Guide to the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Bridgewater Collection, 1717-Current

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First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
of Bridgewater Collection,
1717 - Current
(BRD-002)

Finding Aid Compiled by
Lenora Robinson

Last Updated: June 15, 2017
Volume: 21 linear feet (26 document boxes, 16 volumes, 1 oversized folder)

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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 16 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**
  16 vols., 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-**
  9 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-**
  1 box

  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-**
  3 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**
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. 1950-2011
  4 boxes

Series 8 is a collection of photographs of the Church, its members and events. There are also VHS tapes of installations, services, 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 1 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
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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, 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 Channing 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, undated, 1883, 1965, 1992

**Series 2: Church Administration, 1716-**
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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 correspondence, resignations, donations, transfers and thank you, 1956-2009
33. Planning Committee reports, 1960
34. Minister’s report, Karl A. Bach, 1960-1964
35. Annual reports, drafts, 1960-1969
36. Treasurer’s reports, 1960-1969
37. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agenda, 1960-1979
38. Religious Education Committee reports, 1960-2009
40. Parish Committee special meeting, meeting minutes, 1955-2003
41. Minister’s reports, Edward A. Robbins, 1969
42. Committee on Ministry report, 1969-2004
43. Annual meeting, meeting minutes, drafts, 1970-1979
44. Treasurer’s reports, 1970-1979
45. Treasurer’s reports, 1980-1989
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47. Personnel Committee reports, 1989, 2000-2011
48. Historical Committee reports, c. 1990
49. Annual meeting minutes, drafts, 1990-1999
50. Treasurer’s reports, 1990-1999
51. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1991-1992
52. By-laws template, examples from area churches, 1992-1996
53. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1992-1993
54. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1994-1995
55. Minister’s reports, Robert L’H. Miller 1994-1996
56. Space Committee reports, 1995
57. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1995-1996
58. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 1996-1997
59. Search Committee reports, 1996-2006
60. Minister’s reports, Kim Wood Hardee, 1996-2000
61. Social Justice Committee reports, 1996-2003
62. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1997-1998
63. By-laws, edits & finals, 1998
64. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agendas, 1998-1999
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66. Worship Committee reports, 1998-2009
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6. Annual Canvas Committee reports, 2001-2002
8. Minister’s monthly reports, Rachele Rosi, 2002-2004
9. Parish Committee meeting minutes, agenda, 2002-2003
10. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2003-2004
11. Parish Committee meeting minutes, 2004-2005
12. Minister’s monthly reports, Art Lavoie, 2004-2005
13. Church Council meeting minutes, 2004-2007
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16. Minister’s monthly reports, Dave Johnson, 2005-2006
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18. Minister’s monthly reports, Barbara Coeyman, 2006-2007
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25. Treasure’s reports, 2010-
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29. Minister’s monthly reports, Anita Farber-Robertson, 2012

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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
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23. Sewer repairs, 1974
25. Revere bell, history, correspondence, 1976

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6. Petition to Parish Committee to hold Parish meeting, 1819
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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
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15. Warrant to notify voting members of Society of Parish meeting, 1860-1869
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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

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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
10. Investments and trading, Trustees of Parish Funds, 1945-1961
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3. Society for the preservation of New England antiquities, site visit (booklet) 1988
6. Inspecting and Maintaining Religious Properties (booklet), 1989
7. Organ loft reinforcement, 1989-1990
8. Fire, Trompe L’oeil find, restoration, other interior painting and renovation, 1990
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12. Mid-Mass renovation, 1992
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7. Religious Education pamphlets, undated, 1936
8. Post Office Mission, tracts, undated, 1937-1942
10. Programs, communications, newsletters from area churches, 1957-2001
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9. Parish receipts, 1840-1849
10. Subscription book, No. 15 (booklet), 1844-1845
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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  
7. Fund-raising events, 1959-2017  
11. Use of facility by outside groups, policy, schedule, contract, correspondence, 1971-2006  
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  
21. Fire Brigade Fund grant, 1991  
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  
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35. Canvas pledges, 1999  
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37. Reimbursement requests, 2005  
38. Ministerial expense reports, 2005-2006  
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42. Unidentified notes, communication, costs, lists, undated  

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

Series 4: Ministers, 1731-

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2. Sermons, undated
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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
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
54. Ministerial Search Packet, 2001-2002
55. Rev. Rachele D. Rosi, 2002-2004
56. Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Community Minister, 2003-
58. Ministerial search packet, 2005-2006
60. Rev. Dr. Barbara Coeyman, 2006-2007
62. Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson, 2012-2014
63. Summary report, Congregational survey for ministerial search, 2013
64. Ministerial search packet, 2013-2014
65. Rev. Paul Sprecher, 2014-

**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, 1933-1938
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, 1960-2017
12. Orders of Service, 1965
13. 250th Anniversary Order of Service (original), 1966
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18. Orders of Service, 1977
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32. Orders of Service, 1985
33. Orders of Service, 1986
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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
43. Orders of Service, 1993
44. Rededication Order of Service, 1993
45. Orders of Service, in memoriam, 1993-2011
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47. Orders of Service, 1996
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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

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

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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
23. Orders of Service, 2013
24. Orders of Service, 2014
25. Orders of Service, 2015
27. “Fireflies”, play at Church, script, tickets, program, 2016
28. Orders of Service, 2017

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
17. Women’s Alliance, secretary report (book), 1921-1927
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

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

Series 8: Photographs, Media and Oversized, 1852, c. 1950-2011

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

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 Bridgewater, Rev. Marjorie Bowens-Wheatly, December 10, 2000 and Rev. Dick Fewkes, December 17, 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

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 renovations, May 5, 1970
• 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, three copies, 2011
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
37. Rev. Paul Sprecher, 2014-