

DeKalb History Center

Avondale Pattillo Methodist Church Collection

Scope and content: This collection contains scrapbooks documenting the activities of the Women's Society of Christian Service at Avondale Pattillo Methodist Church between 1952-1967; 1982-2010. There is also a box of loose papers, primarily financial records and meeting notes.

Provenance: Gift of Dalton Rushing of Decatur First United Methodist Church, 2022. Accession # 2022.36

Access: Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish materials from this collection must be requested from the Archivist, DeKalb History Center. Citations should be made as follows:

Description of specific item; Avondale Pattillo Methodist Church Collection, DeKalb History Center Archives.

Processed by Jennifer Blomqvist, DHC Archivist, and Kathryn Turnbull, DHC Archival Assistant, 2022.

Size: 15 scrapbooks and 1 document box

Brief Organizational History of Avondale Pattillo Methodist Church:

In 1908, Mrs. C. J. Johnson organized a Sunday School which met in her home in Oakhurst. Later that year, a newly-organized Ladies Aid Society purchased a nearby lot and pitched a tent to accommodate the growing school. In September 1909, Rev. George W. Duvall, Pastor of Decatur First Methodist Church, and Rev. Charles L. Pattillo began to host well-attended interdenominational revival services in the tent. By 1912, Rev. Pattillo had organized Oakhurst Methodist Church with 35 charter members. The church found its first official home on Melrose Avenue in 1912, but members soon purchased and began developing a larger site at W. College and Feld Avenue. The church was formally named Pattillo Memorial Methodist Church in 1920. Between 1920 and 1948, the church constructed a permanent school and temporary sanctuary on the new property, operating under a "pay-as-you-go" basis through the Great Depression and WWII. On June 8, 1952, a permanent sanctuary was opened to the community and remained the home of the church until 1971. Church membership reached its peak in 1955, with over 1,400 church members and 1,153 enrolled in the church school. Due to a decline in membership, the church merged with the Avondale Methodist congregation and sold the W. College property to Thankful Baptist Church in 1971. The newly-merged Avondale Pattillo UMC constructed a new campus on Majestic Circle in Avondale between 1972 and 1975. With only 100 members in 2022, Avondale Pattillo UMC moved their congregation and gifted their Majestic Circle property to Decatur First UMC.

The Women's Society of Christian Service of Pattillo Memorial Methodist Church was first organized in 1917 by Mrs. C. S. Strong as the Woman's Missionary Society. The organization was formally recognized by the North Georgia Methodist Conference in 1918. The WSCS's statement of purpose is as follows:

“The purpose of the Women's Society of Christian Service shall be to unite all the women of the church in Christian living and service; to help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; to develop the spiritual life; to study the needs of the world; to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the church, improve civic, community and world conditions. To this end this organization shall seek to enlist women, young people and children in this Christian fellowship, and to secure funds for the activities in the local church and support of the work undertaken at home and abroad for the establishment of a world Christian community.” (WSCS Scrapbook, 1952-1953)

Description: The collection contains 11 folders and 15 scrapbooks with photographs, newspaper clippings, postcards, pamphlets, WSCS circle rosters, budget information, and programs. Also included are announcements about guest speakers and the church's affiliations with groups such as the North Georgia Methodist Conference. The handmade scrapbooks provide the names of WSCS members and are decorated with postcards, collaged magazine photographs, small textiles, and drawings. Two of the scrapbooks, 1962-1963 and 1966-1967, were received in poor condition and were deconstructed in order to preserve the materials within.

Subject Headings: Where possible, Library of Congress Subject Headings have been used.

Main Entry: Avondale Pattillo Methodist Church

Scrapbook List

<u>Contents</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1952-1953
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1953-1954
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1954-1955
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1955-1956
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1957-1958
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1958-1959
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1959-1960
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1960-1961
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1961-1962
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1962-1963
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1963-1964
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1965-1966
Women's Society of Christian Service Scrapbook	1966-1967

United Methodist Women of Avondale Pattillo	
United Methodist Church Scrapbook	1982-1990
Women's Service Group Scrapbook	1997-2010

Folder List

Contents

Miscellaneous

Misc. Pamphlets

Photos

United Methodist Women Certificate and Meetings 2007-2008

Wesleyan Service Guild 1966-1967

Wesleyan Service Guild 1973-1977

Wesleyan Service Guild Financial Records Jan. 1980-Dec. 2012

Woman's Society of Christian Service Meeting Notes 1962-1963

Women's Society of Christian Service Reports 1947-1948 and United Methodist
Women's Reports 1973-1974

Women's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild Handbooks and
Programs 1957-1966

Woman's Society of Christian Service Yearbooks 1958-1992