

**RELIGION**  
**First Parish Church**

Scope and Content note

Organized in two archival boxes this series includes; photocopied records, published and unpublished histories, reminiscences, membership lists from the 1980s, parsonage (177 Weston Street) and organ information, photographs and booklets relating to the First Parish Church, Universalist/Unitarian, in Waltham.

Records pertain to the various Unitarian and Universalist organizations in Waltham, which eventually merged into the First Parish. Among these organizations are, The First Parish itself, the Independent Congregational Society, the South Congregational Church, the First Universalist Society, and the Second Religious Society. Among the records are; meeting minutes, notices of Baptisms, marriages, funerals, deaths, lists of church members, valuation of First Parish Estates. The records cover 1697 through 1944.

Histories of note are those written by Elizabeth Castner (First Parish and former Waltham Library archivist), Thomas H. Armstrong (First Parish minister), Edmund L. Sanderson (Waltham Historian), and Albert Ryan (Waltham Historian). Other authors are Katherine D. Jones, Nathalie Jones, George A. Stearns, Ben Wellington and Emma Brierley. A "Fire notebook" describing the 1932 fire at the church is included here along with an account of First Parish Women's Organizations. Reminiscences of Mallard Kilgore, Jack Manning, Elizabeth Smith and Elizabeth Stone also help tell the history of the church and are included in this series.

The booklets about the church include; a 1916 manual celebrating the parish's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a 1933 booklet to dedicate the new church, a 1983 booklet celebrating the new church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Many articles about the church from the local paper have been cited in the cardfile database. Please see the archivist for details.*

**BOX AND FOLDER LIST**  
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Box 1 (legal size)

Records of the First Parish Church in Waltham, meeting minutes, 1821-1840  
*(photocopied from ledger in possession of First Parish)*

Records of the Church in Waltham connected with the Independent Congregational Society, 1841 (organization of Church, Baptisms, marriages, funerals, deaths, list of Church members from 1839-1841, meeting minutes, Historical memoranda)  
*(photocopy)*

Valuation of the Estates of the First Parish in Waltham, 1822, 1825-1829, 1831-1834,  
*(copied courtesy of the Waltham Historical Society)*

Formation of the Independent Congregational Society and First Parish Records, 1838-1902, (meeting minutes) vols. 1 and 2 *(photocopied from ledger in possession of First Parish in Waltham)* (2 folders)

Records of the South Congregational Church in Waltham, MA *(photocopied from originals in possession of the First Parish in Waltham)*

Box 2

Records of the First Parish in Waltham and the Second Religious Society, 1697-1849 (Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths) copied by Edmund L. Sanderson and Abbie Stearns *(Reproduced courtesy of the Waltham Historical Society)*  
(2 folders)

Records of the Second Religious Society in Waltham, 1826-1837, (with proceedings, members, Baptisms, marriages, deaths and misc.) *(photocopy)*

Records of the First Universalist Society, 1865-1944 (membership lists, 1874-1943; parish members, 1865-1944 *(photocopy courtesy of the First Parish Church)*  
(missing)

Publications - "Ye Cookbook of Ye First Parish Alliance, Waltham, Mass; A Collection of Tested Recipes Given by Friends of the Parish," Waltham: Press of E. L. Barry, 1910.

"The First Parish Treasure of Personal Recipes," 1957 **ACC# 2012-01**

History - (2 folders)

Armstrong, Thomas H. "History of the Universalist Church in Waltham," ND  
*(photocopy courtesy of the First Parish Church)*

Castner, Elizabeth D., "Early History of the First Parish," read at the Guild Meeting February 27, 1980

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Box 2 (cont.)

History - (cont.)

- Castner, Elizabeth D. and Elizabeth W. Smith, "Early History of the First Parish," presented May 5, 1979 to Betty Baker and a group from her church in White Plains, NY
- "Early History of the First Parish", ND (photocopied manuscript)
- "Fire Notebook" (Pictures of the 1839 Church before the fire, pictures and newspaper articles on the August 22, 1932 fire, Architectural Drawings and Pictures of the new 1933 Church etc.) (*photocopy of notebook in First Parish Church*)
- "A Hit or Miss Account of Our Women's Organizations from May 6, 1885 to May 16, 1905," ND (typed manuscript)
- Jones, Katherine D. "Historical Sketch of First Parish in Waltham" (read at N. E. Associate Alliance Jan. 18, 1945) (photocopy)
- Jones, Nathalie, "A Brief History of the Organizations at First Parish in Waltham, Mass.", 1983 (typed manuscript)
- Joslyn, Clyde F. Jr., "Universalism in Waltham, Massachusetts, 1836-1958," 1965  
**ACC# 2012-01**
- Sanderson, Edmund L. "The Meeting-House of the First Parish in Waltham and Its Predecessors," ND (typed manuscript)
- Sanderson, Edmund L. and Elizabeth Castner, "History of the First Parish in Waltham 1696-1957 (booklet)
- "The Universalist Society of Waltham," ND (photocopy)
- Wellington, Ben and Emma Brierley, "My Church," 1956 (*photocopy*)
- Timeline of Church History

Reminiscences -

- "Ryan, Albert M. "The Universalist Church in Waltham," 1912 (typed manuscript)
- Stearns, George A. "The First Parish in Waltham: An Historical Sketch," Boston: Privately printed, March 1914
- Mallard Kilgore, October 2, 1983
- Jack Manning, 1983
- Elizabeth "Listy" Smith, 1980s (from Waltham Rediscovered interviews)
- Elizabeth Stone, 1896 and ND (photocopied manuscript)

Membership Lists - 1810,1820, 1839 (photocopies)  
1980? 1987, 1989

Organ

- Parsonage - 177 Weston Street
- Anniversary and dedication booklets - 1916, 1933, 1983
- Photographs
- Flyers, ND
- News clippings **ACC# 2000-40**

