

Bethany Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, Pa.

According to the *Historical Directory of Presbyterian Churches and Presbyteries of Greater Philadelphia, 1690-1990* by Kenneth A. Hammonds, Bethany Presbyterian Church was organized by the Presbytery of Philadelphia in 1865. The church began as the Bethany Mission School, which was founded in 1858 by John Wanamaker and E.H. Toland, a missionary from the American Sunday School Union. In 1867, the congregation was renamed Bethany Memorial Presbyterian Church. According to *Hammond's*, the congregation changed its name to Bethany Collegiate in 1911. *Hall's Index of American Presbyterian Congregations* states that the church went by Bethany Central Presbyterian Church from 1922 to 1926. In 1926, the congregation changed its name back to Bethany Presbyterian Church. The congregation renamed itself again Bethany Collegiate and relocated to Havertown, Pennsylvania, in 1949. The congregation left the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2012 to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It continues today as Bethany Evangelical Church in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

Records deposited with the society relevant to genealogists include:

Baptismal Certificate Stubs, 1952-1956; 1958-1962; 1964-1967, 5 vols. (UPPER VAULT MI46 H299+)

Baptismal Records, 1897-1964, 6 vols. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B322)

Including: roll of infant church members, 1906-1908, stubs, 1897-1902.

Vols. 1-2 in VAULT FOLIO

Class Roll Books, ca. 1880, 2 vols. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B352)

Church directory, 1915-1916, 1925, 1927 (PAM BX 9211 .P49146 B404)

Dismissal certificate stubs, 1915-1949, 1 vol. (VAULT FOLIO BX 9211 .P49146 B323)

Dismissal and reception certificate stubs, 1949-1957; 1959-1964, 3 vols. (UPPER VAULT MI46 H299+)

Marriage certificate stubs, 1921-1932, 1937-1942, 6 vols. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B326)

Membership lists, n.d., 4 vols. (LOWER VAULT V F MI46 P4555+)

Register, 1866-1903, 1 vol. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B32)

Including: membership, 1866-1881, baptisms, 1866-1901, marriages, 1872-1878, 1915-1963.

Register of Communicants, 1894-1906, 1 vol. (LOWER VAULT V F MI46 P4555+)

Register of Communicants, 1900-1949, 1 vol. (VAULT FOLIO LARGE BX 9211 .P49146 B321)

Roll of Members, 1885-1903, 1914-1919, 1925-1929, 12 vols. (VAULT FOLIO BX 9211 .P49146 B324)

Roll of Members, 1891-1910, 3 vols. (LOWER VAULT V F MI46 P4555+)

Roll of Members, 1894-1908, 1 vol. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B344)

Roll of Members, 1895-1907, 1 vol. (UPPER VAULT V MI46 P4555ro)

Sabbath School registers and records, 1866-1913, 6 vols. (VAULT FOLIO BX 9211 .P49146 B3551)

Including: book of attendance, 1866-1868

Session Minutes, 1865-1872, 1927-1950, 7 vols. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49146 B31)

Session Minutes, 1883-1921, 3 vols. (VAULT FOLIO BX 9211 .P49146 B31)

Session Minutes, 1956-1967, 1 vol. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49139 B31)

Year book, 1901, 1903, 1906 (BX 9211 .P49146 B402)

The Society also holds the following records which do not necessarily contain genealogical information:

Annual reports
Architecture correspondence
Attendance of teachers and officers of Bethany Sunday School
Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip correspondence
Charter and by-laws
Christmas Sabbath programs
Church Council minutes
Correspondence
Deaconess' Society annual report
Histories
List of all paintings donated by John Wanamaker
Memorial pamphlets
Photographs
Real estate appraisals
Sabbath School superintendent's records
Sabbath School teachers' Association
Sabbath School treasurer's records
Scrapbooks
Senior Christian Endeavor Society minutes
Subscription records
Sunday School orders of worship
Treasurer's ledgers
Treasurer statements and reports
Trustees' minutes
Women's Missionary Society minutes

The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) has microfilmed records of the Bethany Presbyterian Church from 1861-1899, including baptismal certificate stubs and session minutes, and they are available through the Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. To use the microfilm, you may visit their website, www.familysearch.org, and search for a center near you.

Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church

According to Hammonds' *Historical Directory*, Bethany Temple Chapel was established in 1906 as part of Bethany Memorial Presbyterian Church. Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church was organized as a separate congregation in 1926. It merged into Bethany Collegiate Presbyterian Church, Havertown, Pa., in 1969.

Records of the Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church deposited with the society relevant to genealogists include:

Baptismal Records, 1909, 1958, card file. (UPPER VAULT V MI46 P4556b+)

Register of members, 1906-1960, 2 vols. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49139 B321)

Session Minutes, 1956-1967, 1 vol. (VAULT BX 9211 .P49139 B31)

The Society also holds the following records from Bethany Temple which does not necessarily contain genealogical information:

Bethany Temple weekly bulletins

Bethany Temple weekly visitor

Book of memorials

Petitions to the Presbytery

Photographs

John Chambers Memorial Chapel

The John Chambers Memorial Chapel (also known as John Chambers Memorial Presbyterian Church) was established in 1902 with funding by John Wanamaker. It began as a mission of Bethany Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery of Philadelphia organized John Chambers Memorial as a separate congregation in 1962. It dissolved in 2011.

Records of the John Chambers Presbyterian Church deposited with the society relevant to genealogists include:

Baptismal records, 1910-1912, .04 cubic feet (Archives 00 0626a)

Memorial minutes, 1946 (Archives 11 0722)

Photographs and roll of servicemen, 1941-1945 (Archives 11 0722)

Register, 1962-2006 (Archives 12 0610)

Including: baptisms, 1962-2006, marriages, 1962-1993, and deaths, 1962-2006.

Roll, 1906-1935; including deaths, 1929-1931, baptisms, 1909-1934, marriages, 1910-1934.

Session minutes, 1962-1970, 1974-1992 (Archives 11 0722)

Session minutes, 1993-2011 (Archives 12 0610)

The Society also holds the following records for which do not necessarily contain genealogical information:

Addresses

Annual reports

Bylaws

Church dedication

Newsletters, annual reports

Photographs

Portraits

Sunday school association minutes

Vacation Bible school

It is the policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to restrict access to all official records on deposit at the Presbyterian Historical Society that are less than 50 years old. This restriction applies at the national, mid council, and congregation level. If researchers want to access official records less than 50 years old, we require that they secure written permission from the records' owners. If this restriction will affect your research, please contact the reference staff at the Presbyterian Historical Society for further information.

Presbyterian Historical Society

425 Lombard St.

Philadelphia, PA 19147

215-627-1852

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

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