

Roberts United Methodist Church.

Records, 1877-1913.

1 box, #48. (1 linear ft.).

Biographical/Historical Note: In 1830, African American members of the Trinity Methodist Church decided to form their own congregation. They formed the Methodist Episcopal Church which became more firmly established with the building of a chapel in 1834. This chapel, named the Davis Chapel, after a white minister, was renamed the Roberts Chapel in 1844 giving the congregation its current name. Until the Civil War, white ministers led the church, but after 1866 African American have filled the pulpit.

Scope and Content Note: The original collection consisted of a variety of record books and other loose materials. The books recorded the attendance at the Sunday School as well as more general church events, such as list of contributors or the events of the quarterly conferences on the condition of the church. Of particular interest to historians of the church may be the notes of the pastors in the front of the Comprehensive Church Record (folder 6) which record some of the financial and congregational struggles of the church between 1893 to 1905. Genealogists may well want to search the same Record for the names of members during this same period.

Arrangement: The records are divided into two series: I. Sunday School Records, arranged chronologically. II. Other Church Records and Miscellaneous Materials, arranged chronologically.

Notes on Location of Originals or Copies: The collection consists of xeroxed copies of originals that are still held by the church. In addition, the records are available on microfilm.

Source: Margaret Vining. These materials were xeroxed from the original in July 1979.

Subjects: Afro-Americans - Virginia - Alexandria.
Church records and registers - Virginia - Alexandria.

Roberts.aid (Archives) by Lucy Barber, 8/93

FOLDER # FOLDER TITLE

Series I: Sunday School Class Records

1. Sunday School Classes -- Attendance Records; Minutes; Register of Officers, Male and Female Scholars, and Teachers; Financial Account; and Historical Account, 1887.
2. Sunday School Classes -- Attendance Records, September 4, 1892 - March 27, 1898.
3. Sunday School Classes -- Attendance Records and Minutes, January 1, 1893 - December 24, 1893
4. Sunday School Classes -- Attendance Records, part 1. November 6, 1898 - December 29, 1901 (pages 1 - 77)
5. Sunday School Classes -- Attendance Records, part 2. January 5, 1902 - June 26, 1904 (pages 78 - 117)

Series II: Other Church Records and Miscellaneous Materials

6. Comprehensive Church Record -- Includes Historical Records with entries by pastors from 1893, 1891, 1895, 1900, 1905; Pastoral Records (1894-1906), Records of Officers (1899-1901), Probationer's Records (1894-1909), and Members in Full Connection with notes on expulsions, deaths, etc.
7. Miscellaneous Reports, Financial Documents and Correspondence -- Includes "Official Roll of 1900-1901"; Reports from the Sunday School, the Epworth League, Junior League, Methodist Brotherhood, and the Ladies' Aid mostly from 1911; Financial Reports from 1913; Letters from 1889 to 1911.
8. Minutes of the Quarterly Conferences from July 2, 1909 to March 7, 1913.
9. Records of the Epworth League, including Minutes from May 3, 1911 through January 18, 1912, a letter from the president, G.N. Preston, March 7, 1913 complaining of the inactivity of the group, and a copy of the By-Laws of the District Epworth League.
10. Contributions of Members, [April 1921- March 1922??]

No year appears in this record book. Using a perpetual calendar based on the dates of the Sundays for each month, it appears likely that these contributions came in the years 1921 and 1922. Since the record book itself appeared in

1918 as indicated by the words "1918 Edition" on the cover, it seemed likely that it was used sometime soon after that. The years 1921 and 1922 were the first possible. Other possible years included 1938/1939, 1949/1950, and 1960/1961, but it did not seem likely that the record book dates from those years. Researchers may want to verify this by checking the addresses of the members in city directories or other sources during the years 1921 and 1922.

11. Songbook: "Heavenward" (1877)
12. Songbooks and Sheets: "Welcome Songs for Sabbath Schools" (1880), "De Gospel Train" (1940), "Hide My Soul" (1943),