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Organized in 1854, records of Hope Church include minutes and financial records of the consistory and other church organizations, bulletins, directories, anniversary booklets, women’s organizations, membership records, and photographs.

Accession No.: W91-1034
Provenance: Hope Church
Donor: Hope Church
Photographs: 2,359 Printed Images, 1,239 Negatives (in Boxes 56-62), 5,390 Digital Images (on CD in Boxes 40 & 55)

History

In 1847 a group of Dutch immigrants under the leadership of Rev. Albertus C. Van Raalte established a colony that would become known as Holland, Michigan. Rev. Van Raalte realized how important the ability to communicate in English would be for the colonists. During the winter of 1847-48 the first schoolmaster, Ira Hoyt, began teaching English to some children and adults. Van Raalte and others saw the need for not only English teaching but also English preaching. Minutes of a meeting of the Classis of Holland in April, 1854, noted the “increasing number of the American population of the village of Holland” the influence of those people on the young people of the colony, and the need for a gradual transition from Dutch to English church services. During the next few years some English services were held led by Reverends John Van Vleck, Fred Beidler, Giles Vande Wall, and Philip Phelps.

On March 2, 1860, a group met to plan a second Reformed church in Holland. They appointed Phelps, Vande Wall and Henry D. Post as a committee to obtain subscriptions for a church building, and Van Raalte promised to donate four lots for the location of the church building. On July 20, 1862 the Second Reformed Protestant Dutch Church was organized at services held in the First Church building. The new church quickly became known as Hope Church. Perhaps the first reference to it as Hope Church occurs under the topic “Organization” written by Philip Phelps in the Consistorial Minutes. It was the first English-speaking Reformed Church in Holland.

The first church building, a wooden structure, was erected on the present site, 77 West 11th Street, in 1864. This building was destroyed in the fire of 1871. A new brick building was dedicated in 1874. The present sanctuary was constructed in the Flemish style between 1900-1901 and dedicated in 1902. An educational wing was added in 1962. Most of the 1874 building
was demolished in 1981 for construction of a new parish life center. Modifications to the parish life center were completed in 1995 and 2017. The bell tower of the 1874 building has been retained.

Hope Church was the church of many persons who helped shape the Holland community and were professors and leaders at Hope College. The church continues to thrive today as an ecumenical Reformed Church in America congregation. It has long been known for its concern for societal needs and for social action, and has been a leader in welcoming all persons into its membership and leadership without regard for gender, sexual orientation, race or ethnic heritage.

Scope and Content

The collection includes consistory minutes from 1897 to 2013 and minutes and financial records of other organizations of the church. The Publications series includes bulletins, directories, booklets, and copies of the Hope Church News. The Topical File contains materials relating to property and building projects, membership records, and the financial records of the church. The Photograph series includes images of individuals, groups, and building projects in progress. Box 68 is RESTRICTED. Access to this box is restricted to those who have provided Hope Church officers with a written request for access which delineates their research purpose or intent and who in return have received written permission from Hope Church signed by two of the following Hope Church officers (a Pastor, the Historian/Archivist, the Senior Elder).

Container List

Box 1

ORGANIZATIONS

Consistory

Annual Consistorial Reports, 1988-1994
Correspondence from Consistory and Consistory Resolutions, 1936-1946
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“A Minister Looks at Christian Education”, probably by Rev. William C.
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Minutes of Board of Christian Education, 1949-1963
Minutes & Report of Christian Education Survey Committee, 1948
Pre-Kindergarten & Mothers of Young Children, 1983
Teacher’s Contract, 1960
Two Worship Services, Suggestions for Sunday Morning Schedule , ca. 1950’s
Working Papers for the Study of the Christian Education Program at Hope
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*Discerning our Future*, (Reports), 2012, 2015
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*Hope Church*, (Introduction & Profile of the church), March, 1998

*Hope Church: The First 150 Years*, By Judy Parr, 2012,
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Hope Church Member & Pastor Publications & Presentations, (see also *Hopeful Harbingers*)

*Autobiography of John James De Valois Agricultural Missionary, Church of South India*, ca. 1986


*By Word and Spirit: Scriptural Foundations of the Belhar Confession*,
   (Devotional with contributions from Hope Church member Carol Bechtel, made available to Hope Church Members), 2011

*Heaven Came Down*, By Thomas Boogaart, 1998

*Is It I?*, By Isla Van Eenenaam, n.d. (lay sermon)


*A Missionary Doctor Comes to Class*, By Dr. Bernadine De Valois,
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Poems from Worship Bulletins, 2018

“A Survey of the 1986 Bible Study Book *Encourage Love* by Charlotte Heinen”,
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Historical Marker & Listing on State Register of Historic Sites, 1989, 1991
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Reconciliation Ministry, Statement on Voting, 2018
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CD2 Chancel Choir & Tekna Theau Choir, Oct. 3, 2004 (53 images)
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  Birchby, Rev. Henry Gough, 1892-1899 (1 image)
  Bruske, Rev. August F., 1911-1916 (1 image & 1 image clipped from a publication)
  Cheff, Rev. Peter Paul, 1918-1924 (1 image)
  Colenbrander, Rev. Harold, 1954 (1 image)
  Davelaar, Rev. Kathryn with Rev. Arthur Van Eck, ca. 1998 (1 image)
  Davidson, Rev. Thomas W., 1925-1937 (1 image & 1 image from a publication)
  deVelder, Rev. Marion, 1939-1959, 1981-1992 (7 images)
  Fries, Rev. Paul 1978-1982 (2 images)
  Fries, Rev. Paul & Rev. Marlin Vander Wilt, n.d (1 image)
Hilleonds, Rev. William C., 1960-1965 (2 images, 1 negative)
Jones, Rev. Thomas Walker, 1883-1888 (1 image)
Peterman, Rev. Glen O., 1966-1976 (4 images)
Phelps, Rev. Dr. Philip, 1862-1866 (1 image)
Rienstra, Rev. Marchiene, 1984-1988 (2 images)
Rienstra, Rev. Marchiene & Rev. Dennis TeBeest. n.d. (1 image)
Staal, Rev. Ruth and Tim Staal, 1991-1996 (1 image)
Stewart, Rev. Abel T., 1866-1878 (1 image)
TeBeest, Rev. Dennis, 1985-1997 (3 images)
Vander Meulen, Rev. John M., 1907-1909 (1 image & 1 image clipped from a publication)
Van Pelt, Rev. Daniel, 1874-1882 (2 images)
Walchenbach, Rev. John R., 1964-1966 (1 image)

Box 57

Photographs (cont.)

Topical

After Worship, ca. 1969 (2 images)
Anchor Groups Gathering, ca. 1994 (65 images, 91 negatives)
Appreciation Dinner for Randall Bosch, 1959 (1 image)
Baptism, ca. 1970, ca. 1990 (3 images)
“Build it” Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, 1993 (33 images)
Caroling, ca. 1990’s (2 images)
Children,
   Groups, ca. 1950’s (3 images & 1 newspaper image)
   Miscellaneous, 1979, ca. 1990’s (30 images)
Church Picnics,
   At the Beach, n.d., 2004, 2007 (26 images)
   At a Farm, 1986 (7 images)
   At Tunnel Park, 1994 (7 images)
Church School,
   Leadership Training Class, 1959 (1 image)
   Miscellaneous,
       1922, 1940s-1960s (70 images)
       1970’s-1990’s (76 images)
Start-up Events,
   1986 (20 images)
   1987 (8 images)
Teachers & Recognition Event, ca. 1950’s-1985 (6 images)
White Gift Offerings, 1949-1952, 1958 (9 images)
Witness to the Resurrection Play, 1953 (4 images)
Hope Church, Holland, Michigan
W91-1034

Youth Class, 1985 (2 images)
Church “Yard Sale”, 1993 (12 images)

Box 58

Photographs (cont.)
Topical (cont.)
    Coffee Time with Church Members Living at the Warm Friend, ca. 2000’s (8 images)
    Congregational Meeting waiting for a Call Vote, ca. 2000 (10 images)
    Consistory Members, ca. 1950, ca. 1970, ca. 1985 (18 images)
    Cran Hill Ranch Visits,
        1991 (7 images)
        2012 (15 images)
    Cruise on Lake Michigan on the Wynken, Blynken and Nod, 1994 (21 images, 21 negatives)
    Day Care, n.d., 1969 (6 images)
    Dinner for Eight Group, 1999 (11 images)
    Early Worship, 1988 (4 images)
    Gardens Project, 2001-2002 (41 images)
    The Gathering,
        1987 (34 images)
        1988 (25 images)
    Habitat Home Construction, 1993 (47 images, 51 negatives)
    Historical Marker Service, 1991 (12 images)
    Members,
        Attending Gatherings (unspecified), n.d. (28 images)
        Groups, (miscellaneous, formal & candid) 1943-1990’s (4 folders)
            (100 images, 3 partial images & 1 photocopy image)

Box 59

Photographs (cont.)
Topical (cont.)
    Members, (cont.)
        Individuals & Families ca. 1940’s-1990’s (2 folders) (56 images)
        New Member Photos, 1999-2002 (49 images, 166 negatives) (2 folders)
    Kids Hope Events, 2010 (65 images)
    Men’s Breakfast Group, ca. 1981 (2 images)
    Ministry Fair, ca. 2000’s (ways to be involved in church and community service) (26 images)
    Missionaries, c.a. 1947 -1970 (10 images)
Hope Church, Holland, Michigan
W91-1034

images, 1 negative) (1 photo clipping from Intelligencer-Leader, 1940)
Negatives (miscellaneous), n.d. (510 negatives) (2 folders)
125th Anniversary Celebration, 1987 (35 images)
Softball Teams, n.d., 1985 (18 images)

Box 60

Photographs (cont.)
Topical (cont.)
Spritsema or East Church House & Unidentified House, ca. 1960 (6 images)
Staff, 1960’s – 1990’s (16 images)
Stewardship Celebration, 1993 (26 images, 28 negatives)
Study and Calling Group, ca. 1990’s (15 images)
Think Hope Auction, 2008 (25 images)
Tunnel Park Breakfast, 1993 (14 images)
Vacation Bible School, 1986 (26 images, 37 negatives)
Water Missions International Trip, 2008 (11 images)
Women,
Bridal Show, ca. 1990’s (11 images)
Christmas Tea,
1985 (15 images)
1994 (11 images)
Guild, Misc.,
ca. 1950’s to 1970 (6 images)
ca. 1990’s (5 images)
Spring Tea, May 19, 1993 (12 images)
Youth,
Appalachian Trail Trip, ca. 1995 (54 images, 16 negatives)
Canoe Trip, n.d. (16 images)
Christmas Party, 1994 (19 images)
Church of the Good News, Chicago Trips n.d. (41 images, 17 negatives)

Box 61

Photographs (cont.)
Topical (cont.)
Youth (cont.)
Confirmation Class Photos, n.d. (23 images, 47 negatives)
Cran Hill Ranch Trips, ca. 1992-1993, 2000 (71 images)
Earth Day Activities, ca. early 1990’s (21 images)
Filling Gift Bags, ca. 2000’s (23 images)
Fish Club, ca. 1970’s-1980’s (11 images)
Habitat Home Construction and Repair in West Virginia & Other Locations, ca. 1993 (2 folders)(65 images, 25 negatives)
High Hopes Drive In Supper,
   ca. 1995, (23 images, 26 negatives)
   2007, (10 images)
Making Cookies, ca. 1990’s (10 images)
Making Greeting Cards, ca. 1990’s (20 images)
Making Pies, n.d. (22 images)
Miscellaneous Group Activities (at Hope Church), ca. 1990’s to 2000’s (4 folders)(123 images, 14 negatives)

Box 62

Photographs (cont.)
   Topical (cont.)
      Youth (cont.)
         New York City Trips, 2006, 2007 (58 images)
         Play, Noah’s Ark, ca. 1990’s (4 images)
         Raking Leaves, ca. 1990’s (5 images)
         Retreat at Riverfront Cottage in fall, ca. 1995 (15 images, 19 negatives)
         Rock Climbing, 1997 (30 images, 23 negatives)
         Serving Meal at Unidentified Location, n.d. (6 images)
         Swimming & Gymnastics Event, ca. 1995 (15 images, 59 negatives)
         Trampoline Party, ca. 1990’s (17 images, 21 negatives)
         Travel by Van, n.d. (9 images)
         Unidentified,
            Event, 1994 (4 images)
            Speaker to Youth Group, n.d. (3 images)
         Valentine Dinner for Congregation, 1995 (29 images)
         Visiting a Second Hand Store, n.d. (6 images)
         Washington, D.C. Trips,
            July, 1993 (12 images, 22 negatives)
            Mt. Tabor, Dec. 1993 (9 images)
         White Caps Baseball Game, ca. 1990’s (6 images)
         White Water Rafting & Kayaking, ca. 1993 (26 images)

Box 63 OVERSIZED

ORGANIZATIONS
   Women
      Scrap Books,
Women’s Missionary Society, 1958, 1959

Box 64 OVERSIZED

PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS
Building Renovation Funding Campaigns
Fund for Progress,
Scrap Book, 1960

Box 65 OVERSIZED

TOPICAL
Building,
Architectural Drawings,
1960 Preliminary Drawings of Proposed Education Addition
1981 Addition, Proposed Kitchen Plan
1993-1994 Renovation,
East Elevation Plan
Kitchen Plan
Overall Plan
Site Plan
2001 Sanctuary Roof Trusses Strengthening,
Connections
Diagonal Truss Elevation
Perimeter Truss Elevation
Sanctuary Roof Framing Plan
2016 Living Hope Facilities Revitalization
Chapel Interior Elevation
Gathering and Welcome Area Elevation
South East Side Daytime Elevation
South East Side Nighttime Elevation

Box 66 OVERSIZED

TOPICAL
Family Bibles of the Slagh, Tiesenga, Wyman Family,
Donation Letter from Scott Wyman to Hope Church, 2013
1828 Phinney Edition Published in Cooperstown, N.Y.
1881 Bible in Dutch
ca. 1886 Dutch Psalm Book
Box 67 OVERSIZED

TOPICAL (cont.)
Family Bibles of the Slagh, Tiesenga, Wyman Family, (cont.)
  1935 James Moffatt Translation
  1985 New International Version

Box 68 RESTRICTED

ORGANIZATIONS
  Brim Bunch, (see also Mr. and Mrs. Club)
    History of Hope Church’s Mr. and Mrs. Club and Brim Bunch,
    (presentation by Judy Parr) 2018 (electronic version also available)

PHOTOGRAPHS, MEDIA
  Mr. and Mrs. Club, ca. 1950 (19 images)

TOPICAL
  Search Committee Minutes & Records,
    1997-1999 (3 folders)
    2007-2008

OVERSIZED DRAWER

  Dedications, 1874 Church Building as reported in the May 16, 1874 edition of the
  Holland City News, (copy of entire edition, in oversized drawer)

SHELVED ITEMS

  Emblem of the Reformed Church in America,
    Framed Description of Emblem, n.d.
    Framed Needlepoint Rendering of the Emblem, signed JKW, 1987 (shelved)
  General Fund Ledgers, 1936-1952 (22 volumes)