

Atglen United Methodist Church records

36

Finding aid prepared by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Last updated on February 03, 2015.

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church

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Summary Information

Repository	Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Creator	Atglen United Methodist Church
Title	Atglen United Methodist Church records
Call number	36
Date [inclusive]	1920-2000
Extent	1 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Penningtonville Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1853 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. Penningtonville became a borough in 1876 and changed its name to Atglen, at which point the church changed its name to Atglen Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1997, Atglen United Methodist Church and nearby Gap United Methodist Church merged, creating Asbury Community United Methodist Church, which met at the Atglen location until it was discontinued in 2002. The Atglen United Methodist Church records, 1920-2000, consist primarily of trustee minutes (1932-1995) and membership and vital records such as baptisms, marriages, and deaths, (1920-1987), with a small amount of board minutes, annual budgets, cemetery records, newspaper clippings, church history, and a building sketch.</p>

Biography/History

Methodism is a protestant Christian faith based in the teachings of John Wesley (1703-1791), who preached "practical divinity," emphasis on Christian living, and putting faith and love into action. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784 in Baltimore, Maryland with Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as its first bishops and held its first general conference in 1792. In May of 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church (U.S.). In 1946 the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (New constitution) and the Evangelical Church united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968 the Methodist Church (U.S.) and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united, forming the United Methodist Church (U.S.).

The first Methodist preaching in what was then known as the Penningtonville (now Atglen) area of southwest Chester County, Pennsylvania can be traced to 1833 and the construction of Andrews Meeting House on Ridge Road east of Cochranville Road. In 1850, at a Quarterly Conference meeting of Cochranville Circuit, A. M. Kemble proposed a new church building. In 1853, Penningtonville Methodist Episcopal Church was organized and the cornerstone of the building was laid; the structure was completed and the basement dedicated the following year. In 1876, when the village of Penningtonville became the Borough of Atglen, the church changed its name to Atglen Methodist Episcopal Church.

In 1997, Asbury Community United Methodist Church was established from a merger of Atglen and Gap United Methodist churches. The new congregation met in the Atglen church building until Asbury Community United Methodist Church was discontinued in 2002. Remaining congregants and assets merged with Grace United Methodist Church of nearby Coatesville to establish Faith Community United Methodist Church in Parkesburg (Chester County), a congregation which is still active as of 2014.

Bibliography:

"Records of Atglen UMC (ME, M): Historical Summary." Item viewed in Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church collection of closed church records, 1801-2007, Series I.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists primarily of trustee minutes (1932-1995) and membership and vital records such as baptisms, marriages, and deaths, (1920-1987), with a small amount of board minutes, annual budgets, cemetery records, newspaper clippings, church history, and a building sketch. A folder-level inventory for the collection is available.

Administrative Information

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Finding aid prepared by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church for information about accessing this collection.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

The Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church is the repository for records of member churches when they close.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church directly for more information.

Existence and Location of Copies

Some church records at the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, particularly membership and vital records, are available in digital form through

Ancestry.com or on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and/or the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church: Gap United Methodist Church records, 1871-1992.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Atglen United Methodist Church (Atglen, Pa.)
- Gap United Methodist Church (Gap, Pa.)
- United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Atglen (Pa.)
- Chester County (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Methodism
- Methodists

Collection Inventory

	Box	File
Trustee Minutes, 1932-1948.	1	1
Trustee Minutes, 1947-1959.	1	2
Trustee Minutes, 1960-1974.	1	3
Trustee Minutes, 1974-1995.	1	4
Official Board Minutes, 1949, 1966-1968.	2	1
Miscellaneous Cemetery Records, 1939-1973.	2	2
Annual Budgets, 1951, 1967, 1968, 1975.	2	3
Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1974.	2	4
Sketch of the building, 2000.	2	5

History, 2000.	2	6	
		Box	File
Membership records, 1920-1957.		1	
Membership records, 1948-1966.		2	
Membership records, 1966-1987.		3	
