

First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

According to the *Historical Directory of Presbyterian Churches and Presbyteries of Greater Philadelphia*, by Kenneth A. Hammonds (Philadelphia: PHS, 1993), First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was organized in 1698. This congregation merged with Calvary Presbyterian Church (org. 1853) in 1928, and with Second Presbyterian Church (org. 1743) in 1949—in both cases retaining the name First Presbyterian Church. In some instances, records of the merged congregations remain with the records of the churches as they were known before the mergers. Records from this church deposited with the society include:

First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA.

Excerpts from First Church Committee Meetings, 1749–1772, 1809 (call no. RG 35, box 1, folder 23).

Session minutes, 1807–1909 (RG 35, box 1, folders 11–12).

Session minutes, 1807–1949, 10 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P477s).

vols. 1 through 5 include church registers.

Session minutes, 1949–1976, 7 vols. (call no. 00-0622).

Registers, 1707–1746; 1760–1804; 1806–1946, 4 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P477rr).

v.1. Baptisms, 1701–1746; marriages, 1702–1746 (original closed, use reading room copy). Also available on microfilm, MF POS.785 r. 1-4.

v.2. Baptisms, 1760–1806; marriages, 1760–1803 (in vault folio/ use Microfilm MF Pos 1189).

v.3. Membership, 1802–1804; baptisms, 1799–1804; marriages, 1799–1804.

v.4. Baptisms, 1806–1946; marriages, 1806–1945.

Members suspended or erased, 1870–1900, 1 vol. (call no. Vault MI46 P477n).

Membership data, 1929–1949, 1 vol. (call no. Vault MI46 P477m).

Membership roll, 2 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P447me).

v.1. 1932–1938.

v.2. 1947–1949.

Membership register, 1949–1968 (call no. 95-1129a).

Persons with First Church, 1774–ca.1803 (call no. RG 35, box 1, folder 18).

Communicants list, 1830, 1 vol. (call no Vault MI46 P477co).

List of families and church members, 1835–1854, 7 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P477clf)

Communicants list, 1885–1924, 1 vol. (call no Vault MI46 P477col).

Membership, additions to, 1904 (call no. RG 35, box 2, folder 23).

Correspondence re: transfers to First Church, n.d. (call no. RG 35, Box 2, folders 1–13).

Certificates of Dismissal, 1870–1949, 6 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P477d).

Baptisms, 1806–85, (call no. RG 35, box 1, folder 14–15).

Marriage records, ca. 1890–ca. 1903, (call no. RG 35, box 1, folder 16–17).

Marriage record stubs, 1949–1953 (call no. Vault MI46 P477r).

Bill of burials, 1796–1797 (call no. MS P477first).
Strangers buried, 1797–1798 (call no. MS P477first).
Burial lists, 1799, 1800 (call no. MS P477first).
Burials in the church yard, 1808–1829, 1 vol. (call no. V MI46 P477bu).
Register of interments, 1808–1867, 1 vol. (call no. V MI46 P477ri).
Deaths, 1827–1828, 1900–1902, (call no. RG 35, box 1, folder 19).
Data regarding deaths, 1935–1947, 1 vol. (call no. V MI46 P477pd).
List of names on grave stones...on Pine Street, ca. 1900 (call no. Archives MS P477b).

Pew rentals, 1809–1879, 15 vols. (call no. V MI46 P477p).
Pew rent books, 1783–1909, 24 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P477px).
Pew committee records, 2 vols. (call no. Vault, MI46 P477pm).
 v.1. 1774–1786.
 v.2. 1819–1833.
Pew holders, 1810–1833, 3 vols., (call no. Vault MI46 P477ph).
Applications for pews, 1798–1811 (call no. RG 35, Box 2, folder 17).
Relinquishment of pews, 1808–1879 (call no. RG 35, Box 2, folder 18).
Exchange of pews, 1826–1869 (call no. RG 35, Box 2, folder 19).
Pew rents, 1797–1871 (call no. RG 35, Box 2, folder 20).

The records also include session correspondence, deacons and trustees records, Sunday school, youth group, and missionary society records, settlement house records, charters, deeds, legal documents, and financial records (card catalog). Additional accessions have added more session correspondence, trustees and deacons minutes, reports, property records, financial records, photographs, historical materials, and published items (9 accessions, archives database). Record Group 35 includes additional session correspondence, legal and financial records, Sunday school and missionary society records, property records, and historical notes.

Calvary Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA, 1853–1929.

Session minutes, 1854–1928, 5 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P46m).

Record of communicants, 1853–1924, 1 vol. (call no. Vault MI46 P46r).
Communion register, 1924–1928, 1 vol. (call no. Vault Folio MI46 P46cr).
Certificates of dismissal, 1907–1927, 1 vol. (call no. Vault MI46 P46cd).
Baptismal records, 1853–1939, 1 vol. (call no. Vault MI46 P46ba).
 Includes records of merged congregation, 1929–1939.
Marriage records, 1854–1935, 4 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P46m).
 Includes records of merged congregation, 1929–1935.

Records of burials, 1854–1891, 4 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P46b).

Pew rents, 1853–1876, 2 vols. (call no. Vault MI46 P46p).

The following records from the church have been microfilmed:

First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

Records, 1706–1949, r. 1 Registers, 1706–1746; 1802–1946; Session minutes, 1807–1884; r.2 Session minutes, 1884–1949; r. 3–4 Trustees minutes and records, 1749–1949 (call no. MF Pos. 785).

Register, 1759–1807, membership, 1800–1803; baptisms, 1759–1806; marriages, 1760–1803. 1 reel. (call no. MF Pos 1189).

Updated 8/08 LHG

Presbyterian Historical Society

425 Lombard St.

Philadelphia, PA 19147

215-627-1852

<http://www.history.pcusa.org>