectory at 19 Tradd Street, and lighting, electrical, and sound systems.

Auxiliary organization records include financial records of the Grace Church Men's Club (1946-1969); Chancel Guild minutes (1918-1952); and annual reports, correspondence, handbooks, and minutes of the Women's Auxiliary (1885-1998). Women's Auxiliary records also include letters (1940s) relating to World War II war work of the St. Agnes Chapter, which supported a British child.

Photographs include an album (1979-1982) which is "a pictorial record of the steeple pinnacles restoration."

Preferred citation: Grace Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.) Grace Church records, 1846-2001. (435.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Meadowcroft, Ralph S.
Grace Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.)
Grace Episcopal Church (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.
Church buildings -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Church furniture -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Church maintenance and repair -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Church work -- Episcopal Church.
Episcopal Church -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Episcopalians -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Spires.
Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Religious life.
World War, 1939-1945 -- Civilian relief -- Great Britain.
Church records.
Photographs.
Sermons.
Specifications.

Collection/Series overview:

435.01 (A) Auxiliary organizations records
435.01 (B) Building and property records
435.01 (F) Financial records
435.01 (M) Miscellaneous records
435.01 (P) Parish annual reports
435.01 (R) Registers
435.01 (V) Vestry minutes
435.02 Ralph S. Meadowcroft Papers
435.03 William Way Papers
435.04 Photographs and visual material

Container list:**BOX 1**

435.01 (A) Auxiliary organization records
435.01 (A) 01 Grace Church Men's Club records: financial records, 1946-1969
435.01 (A) 02 Chancel Guild minutes, 1918-1928; 1947-1952
435.01 (A) 03 Women's Auxiliary records
435.01 (A) 03.01 Annual reports, 1946-1949 (St. Agnes and other chapters)
435.01 (A) 03.02 Correspondence, 1947-1950
435.01 (A) 03.03 Minutes, 1885-1949 (minutes for 1885-1893 include Anna E. Pinckney memorial)

BOX 2

435.01 (A) 03.03 Minutes, 1949-1977

BOX 3

- 435.01 (A) 03.04 St. Agnes Chapter minutes, 1950-1959
- 435.01 (A) 03.05 Financial records: accounts of receipts and disbursements, 1885-1891; 1942-1948
- 435.01 (A) 03.06 Handbooks, 1955-1959

BOX 4

- 435.01 (A) 03.06 Handbooks, 1959-1998
- 435.01 (A) 03.07 Miscellaneous items (includes constitutions; clippings about an "Heirloom Exhibition" of silver and china in 1952; and letters relating to World War II war work of the St. Agnes Chapter, which supported a British child)
- 435.01 (B) Building and property records
- 435.01 (B) 01 Records pertaining to church windows
- 435.01 (B) 01.01 Correspondence, 1951-1974 (includes letters about the "Connelly Memorial" window, 1958-1962)

BOX 5

- 435.01 (B) 01.02 Records pertaining to Willett Stained Glass Studios (includes correspondence, receipts, and contracts)
- 435.01 (B) 01.03 Window dedication records, 1963-1964
- 435.01 (B) 01.04 Miscellaneous items relating to windows
- 435.01 (B) 01.05 Pamphlet: "The Windows of Grace Church"
- 435.01 (B) 02 Church furnishing records
- 435.01 (B) 02.01 Records relating to a pipe organ
- 435.01 (B) 02.02 Miscellaneous furnishings records

BOX 6

- 435.01 (B) 03 Miscellaneous building and property records, 1848-1923 (includes pew deeds, including that of Henry Pinckney Walker, 1858; and real estate conveyances)
- 435.01 (B) 04 Parish House records (mostly building specifications)
- 435.01 (B) 05 Parish Hall addition records, 1997
- 435.01 (B) 06 Records pertaining to the Rectory (19 Tradd Street)
- 435.01 (B) 07 Youth Club construction records, 1959
- 435.01 (B) 08 Building Committee records, 1971-1974
- 435.01 (B) 09 Miscellaneous building and maintenance records, 1970s-1990s

BOX 7

- 435.01 (B) 09 Miscellaneous building and maintenance records (includes records pertaining to lighting, electrical, and sound systems; and an interior conditions and finishes study, 1990)
- 435.01 (B) 10 Steeple and pinnacle restoration records
- 435.01 (B) 10.01 "The Restoration" story, etc.
- 435.01 (B) 10.02 B.A.R. permits, 1979-1981
- 435.01 (B) 10.03 Records pertaining to lightning protection
- 435.01 (B) 10.04 Adkins Manufacturing Co. records

435.01 (B) 10.05	Iron pinnacle crockets sketches, etc.
435.01 (B) 10.06	Pinnacle erection records
435.01 (B) 10.07	Steeple sketches
435.01 (B) 10.08	Correspondence and other records pertaining to fiberglass materials
435.01 (B) 10.09	Records relating to the Edon Company
435.01 (B) 10.10	Herbert proposal relating to the reconstruction of the spires
435.01 (B) 10.11	Miscellaneous items
435.01 (F) 01	Financial records
435.01 (F) 01	Miscellaneous financial records, 1846-1873 (includes subscription lists, 1846)

Note: Some OVERSIZE building records, including floor plans as well as sketches and blueprints of steeples and pinnacles, are located in the Map Room in a flat file drawer.

BOX 8

435.01 (F) 02 Receipt book, 1847-1864

BOX 9

435.01 (F) 03 Cash book: record of payments out, 1847-1868

BOX 10

435.01 (F) 04 Cash account book, 1894-1898

BOX 11

435.01 (F) 05 Account ledger, 1964-1977

BOX 12

435.01 (F) 06 Financial and treasurer's reports, 1942-1977

BOX 13

435.01 (F) 06 Financial and treasurer's reports, 1979-1994

435.01 (F) 07 Endowment Fund records, 1985; 2000

BOX 14

435.01 (M) Miscellaneous items

435.01 (M) 01 Papers relating to Rev. R. M. Jones, Asst. Rector, 1970-1971

435.01 (M) 02 Papers relating to Rev. John W. Thomas, Asst. Rector, 1971-72

435.01 (M) 03 Correspondence regarding Dr. Spear, with portrait

435.01 (M) 04 Church charter and covenant

435.01 (M) 05 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1979-1991

435.01 (M) 06 Grace Episcopal Kindergarten records, 1972-1980

435.01 (M) 07 Church service programs, etc.

435.01 (M) 08 Miscellaneous clippings

435.01 (M) 09 Historical sketch of Grace Church

435.01 (M) 10	Planning Committee records
435.01 (M) 11	Miscellaneous printed material
435.01 (M) 12	Papers relating to hurricane damages
435.01 (M) 13	Papers relating to "racial tension," 1969
435.01 (M) 14	"The Parish Record" newsletter, 1894-1908
435.01 (M) 15	Certificates of Jeanne Reid, 1928-1936
435.01 (M) 16	Interim report to the Diocese, 1990
435.01 (M) 17	Oversize miscellaneous items. (These include a commemorative calendar, 1996, and a matted photographic reprint of Grace Church.) Located in map room in flat file drawer.

BOX 15

435.01 (P)	Parish records
435.01 (P) 01	Parish meeting records, 1977-1999

BOX 16

435.01 (R)	Registers
435.01 (R) 01	Church registers in this box include a full register (1847-1898); and three marriage registers, 1945-1995

BOX 17

435.01 (R) 01	Marriage register, 1995-2001
435.01 (R) 02	Church service registers (5 vols.), 1957-1991

BOX 18

435.01 (R) 02	Church service register, 1991-1998
435.01 (V)	Vestry records
435.01 (V) 01	Miscellaneous vestry records
435.01 (V) 02	Transcriptions of vestry meeting minutes, 1846-1876

BOX 19

435.01 (V) 02	Vestry meeting minutes, 1846-1876
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Note: The next four volumes of vestry minutes, 1876-1896; 1896-1917; 1917-1934; and 1935-1940, are wrapped and located on the shelf between Boxes 19 and 20.

BOX 20

435.01 (V) 02	Vestry minutes (3 volumes), 1941-1953.
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BOX 21

435.01 (V) 02	Vestry minutes (3 volumes), 1953-1962
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BOX 22

435.01 (V) 02	Vestry minutes (3 volumes), 1963-1976
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BOX 23

435.01 (V) 02	Vestry minutes (3 volumes), 1977-1987
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BOX 24

- 435.01 (V) 02 Vestry minutes (2 volumes), 1988-1994
- 435.01 (V) 03 Vestry wardens' notes, special meeting minutes, correspondence, etc., 1970s
- 435.02 Ralph S. Meadowcroft Papers
- 435.02.01 Correspondence, clippings, etc., 1912-1983
- 435.02.02 Sermons

BOX 25

- 435.03 William Way Papers
- 435.03 (C) 01 Correspondence, 1876-1951
- 435.03 (C) 02 Correspondence relating to Way's history of Grace Church
- 435.03 (C) 03 Clippings collected by William Way
- 435.03 (M) Miscellaneous items (includes obituaries)
- 435.01 (N) Notes on the prayer book
- 435.03 (P) Printed material
- 435.03 (P) 01 John Bull tracts
- 435.03 (P) 02 Miscellaneous printed religious material
- 435.03 (P) 03 Printed sermons

BOX 26

- 435.03 (S) Sermons and related material
- 435.03 (S) 01 Manuscript sermons, 1904-1935

BOX 27

- 435.03 (S) 01 Manuscript sermons, 1936-1953
- 435.03 (S) 02 Undated sermons

BOX 28

- 435.03 (S) 02 Undated sermons
- 435.03 (S) 03 Undated sermon or lecture series
- 435.03 (S) 04 Sermons with accompanying notes

BOX 29

- 435.03 (S) 04 Sermons with accompanying notes
- 435.03 (S) 05 Sermon notes

Grace Church Records Accrual 2025**BOX 30**

- 1 Church register ("Parish Register"), 1898-1940: baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages, and burials.

- 2 Church register, 1940-1997: communicants, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials. (This volume is oversize and wrapped; located next to Box 30.)

BOX 31

- 1 Confirmation register, 1971-2010.
- 2 Marriage register, 2001-2010.
- 3 Marriage register, 2010-2017.
- 4 Church service register, 1999-2004.

BOX 32

- 1 Church service register, 2005-2010.
- 2 Church service register, 2010-2014.
- 3 "Parish Register" newsletters, 1896.
- 4 Vestry minutes, 1993-1994 (removed from binder).
- 5 Vestry minutes, 1995 (removed from binder).

BOX 33

- 1 Vestry records, 1997, consisting of a memo relating to the Financial Planning Committee, and a "Report of the Forward Planning Committee."
- 2 Vestry minutes, 1998 (removed from binder).
- 3 Vestry minutes, 1999 (removed from binder).
- 4 Garden of Remembrance presentation book, 1957-1958?
- 5 Annual reports, 1998, 2008, 2011, 2012.
- 6 Annual reports, 2013, 2015, 2016.
- 7 Annual reports, 2017, 2018, 2020.

BOX 34

- 1 Church directory, 1975?
- 2 Church directory, 1981.
- 3 Church directory, 1993.
- 4 Church directory, 2000, 2002.
- 5 Church directory, 2005.
- 6 Parish directory, 2006.
- 7 Parish directory, 2008.
- 8 Church bulletins, 1948-2008 (scattered copies).
- 9 Newsletters ("Words of Grace") and calendars, 2001.
- 10 Newsletters and calendars, 2002.
- 11 Lent programs, 1994.
- 12 Miscellaneous printed items, 1980-2013, including constitution and laws booklets dated 1902 and 1946. by-

BOX 35

- 1 Records relating to church incorporation, 1918-1978.
- 2 Memorial speech for A. Kinloch McDowell, 1943.
- 3 Correspondence, 1949-1998 (bulk 1950-1953). Topics include donations and memorials, the installation of a marble dais, stained glass windows, a silver lavabo

bowl, sacristy and fixture installation, hymnals, and a processional cross. Correspondents include Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, Louis F. Glasier "Ecclesiastical Crafts," N.Y.), and Thomas M. Bell (architect).

- 4 Correspondence and records relating to a bequest of property by Serena Bailey Ross, 1960.
 - 5 Resolution, 1963, regarding the death of James Ross Hanahan.
 - 6 Tribute to Mrs. William Way, 1965.
 - 7 Treasurer's report, 1969.
 - 8 Records of donations and memorials, 1960s-1980s.
 - 9 Employment agreement (1977?) for Rev. Benjamin B. Smith (who was rector 1977-1991). (Page one missing.)
 - 10 Miscellaneous items, including a Lenten breakfast schedule (1984), and a copy of an illustrated booklet, "Grace Church and Greater Charleston" (1957) relating to the building of a new parish house, a booklet about Hospice of Charleston, and soup kitchen receipts (1985), a transcript of a "Report to the Stockholders of Grace Church" (1851), and a sketch of a proposed water fountain.
 - 11 Writings by Doris Meadowcroft, including "A Brief History of Grace Church."
 - 12 "The History of Grace Church, Charleston, South Carolina, 1846-1999."
 - 13 Notes and research on the history of Grace Church. Includes drafts of a brief history and related correspondence.
 - 14 Reminiscence by Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, "The First Time I Saw Grace Church."
 - 15 Sermons by Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, 1947-1972.
- Building and furnishing records:
- 16 Correspondence, 1951-1953, relating to the Hanahan Hall door installation
 - 17 Correspondence and related records, 1951-1952, concerning bronze plaques and a memorial window.
 - 18 Records relating to church windows, 1953-1992, including a pamphlet "The Windows of Grace Church" by Rev. Ralph S. Meadowcroft, and diagrams and timelines of windows.
 - 19 Text of a narrative for a fundraising slide show for a 1980 restoration project.
 - 20 Floorplan of Hanahan Hall, 1981.
 - 21 Spiral bound booklet, "Interior Conditions and Finishes Study" (1990) produced by George T. Fore and Associates. Includes color photographs.

BOX 36

- 1 Booklet: "1993 Carolopolis Awards."
- 2 Booklet relating to the Festival Evensong for the dedication of the organ, 1997.
- 3 Legend for a window in the sacristy, given and designed by Rev. Robert L. Jacoby, 1997-1999.
- 4 Records relating to planning for a new parish house, 1997-2000.
- 5 Project Go records, 2000-2001, which include proposals for a new parish hall and chapel, and other building improvements.
- 6 Floor plans for Grace Church, 2001.

William Way papers:

BOX 37

- 1 William Way sermon, 1905.
- 2 Sermons, 1912.
- 3 Sermons, 1915-1917.
- 4 Sermons, 1924-1928.
- 5 Sermons, 1930.
- 6 Sermons, 1932-1935.
- 7 Sermons, 1937.
- 8 Sermons, 1938.
- 9 Sermons, 1939-1940.
- 10 Sermons, 1942-1944.
- 11 Sermons, 1952-1953.
- 12 Sermons, no date.
- 13 Sermons and sermon notes, no date.
- 14 Sermon notes, 1938-1953.
- 15 Printed sermons, 1938-1951, and undated.
- 16 Church service programs, 1947.
- 17 Miscellaneous items.
- 18 Clippings.

OVERSIZE ITEMS

A photostat copy of the 1847 articles of incorporation, located in flat file drawer.

Choir scrapbook, 1961-2007. Includes clippings, programs, letters, etc. Wrapped, located next to Box 30.

Parish register, 1940-1997. Wrapped bound volume located next to Box 30.