First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
of Bridgewater Collection,
1717 - Current
(MSS-014)

Finding Aid Compiled by
Lenora Robinson

Last Updated: May 5, 2023
Volume: 22 linear feet (31 document boxes, 17 volumes, 1 oversized folder)

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First Parish Collection
Administrative History

The First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Bridgewater started in what was called the “South Parish” of Bridgewater. In 1717, John Washburn deeded two acres of land “to the inhabitants of the southern part of Bridgewater to build them a meeting house” and to use part of the land for a burial ground.

The first meeting house, built in 1717, was enlarged in 1741. A second meeting house was built in 1760 (see Volume 1 for Parish meeting to build). Some sources indicate the second meeting house was built around the first one; and, when completed, the first building was removed. This second meeting house was enlarged in 1810. The Revere & Son bell was purchased in 1811, (see Volume 1 for original receipt) and was moved to the new Church, built in 1845 in its current location and still in use today. In 1954, Hurricane “Carol” toppled the steeple and the bell was in storage until 1960, when it was sold. The E. and G. G. Hook organ was installed in this building in 1852 and the organ loft reinforced in a renovation project in 1989. This organ is still in use.

The Church and Bridgewater State University have a long history of working together. The first Principal [President] of the Bridgewater Normal School was Nicholas Tillinghast, who held the position from 1840-1853. He was also a Deacon and member of the Church. Through this connection, the Bridgewater Alumni Association, formed in 1842, held part of its annual meeting at the Church through the rest of the 19th century. Through efforts of Albert G. Boyden, the Bridgewater Normal School acquired land owned by the Church in the early 1900s, which is where the gymnasium was built in 1904. Today, it is known as the Art Center.

“South Parish” has been served by 37 ministers in the last three centuries (from 1717 to the present, 2017). The records also show a great many “Supply” or guest ministers. A list of ministers is located at the end of this finding aid.

First Parish Collection
Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 26 boxes and 18 volumes. There are some volumes included within document boxes, the 16 volumes in Series 1 have been individually boxed for additional protection. Many of the documents fit into multiple series, for example “Pulpit supply receipts” were added to Series 4: Ministers instead of with other payment receipts in Series 3: Financials. Early "Bridging" newsletters from 1977-1996 were sent to Church members as legal-sized folded flyers, and are together in a legal-sized box within Series 5, other years of the newsletter are mixed in with the other publications.

Documents found in the collection include annual reports, Parish Committee meeting minutes and reports to the Committee, Orders of Service and “Bridging” newsletters, receipts, financial transactions, personnel documentation and renovation projects. The bulk of the materials date from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries, with sporadic documents before and after.
Oversized items: blueprints belonging in Series 2 and other Church-related items are located in flat-file storage.

First Parish Collection
Series Descriptions

• Series 1: Church Records/Registers, 1716-2010
  17 volumes, 2 boxes

  Series 1 contains all individually boxed volumes of church records, treasurer’s reports and meeting minutes. This series also contains church records relating to genealogy, tax records, wills, deeds, member lists and guest books.

• Series 2: Church Administration, 1716-
  10 boxes

  Series 2 contains by-laws, Parish Committee reports, meeting minutes, notifications of upcoming meetings, correspondence. This also contains building and grounds materials for church property and renovations and national and regional communications, correspondence and notifications.

• Series 3: Financials, 1810-
  4 boxes

  Series 3 contains financial documents. General supplies and maintenance for buildings and grounds, organ and clock maintenance, repair, painting and printing. Fund-raising documentation such as canvass and pledge information, subscriptions and pews, events held and rental of the church buildings. Trustees of Parish Fund reports, receipts and other documentation are also in this series. Parish receipts pertain to work done on or for the church.

• Series 4: Ministers, 1731-
  2 boxes

  Series 4 contains records from installed ministers, sermons, contracts, search packets. Also payment receipts for pulpit supply (visiting) ministers to the Church.

• Series 5: Publications, 1913-
  5 boxes

  Series 5 contains published and distributed materials such as Bridging newsletters, Annual Reports of the Parish Committee, Sunday Orders of Service, calendars, brochures and flyers for events.

• Series 6: Church Organizations/Societies, 1882-1988
2 boxes

Series 6 contains materials on Church organizations, primarily the Women’s Alliance (known by many names) and its affiliates, which disbanded in 1988. Some materials on youth group are included.

- **Series 7: Secondary Research/History, 1941-2016**
  1 box

  Series 7 is secondary documentation, research materials collated by prior members or researchers, most notably a draft of *The First Parish, Bridgewater, Massachusetts*, by Dorothy Mann and Anne Bates.

- **Series 8: Photographs, Media and Oversized, 1852, c. 1950-2015**
  5 boxes

  Series 8 is a collection of photographs of the Church, its members and events. There are also DVDs and VHS tapes of installations, services, and other video documentation and audio cassette tapes.

**First Parish Collection**

**Box and Folder List**

**Series 1: Church Records/Registers, 1717-1995**

- **Vol. 1. “Early Church Records”, 1717-1886**
  - Contains original documents including deeds, including deed from John Washburne and the original land to the Church, tax lists, meeting minutes, receipt for Revere & Son bell from 1811 and letter from Mary Allen about 1846 chandelier.

  - Contains meeting records, lists of ministers, members and meeting houses, acts and votes of the church (resignation of N. Tillinghast from role of Deacon), records of baptisms, marriages and deaths.

- **Vol. 3. “Treasurer’s Book, 1st Cong Society 1781 to” No. 4, 1781**

- **Vol. 4. “Treasurer’s Book, Trustees of Funds, No. 15”, 1803**
  - Contains Principal of Fund, page 1; Interest of Fund, page 164

- **Vol. 5. “Clerk’s Book, Trustees of Parish Funds”, 1803**
Vol. 6. “Parish annual reports, Clerk and Committee”, (many entries noted as “true copy”), 1877-1970

Vol. 7. “Records of the First Church in Bridgewater from June 1895 to”, 1895 -Contains records and visitor list for the 225th anniversary, June 1, 1941

Vol. 8. Collection plate records, 1894-1901

Vol. 9. Collection plate records, 1901-1909

Vol. 10. “Record of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths in The Church in the South Parish of Bridgewater now The First Church and First Congregational Society in Bridgewater”, compiled and copied from the original records by Rev. Harold Greene Arnold, 1912


Vol. 14. Parish Committee meeting minutes; special meetings, annual meetings, 1975-1993

Vol. 15. Parish Committee meeting minutes; secretary’s report, 1976-1988

Vol. 16. Parish Committee meeting minutes; secretary’s report, 1988-1994


Box 1
Folder
1. John Washburne will (copy & transcript only, see Volume 1 for original), 1717
2. Joshua Alden will, extract, 10% of real estate (copies & transcription), 1808-1809
3. Samuel Tappan deed, to Trustees, 1845
4. Abram Washburn 2nd deed, 1845
5. Jacob Perkins will, 1853
6. Franklin Fobes to Aretas Fobes deed (partial), 1872
7. Clinton Washburn to Trustees deed, property on easterly side of Summer Street, 1910
8. Record of vote to sell land to Myrtle Sanders (copy), 1923
9. Mary Caroline Bryant will to Trustees, 1930
10. Jacob Henry Perkins will, 1931
11. Virginia G. Jones estate, 1937
13. Edith Stetson Copeland will, 1962
14. Charles P. Lewis estate, 1964
16. Ellen D. Cholerton will, deeds, mortgages, attorney’s papers, sale of 50 Union St. (Parsonage), 1967-1982
17. Flora T. Little will, fund, 1968
18. Josephine H. Cobb will (copy), 1974
20. May W. Bassett will, correspondence, 1989-1996
21. Notes and overview of wills and deeds to First Parish, 1993
22. Christine Channin trust, 1995

Box 2
Folder
1. Parish tax, No. 1 (booklet), undated
2. Notification of members leaving to St. Andrews in Scituate, 1809
3. Notification of members leaving to Trinity Church in Bridgewater, 1816-1832
4. Notification of members leaving to Baptist in Middleborough, 1819-1831
6. Warrant to notify voting members of Parish Committee meeting, 1821
7. Tax bill for the Parish, No. 3 (booklet), 1822
8. Valuation and copy of the tax for the Rev. R. M. Hodges Society in the South Parish of Bridgewater, No. 4 (booklet), 1823
9. Valuation of the Rev. R. M. Hodges Society and copy of tax, real and personal, No. 13 (booklet), 1824
10. Notification of members leaving to New Jerusalem Society, Bridgewater, 1824-1833
11. Valuation and copy of the tax of the Rev. R. M. Hodges Society, No. 5 (booklet), 1825
12. Notification of members leaving to Third Congregational Church, Middleborough, 1825
13. Notification of members leaving to Universalist Society Halifax, 1825-1831
14. Notification of members leaving to First Universalist Society Hanson, 1826-1829
15. Valuation and copy of the tax of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, No. 6 (booklet), 1826
16. Valuation and copy of tax of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, No. 7 (booklet), 1827
17. Valuation and copy of tax of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, No. 8 (booklet), 1828
18. Parish tax, No. 13 (booklet), 1829
19. Parish tax, No. 10 (booklet), 1830
20. Notification of members leaving to First Congregational Society West Bridgewater, 1830
21. Tax bill, No. 11 (booklet), 1832
22. Notification of members leaving to Trinitarian Society Taunton, 1832
23. Valuation and tax, No. 12 (booklet), 1833
24. Parish taxes, memo books, No. 2 (booklet), 1834
25. Parish tax, valuation and tax of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, No. 9 (booklet), 1834
26. Withdrawal of support to First Congregational Society, 1834-1856
27. Names of the members of the First Congregational Society in Bridgewater, No. 17 (booklet), 1843
28. Member lists & book (copy), includes a second copy with a different page order, undated, 1883, 1912, 1965, 1992
29. Visitor welcome logs, 1998-2004

Series 2: Church Administration, 1716-

Box 1
Folder
1. Petition to Parish Committee to change Church name, undated
2. Treasurer’s reports, undated
3. Church policies, procedures and forms for use of church, undated
4. Articles of Incorporation (copy in part), 1716
5. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1800-1899
6. Indenture agreements, Daniel Copeland and Benjamin Clarke for work done, 1810, 1817
7. Temperance agreement, 1825
8. Committee of repair of Meeting House reports, 1839
9. Treasurer’s reports, 1840-1849
10. Report of committee to procure Meeting House plans, 1845
11. Parish Committee reports, 1845-1861
13. Treasurer’s reports, 1850-1859
14. By-laws, 1852
15. Nicholas Tillinghast, Deacon, resignation, 1856
16. Committee for raising money for Parish purposes, 1868
17. Treasurer’s reports, 1870-1879
18. Parish Committee report to settle with Treasurer, 1876-1877
19. Treasurer’s reports, 1880-1889
20. Treasurer’s reports, 1890-1899
21. Minister’s reports, Charles A. Allen, 1895
22. Treasurer’s reports, 1900-1909
23. Treasurer’s reports, 1910-1919
24. Treasurer’s reports, 1920-1929
25. Minister’s reports, William L. McKinney, 1928, 1956
26. Treasurer’s reports, 1930-1939
27. Parish Committee officials, 1937-2004
28. Treasurer’s reports, 1940-1949
29. Annual reports, drafts, 1950-1959
30. Treasurer’s reports, 1950-1959
31. Parish Committee special meeting, meeting minutes, 1955-2003
32. Parish Committee correspondence, resignations, donations, transfers and thank you, 1956-2018
33. By-laws, undated, 1958-1972
34. Planning Committee reports, 1960
35. Minister’s report, Karl A. Bach, 1960-1964
36. Annual reports, drafts, 1960-1969
37. Treasurer's reports, 1960-1969
38. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agenda, 1960-1979
40. Music Committee reports, 1962-2015
41. Minister’s reports, Bruce M. Clary, 1967
42. Ministerial Advisory Committee reports, 1967
43. Hospitality Committee reports, 1967-1970
44. Flower Committee reports, 1967-1976
45. Nominating Committee reports, 1967-1989, 2005
46. Pulpit Committee reports, 1968
47. Minister’s reports, Edward A. Robbins, 1969
48. Denomination Affairs Committee reports, 1969
49. Membership Committee reports, 1969-2015
51. Annual meeting, meeting minutes, drafts, 1970-1979
52. Treasurer’s reports, 1970-1979
55. Bulletin Committee reports, c. 1972
56. Council of Churches Committee reports, 1972
57. Scholarship Committee reports, 1972-1973
58. Minister’s reports, Hugh Weston, 1975-1976
60. Treasurer’s reports, 1980-1989
62. Historical Committee reports, c. 1990
63. Annual meeting minutes, drafts, 1990-1999
64. Treasurer’s reports, 1990-1999
65. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1991-1992
66. By-laws template, examples from area churches, 1992-1996
67. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1992-1993
68. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1994-1995
69. Minister’s reports, Robert L’H. Miller 1994-1996
70. Space Committee reports, 1995
71. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1995-1996
72. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1996-1997

Box 2

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1. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1997-1998
2. Search Committee reports, 1996-2006
4. Social Justice Committee reports, meeting minutes, Welcoming Congregation reports, 1996-2019
5. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1998-1999
6. Worship Committee reports, meeting minutes 1998-2017
7. Finance Committee reports, 1999-2000
8. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1999-2000
9. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2000-2001
10. Annual meeting, meeting minutes, drafts, 2000-2009
11. Treasurer’s reports, 2000-2009
12. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2001-2002
13. Access Committee reports, undated, 2001
14. Annual Canvas Committee reports, 2001-2002
16. Minister’s monthly reports, Rachele Rosi, 2002-2004
17. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agenda, 2002-2003
18. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2003-2004
19. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2004-2005
20. Minister’s monthly reports, Art Lavoie, 2004-2005
22. By-laws, adopted May 21, 2005, 2005
23. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2005-2006
24. Minister’s monthly reports, Dave Johnson, 2005-2006
24a. Green Sanctuary Committee, minutes, reports, correspondence, 2005-2014
25. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2006-2007
26. Minister’s monthly reports, Barbara Coeyman, 2006-2007
27. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2007-2008
28. Minister’s monthly reports, Edward A. Hardy, 2007-1012
30. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2008-2009
30a. Facilities Committee reports, 2008-2016
31. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2009-2010
32. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2011-2012
33. Treasure’s reports, 2010-2019
34. Annual meeting minutes, drafts, 2010-2019
35. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2011-2012
36. Parish Committee meeting minutes and other documentation, 2012-2013
37. Minister’s monthly reports, Anita Farber-Robertson, 2012
38. Minister’s monthly reports, Interim Minister, 2013
39. Transition Committee material, 2013
40. Church sponsored events, 2003-2013
41. Capital Campaign Team, 2016-2017
42. Church sponsored events, 2016-2018
43. Covenant Meeting, 2013
44. House Meeting Summary, Evaluation, Host Guide, Involvement Surveys, 2018
45. Social Media/Marketing Meeting Notes, 2019
46. Parish Committee material, 2013-2014
47. Parish Committee Meeting minutes and other documentation, 2014-2015
48. Correspondence on LGBTQ rights including a letter from Gov. Deval Patrick, 2003-2008

**Box 3**

**Folder**
1. Inventory of Church, undated
2. Copies & transcriptions of original land deeds, 1716-1872
3. Expense of alteration of Meeting House, No. 8 (booklet), 1810
4. Bell receipts, repair and ringing, 1810-1893
5. Revere & Son bell, receipt (copy, see Volume 1 for original), 1811
6. Parish tax payments, 1816-1861
7. Old Burying Ground labor receipts, 1820-1854
8. Legal issue, summons for trespass issue, 1822
10. Meeting House accounts (booklet), 1845
11. Meeting House account, No. 10 & 9 (booklet), 1845
12. Graves, Old Burying Ground, history, undated, 1850-1852
13. Information and specifications for second organ, 1851-1861
16. Parsonage repairs and renovations, 1957-1975
17. Painting, roofing, other regular upkeep of Meeting House, 1957, 1983-2006
20. UUA Church loan, heating system replacement, 1961-1962
23. Sewer repairs, 1974
25. Revere bell, history, correspondence, 1976

Box 4
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1. Notice to Parish Committee of late notification of meeting called, undated
2. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1810-1819
3. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, c. 1816
4. Agreement to bind Mitchell Keith (Constable) as Collector of Taxes, 1816
5. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1819
6. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1819
7. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1820-1829
8. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1821
9. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1830-1839
10. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1835
11. Subscribers list to procure organist, 1837
12. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1840-1849
13. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1850-1859
14. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1851
15. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1860-1869
16. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1870-1879
17. Report of Isaac Damon, Supt. Of Sunday School, read at 50th anniversary of its organization, 1873
18. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1880-1889
19. Meeting minutes of First Congregational Church, 1885
20. Proposal to paint the church, H. A. Sparrow, 1885
21. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1890-1899
22. Transfer rights of pew owners to church, c. 1889
23. Report of the Treasurer of parish funds to Parish Committee, 1893
24. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1910-1919

Box 5
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1. By-laws of the Trustees of Parish Funds (copies), undated
2. “Managing Church Endowments”, Trustees of Parish Funds, undated
3. Warranty deed, 49 rods, land in Bridgewater, undated
4. Receipts, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1822-1854
5. Interest reports, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1830-1862, 1965-1993
6. Reports of the Trustees of Parish Funds, undated, 1843-1996
7. Insurance receipts, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1846-1850
8. Taxes, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1856-1894, 1966
8a. Passbooks, Trustees of Parish Funds, Bridgewater Savings, 1931-1980
10. Investments and trading, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1945-1961
12. Correspondence, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1968-2004
15. Restoration investment payment schedule, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1992-1996
17. Monthly income statement, Trustees of Parish Funds, 2010-2019

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1. Parish register, First Congregational Society, Bridgewater, record of installation, vital records (book), 1868-1882
2. Parish Committee Secretary reports (book), 1925-1952
3. Parish Committee Secretary reports (book), 1954-1956
4. Parish Committee Secretary reports (book), 1958-1962
5. Parish Committee Secretary reports (book), 1962-1968
7. Parish Committee, Clerk reports (book), 1968-1972

Box 7a
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1. Taxes, statements and payments, 1983-2005
2. 1845 Chandelier, Mary Allen, notes (see Volume 1 for original documentation), 1984
3. Society for the preservation of New England antiquities, site visit (booklet) 1988
7. Organ loft reinforcement, 1989-1990
8. Fire, Trompe L’oeil find, restoration, other interior painting and renovation, 1990
10. Excavation (of units in “carriage shed”), proposal, 1991
12. Mid-Mass renovation, 1992
13. Wheelchair lift renovation, 2001-2002
14. Legal issues, sale and demolition of 9 and 19 Summer Street, 2001-2002
15. Expansion project, 2002-2003
16. Town permits, certifications, correspondence, 2002-2016

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**Folder**
17. CPC preservations/renovations, folder 1, 2006-2012
18. CPC preservations/renovations, folder 2, 2006-2012
19. Sources of preservation funding in Massachusetts, 2009

**Box 8**

**Folder**
1. Print of portrait of William Emery Channing, undated
2. The Unitarian Annual Register, 1846
3. Plymouth & Bay Association, 1846-1873
5. Annual reports of American Unitarian Association, 1892-1903
6. American Unitarian Association anniversary programs, 1900, 1925
7. Religious Education pamphlets, undated, 1936
8. Post Office Mission, tracts, undated, 1937-1942
10. Programs, communications, newsletters from area churches, 1957-2001
12. UUA (AUA) committees, officers, annual meeting, 1958-1962
14. First Parish & Bridgewater State University, long-term loan archival project, 2015-2017
15. First Parish & Bridgewater State University, archival project event speeches, 2017

**Box 9**

**Folder**
1. UUA General Assembly (conference), 1961-1963
2. Plymouth Colony of Unitarian Universalist Churches, 1963
4. UUA correspondence, memos, 1963-1998
5. Ballou-Channing district, financial correspondence, 1963-2005
6. Town of Bridgewater, documentation, permits, correspondence, 1974-2009
8. Other organizational memberships, 1979-2001
9. Conference schedules and programs, 1990-2004
12. Maintenance and preservation of religious buildings booklet, MA building code, 1990
15. “Honor Society” and “Merit Society”, 1997-2003

Series 3: Financials, 1810-

Box 1
Folder
1. Parish receipts, undated
2. Subscriptions for shed land, 1810
3. Parish receipts, 1810-1819
4. Pews, ownership, appraisals, surrendering, 1810-1893
5. Parish receipts, 1820-1829
6. Parish receipts, 1830-1839
7. Subscriptions payments, collect for funds, ministers, etc., 1833-1880
9. Parish receipts, 1840-1849
10. Subscription book, No. 15 (booklet), 1844-1845
11. Record of deeds, No. 6, list of members and pews (book), 1845
12. Subscription book to Mr. Bradford’s salary, No. 16 (booklet), 1847-1850

Box 2
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1. Account of parish funds, school funds, singing funds (booklet), 1816-1852
2. Account of First Parish singing fund, No. 11 (booklet), 1823
3. Assessors’ oaths, 1827-1834
4. Certificate of donations to war soldiers, 1861
5. Treasurer’s account book, weekly offering (book), 1883-1893
6. Mary Shaw fund, c. 1925
10. Treasurer’s balance sheets, 1960-1968
12. Use of facility by outside groups, policy, schedule, contract, correspondence, 1971-2011
15. Treasurer’s notebook (book), 1985-1989
17. Treasurer’s notebook (book), 1986-1989
19. Fund-raising research, undated, 1990
20. Canvas and pledging mailing lists, 1990-1999
25. Financials, pledges and budgets, 1992-2006
27. Donations from outside organizations to Church, 1992
29. Canvas pledges, 1994-1997
31. Hymnals purchase, 1995
32. Employee and payroll, 1995-2000
33. Checkbook register (transaction reports), 1997-1998
34. Canvas pledges, 1998
35. Canvas pledges, 1999
36. Reimbursement requests, 2004
37. Reimbursement requests, 2005
38. Ministerial expense reports, 2005-2006
40. Donation from the Church to other organizations, 2006-2008
41. Closing safe-deposit box, list of contents, 2017
42. Capital campaign, annual budget drive, 2017
43. Unidentified notes, communication, costs, lists, undated
44. Fiscal budgets, 2018
45. Declaration of Independence, facsimile, Auction, 2018

Box 3
Folder
1. Organist payment receipts, 1837-1903, 1983
2. Insurance policies, inspections, valuations, 1846-1901, 1957
3. Parish receipts, 1850-1859
4. Subscriptions book (copy), No. 16 (book), 1850-1860
5. Changes in subscriptions, 1851
6. Parish receipts, 1860-1869
7. Parish receipts, 1870-1879
8. Subscriptions book (booklet), 1875-1876
9. Parish receipts, 1880-1889
10. Subscription books (original and copy) (booklet), 1884-1885
11. Parish receipts, 1890-1899
12. Parish receipts, 1900-1909
13. Parish receipts, 1940 - 1949
18. Parish receipts, 2010-2019

Box 4
Folder
1. Treasurer’s ledger, cash book, 1892-1905
2. Treasurer’s ledger, cash book, 1905-1917
4. Treasurer’s ledger, cash book, 1929-1939
5. Treasurer’s ledger, financial records, cash book, 1940-1962

Series 4: Ministers, 1731-

Box 1
Folder
1. Minister job description, blank agreements, undated
2. Sermons, undated
3. Rev. John A. Shaw, 1731-1791
5. Pulpit supply receipts, 1800-1819
6. Pulpit supply receipts, 1820-1829
7. Sermon at the ordination of Rev. Richard M. Hodges, 1821
8. Rev. Richard M. Hodges, 1821-1833
8a. Mr. Hodges’ Sermon, occasioned by the death of The Rev. John Reed, D. D. 1831
9. Pulpit supply receipts, 1830-1839
10. Rev. Theophilus P. Doggett, 1833-1844
11. Invitations to area church’s installations, 1834-1871
12. Pulpit supply receipts, 1840-1849
13. Rev. Claudius Bradford, 1845-1851
14. Pulpit supply receipts, 1850-1859
15. Rev. John Jay Putnam, 1856-1864
16. Rev. George Dexter, 1865-1866
17. Rev. George Herbert Hosmer, 1868-1878
19. Rev. Richard M. Hodges, Sunday School lecture, 1873
20. Rev. Alfred E. Goodnough, 1879-1881
21. Pulpit supply receipts, 1880-1889
22. Rev. John Albert Wilson, 1882-1883
23. Declined appointments, 1884-1881
24. Notebook of Sunday ministers (book), c. 1885
26. Pulpit supply receipts, 1890-1899
27. Rev. Charles A. Allen, 1893-1902
28. Pulpit supply receipts, 1900-1909
34. Rev. Bruce Maxfield Clary, 1965-1967
44. Rev. Charles F. Flagg, sermons, 1991
45. Rev. Charles F. Flagg, sermons, 1992
46. Sermons, correspondence of interim and visiting ministers, 1972-2007
48. Ministerial search packet, 1994
49. Rev. Dr. Robert L’H. Miller, 1994-1996
50. Custodian and Church Secretary, job descriptions, agreements, 1996-1999, undated
54. Ministerial Search Packet, 2001-2002
55. Rev. Rachele D. Rosi, 2002-2004
56. Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Community Minister, 2003-2021
58. Ministerial search packet, 2005-2006

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**Folder**
1. Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, 2006-2007
3. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, 2012-2014
4. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, sermons, undated, 2012
5. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, sermons, 2013
6. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, sermons, 2014
7. Summary report, Congregational survey for ministerial search, 2013
9. Rev. Paul Sprecher, 2014-
11. Rev. Benjamin Allen, 1717-1730
12. Rev. Jennifer Johnson, 2021-

Series 5: Publications, 1913-

Box 1
Folder
1. Covenants and creeds, undated
2. Brochures, undated
3. Orders of Service, undated
4. 200th Anniversary, Order of Service (copy), 1916
5. Orders of Service, home-coming, honoring Class of 1938, 1933-1941
6. Calendar, 1940-1949
7. Tercentenary of Old Bridgewater and Centennial of Meeting House, anniversary Order of Service, 1945
8. Exercises commemorating 150th Anniversary of the founding of Old Bridgewater Academy, 1949
9. Calendar, 1950-1959
10. Calendar, 1960-1969
11. Events held at Church, flyers, 1960-2022
13. 250th Anniversary Order of Service (original), 1966
15. Calendar, 1970-1979
17. Orders of Service, 1972
18. Orders of Service, 1977
20. Organ events held at Church, 1978-1993
21. Orders of Service, 1979
22. Orders of Service, 1980
24. Josephine Cobb Memorial Recital, programs and flyers, 1980-1984
27. Ellen Cholerton Memorial Concert, programs and flyers, 1981-1985
28. Orders of Service, 1982
29. Orders of Service, 1983
30. Orders of Service, 1984
32. Orders of Service, 1985
33. Orders of Service, 1986
34. Orders of Service, 1987
35. Orders of Service, 1988
36. Orders of Service (A. Tinsley, 10/22/89), 1989
37. Orders of Service, 1990
38. Calendar, 1990-1999
40. Orders of Service, 1991
41. Orders of Service (A. Tinsley, 3/29/92), 1992
42. Church programs and retreats, 1992-2007, 2014
43. Orders of Service, 1993
44. Rededication Order of Service, 1993
45. Orders of Service, in memoriam, 1993-2019
46. Orders of Service, 1995
47. Orders of Service, 1996
48. Orders of Service, 1997
49. Orders of Service, 2000
50. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2000
51. Orders of Service, table of contents, dates, titles, 2000-2006
52. Annual Report, 2000-2009
53. Calendar, 2000-2009
54. Orders of Service, 2001

Box 2
Folder
1. “From the Minister’s Desk”, newsletter, 1967
2. Newsletter, 1971
5. “Bridging”, newsletters, 1979
8. “Bridging”, newsletters, 1982
18. “Bridging”, newsletters, 1992

Box 3
Folder
1. Orders of Service, 2002
2. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2002
3. Orders of Service, 2003
5. Orders of Service, 2004
6. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2004
7. Music, undated, 2004
8. Orders of Service, 2005
9. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2005
10. Orders of Service, 2006
16. Orders of Service, 2009
17. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2009
18. Orders of Service, 2010
20. Annual Report, 2010-2024
20b. Calendar, 2010-2019
23. Orders of Service, 2012
25. Orders of Service, 2014
28. “Fireflies”, play at Church, script, tickets, program, 2016
29. Orders of Service, 2016
Box 4
Folder
2. Orders of Service, 2017
3. Orders of Service, 2018
4. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2018
5. Plays at Church, tickets, flyers, programs, scripts undated, 2019, 2021, 2022
6. Orders of Service, 2019
7. “Bridging”, newsletter, 2019

Box 5
Folder
1. Orders of Service, 2020
2. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2020
3. Orders of Service, 2021
4. “Bridging”, newsletters, 2021
5. Orders of Service, 2022
6. First Parish Bridgewater Weekly Update, 2022
7. Orders of Service, 2023
8. Annual Reports, 2020-2029

Series 6: Church Organizations/Societies, 1882-1988

Box 1
Folder
1. Women’s Alliance, by-laws and constitution, undated
2. Women’s Alliance, history lecture, undated
3. Women’s Alliance, talks given at study meetings, undated
4. Hymns for the Bridgewater Branch Alliance, undated
5. Women’s Auxiliary Conference, brochures, 1882-1884
6. Women’s Alliance (Sewing Circle), by-laws and records (book), 1889-1900
7. Women’s Alliance, secretary report (book), 1898-1912
8. Women’s Alliance, correspondence, 1893, 1963
9. Women’s Alliance (Sewing Circle), secretary report (book), 1900-1905
10. Women’s Alliance (Sewing Circle), treasurer’s report (book), 1900-1911
11. Women’s Alliance (Sewing Circle), secretary report (book), 1905-1911
12. Women’s Alliance, treasurer’s report (book), 1909-1921
13. Women’s Alliance, reports, 1911-1912
15. Women’s Alliance, secretary report (book), 1917-1921
18. Women’s Alliance, treasurer’s report (book), 1921-1927
19. Women’s Alliance, treasurer’s report (book), 1927-1936
20. Women’s Alliance, ledger (book), 1927-1940
21. Women’s Alliance, calendar, 1930-1939
22. Women’s Alliance, calendar, 1940-1949
23. Women’s Alliance, sponsored POPS Concert, 1947
24. Women’s Alliance, sponsor child, Otilie Kocourkova, 1947-1949
25. Women’s Alliance, annual meeting report, 1950-1954
26. Women’s Alliance, calendar, 1950-1959
27. Women’s Alliance, annual meeting report, 1954-1957
28. Women’s Alliance, annual meeting report, 1957-1962
30. Women’s Alliance, concerns with “carriage shed”, 1960
31. Unity Fellowship, 1960-1965
32. Women’s Alliance, calendar, 1960-1969
33. Women’s Alliance, annual records, 1962-1972
34. Women’s Alliance, charter, 1964
35. Women’s Alliance, member cards, undated, 1967-1968
36. Women’s Alliance, bank passbooks, 1967-1985
37. Women’s Alliance, calendar, 1970-1979

Box 2
Folder
1. Women’s Alliance, annual report, 1972-1980
2. Women’s Alliance, correspondence, 1975, 1986-1988
5. Women’s Alliance, final years’ report, 1980-1988
7. Creating Justice Banner Society Award 2021

Series 7: Secondary Research/History, 1941-2016

Box 1
Folder
1. Newspaper article clippings, undated
2. Letterhead and envelopes, undated
3. Personal history of Caroline A. Eldridge, undated
4. Scrapbook pages, street fair, minstrel show, supper, play, undated, 1941
5. Newspaper article clippings, including steeple, 1950-1959
6. Newspaper clippings, auction and BBQ, 1960
7. Newspaper article clippings, 1970-1979
9. Dorothy Mann and Anne Bates, research for “The First Parish Bridgewater Massachusetts”, overview, 1600-1799, 1976
10. Dorothy Mann and Anne Bates, research for “The First Parish Bridgewater Massachusetts”, 1800-1850, 1976
15. Newspaper article clippings, 2000-2009
16. Newspaper article clippings, 2010-2019
17. Rachel Tedesco, 300th Anniversary research, 2015
18. David Tedesco, research, 2016
19. Church History Pamphlets, undated
20. Reflections on Church Life during Covid-19, 2021

**Series 8: Photographs, Media and Oversized, 1852, c. 1950-2015**

**Box 1 (Photographs)**

**Folder**
1. People, events, Sunday School, undated
2. Non-UU-Church interiors, cemetery, Maple St. parsonage, undated
3. Church exteriors, pre-1956
4. Church exteriors, post-1956
5. Paul Revere bell, c. 1960
6. Church interiors, pre- and post-fire, c. 1990
7. Directory proofs, 2005
8. Pastor’s Data File Photos, undated

**Box 2 (Photographs)**

Oversized, matted photographs of the Church, 2005 directory proof, undated, 2005

**Box 3 (Albums)**

Scrapbooks, photographs, newspaper clippings, ephemera

**Box 4 (Media)**

**Video:**
- UUA First Parish of Bridgewater, presenter Jane Haines "Diary of an E. Bridgewater Girl Early 1900's", September 27, 1992
- Solstice Winter Service, December 19, 1993
- Candlelight Service, December 22, 1993
- UUA Youngsters’ Talent Show, March 6, 1994
- First Parish UUA Bridgewater, May 31, 1998
- 1st Parish Bridgewater, cruise night/Male Bonding Band concert, September 16, 2000
- 1st Parish Bridgewater, Sunday service, September 17, 2000 and September 24, 2000
- Memorial service, Bob Miller, September 17, 2000 with special remembrance in Bridgewater, November 5, 2000
- Sunday Services, October 1, 2000 and October 8, 2000
- 1st Parish, Sunday service, September 9, 2001
- 1st Parish UUA – Bridgewater, Rev. Eugene Navias, September 23, 2001
- 1st Parish UUA Bridgewater, Sunday service, October 7, 2001
• 1st Parish UUA Bridgewater Sunday service, October 21, 2001
• Ingathering Fall, Water Communion Service, September 8, 2002
• UUA 1st Parish Installation, October 20, 2002
• 1st Parish UUA Bridgewater Talent Show, April 13, 2003
• Male Bonding Band at King’s Chapel, June 28, 2003
• 1st Parish "Water Communion Service", September 7, 2003
• Rev. Ed Lane, February 29, 2004

Box 5 (Media)
Video:
• Mary Hatfield memorial service (DVD), undated
• Sermons from 2006, most by Rev. Barbara Coeyman (VHS), 2006
• Sermons from 2007, by Rev. Barbara Coeyman and guest Ministers (VHS), 2007
• Sermons from 2014, most by Rev. Paul Sprecher (DVD), 2014
• Sermons from 2015, most by Rev. Paul Sprecher (DVD), 2015

Audio:
• The Josephine Cobb Memorial Recital, John Skelton, organist, November 2, 1980
• The Ellen Cholerton Memorial Concert, Brian Jones, organist, April 26, 1981
• The Ellen Cholerton Memorial Concert, Brian Jones, organist, April 25, 1982
• The Josephine Cobb Memorial Concert, November 6, 1983
• The Ellen Cholerton Memorial Recital, Earl L. Miller, organist, May 5, 1984
• Wedding service of Christopher Mish and Constance Carine, May 31, 1986 and Memorial service for Louise Douglass, February 2, 1986

Oversized Material
• Plot plan of parsonage, 1852
• Blueprints of Church property, renovations, June 14, 1973, 1973
• Photostatic copies of tax lists from 1st Cong’l Society in Bridgewater, March 14, 1868, two pages, undated
• Copies of line drawing by Richard F. Bartlett of building, 1982
• Copy of photograph of Church, c. 1950
• Certificate for Charter Member of Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation to Unity Fellowship, 1964
• Growth project outline, 1992
• Survey Sketch, church property, copy, 2004
• Statement of Faith, undated
• Treasurer's check registers, 1992-1993
• Blueprint of Church interior, mounted on cardboard, undated
• Preliminary design blueprints by Hamlen and Heaney for interior and exterior renovations, Jan. 27, 1970
• Preliminary design blueprints by Hamlen and Heaney for interior renovations, May 5, 1970
• Blueprint for addition and alterations of the First Parish by Hamlen and Heaney,
June 16, 1971

- Blueprints of alterations and addition to Church building by Hamlen and Heaney, 1971
- Blueprints for new elevator in Church, 2001
- Plot plan of Church grounds, survey sketch, multiple copies, 2003, 2004, 2011
- Assessors Map 34, Lot 183, 2010

List of Ministers
1. Rev. Benjamin Allen, 1717-1730
2. Rev. John Angier Shaw, 1731-1791
4. Rev. Richard M. Hodges, 1821-1833
5. Rev. Theophilus P. Doggett, 1833-1844
6. Rev. Claudius Bradford, 1845-1851
8. Rev. George Dexter, 1865-1866
9. Rev. George H. Hosmer, 1868-1878
10. Rev. Alfred E. Goodnough, 1879-1881
11. Rev. John A. Wilson, 1882-1883 (died in service)
12. Rev. Thomas W. Brown, 1886-1892
13. Rev. Charles A. Allen, 1893-1902
15. Rev. Harold G. Arnold, 1908-1913
36. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, 2012-2014
38. Rev. Jennifer Johnson, 2021-